

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkley Parish Council Hawkley Parish Hall, Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Draft

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Jo Humphrey; Jilly Caesar; Susan Sinclair; Geoff Brighton; Robin Crittenden; Peter Cregeen.
Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance, also Vaughan Clarke, Hampshire County Councillor and Keith Budden, District Councillor.
Apologies were noted from Charlie Butcher.
There were 8 residents present.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming. In particular he welcomed County Councillor Vaughan Clarke to his final APM before his well-earned retirement after 8 years in the post, and District Councillor Keith Budden to his first APM.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2016

These were confirmed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman commented on how fortunate Hawkley is to have such a group of conscientious and hard-working parish councillors. The planning committee, chaired by Geoff Brighton, has been particularly busy with almost 40 planning applications this year, necessitating 11 separate planning committee meetings and many site visits. He thanked Geoff Brighton Jilly Caesar and Jo Humphrey for the time and effort they put in. Half Acre continues to be a problem and the parish council has objected to 3 planning applications from them this year and is lobbying against it becoming an authorised site in the SDNPA Local Plan. The HCC-funded Lengthsman scheme continues and ideas for outdoor improvement jobs are welcome. The parish council also works to keep the parish roads verges ditches and ponds in good order, generally with the support of the relevant land owner. Footpaths officer Geoff Brighton keeps an eye on all parish footpaths. Thank you to Charlie Knowles for mowing Upper Green and keeping it looking so good. No requests for grants were received this year and any applications would be welcome. Thanks to the clerk.

4. Report from District Councillor

Keith Budden reported that he has enjoyed his first 9 months working for residents and hopes to do so long into the future. Of particular note have been Half Acre and TAG Farnborough. On the latter, the outcome is looking relatively favourable for Hawkley. He has been able to make grants from his devolved budget to the Empshott Hut project and to Hawkley Church.

5. Report from County Councillor

Government Support Grant continues to fall, consequently there will be a rise in the County Council's share of Council Tax of 4.99%, mainly due to the rising costs of adult social care. In real terms council tax is lower than it was in 2010. Efficiency savings are made wherever possible, and eg Property Services and IT are selling their services to other counties. Significant energy cost savings. Hampshire has almost the lowest incidence of potholes in the country. Well done to all parish councillors for the time and energy they devote to their parish.

6. Open Forum

A resident wished to thank the parish council for their tenacious efforts in working to end the abuse of the HCC closure of BOAT 25 for repairs. Cllr Clark commented that unless

reports of the abuse are made via 101, the police may be unaware. On the other hand, if requested they will come out at the weekend and speak to any off road users caught on the byway.

Councillor Susan Sinclair reported that much progress has been made on the aspirations contained within the parish plan – namely a tennis court and club for adults and children (aided by parish council funding), the refurbished Empshott Hut is about to be officially opened and the parish council continues to investigate affordable housing provision in the parish.

There were no more questions and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date