

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkley Parish Council Empshott Hut, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (Chairman); Nick Davis (Vice Chairman); Charlie Butcher; Jilly Caesar; Susan Sinclair; Geoff Brighton.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Judy Onslow (District Councillor).

There were 13 residents present.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies from County Councillor Vaughan Clarke and Parish Councillors David Caukill and John Scutt, all of whom were unavoidably absent.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

These were confirmed and signed as a true record.

### 3. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported that the main event of the year was the completion and opening of the new village hall for which we must thank Nick Davis in particular. Contributions have been made this year to the village bonfire night, EHCAB and the recently established Liss Greatham and Hawkley Friendship Fund. There have been 26 planning applications against 19 last year. Of these, only two were refused by EHDC. Regrettably the travellers were granted a further 3-year extension to their stay in Hawkley due to the continued lack of a site for them to move to. Councillors Susan Sinclair and Jilly Caesar have put a great deal of work already into the parish plan. Tony Madeley continues to act as our hard-working lengthsman. Thanks to all parish councillors for their hard work and to the clerk also. Welcome to the new tree wardens, Madeleine and Barry Allison.

### 4. Report from District Councillor:

Judy Onslow began by thanking Susan Sinclair, Jilly Caesar and Geoff Brighton for attending the recent EHDC Community Forum meeting. These can be very long meetings and their support is much appreciated. The new National Park has been up and running for a year now and the NPA is handling all major or contentious planning applications, with authority for the rest continuing to be delegated to EHDC. A 2.5% increase in precept was agreed, which equates to 6p per week on a band D property. The joint waste contract is now being held up elsewhere in the country as an example of best practice, and other joint working initiatives are being put in place, particularly with Havant.

### 5. Report from County Councillor:

The Chairman read out a report from Councillor Clarke: precept unchanged for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year (achieved with no reduction in Highways budget); efficiency drive continues with 1400 job cuts in 2011/12 and a further 228 in 2012/13; reduction in offices from 53 to 15; significant revenue contributions from sale of services to outside bodies; Olympics have resulted in £30million of contracts being awarded to Hampshire companies; key indicators demonstrate Hampshire remains a good place to live.

### 6. Open Forum:

The Chairman invited comments from the floor on the first draft of the new parish plan. Speaking personally, Peter Cregeen commented that he and several others on the Parish Council were unsure about the wisdom and desirability of such a document but that nonetheless there were benefits to be gained and that these could not be ignored. What is not desirable is a wish list of unrealistic aspirations. Either way, input from as wide a section of residents as possible is sought.

Councillor Onslow commented on the important difference between a Parish Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan, emphasising that although Parish Plans had no statutory power they were nonetheless an important tool in helping parishes to retain some degree of control over the future development of their environment.

Residents agreed that a small quantity of affordable housing is desirable, if land can be found for it, but that it must be prioritised for local people. The Parish Council was asked to include this caveat in the Parish Plan.

If a survey of local affordable housing is to be carried out, the Parish Council must be able to approve the questionnaire first.

It was agreed by all present that a lack of parking provision is a very real problem in the village. The edges of Upper Green in particular are being damaged by cars parking there. Attempts to create car parks, even of a seasonal nature only, in the fields adjacent to the Hawkley Inn have come to nought (not least due to the high costs involved) and it is thought that the land is no longer available. One resident asked the Parish Council to revisit this question and to approach the landowners concerned.

A resident proposed that mains drainage is an aspiration of many and that this should be included in the Parish Plan. In the past the relatively low population has meant that it has been considered economically unviable and this is believed still to be the case.

Councillor Onslow was asked whether EHDC is any nearer to identifying and purchasing an official travellers' site, particularly in light of the fact that the new Planning Policy Framework appears to suggest that where planning applications are resubmitted on expiry of temporary permission and where sites remain continuously unavailable, that permanent permission must be considered. Councillor Onslow expressed regret that a new region-wide (across several counties) assessment of the need for sites is to be undertaken and that this will effectively delay settlement of a site or sites even further.

All residents were encouraged to sign up to HCC's initiative for faster broadband, as Hawkley residents must register their desire for the service if it is to have a chance of benefiting from it.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked all for attending and for sharing their thoughts, and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date