

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY MAY 9TH 2012 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; five members of the public.

### **12/01 Apologies for Absence**

District Councillor Judy Onslow was attending EHDC's own AGM and Parish Councillors David Caukill remains out of the country.

### **12/02 Election of Chairman**

Nick Davis proposed Peter Cregeen, seconded by John Scutt. There being no other nominations, Peter Cregeen was duly elected and he signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### **12/03 Election of Vice Chairman**

Nick Davis was nominated by Peter Cregeen, seconded by Susan Sinclair. There being no other nominations, Nick Davis was duly elected.

### **12/04 Election of the Planning Committee and confirmation of other officers**

All present elected John Scutt as head of the Planning Committee with Jilly Caesar and Geoff Brighton. Other officers declared or had previously declared their willingness to continue with their current responsibilities, namely: Geoff Brighton as footpaths officer; Nick Davis Charlie Butcher and David Caukill on the Staffing Committee; Susan Sinclair Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher on the Audit Review Committee. It was agreed that there should be an EHAPTC representative and that this would vary dependant upon who was available to attend.

The Hawkley Parish representative on the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee is Madeleine Allison, who is Tree Warden for the parish along with her husband Barry Allison.

Peter Cregeen agreed to continue as Parish Council representative on the Liss Greatham and Hawkley Friendship Fund.

### **12/05 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on February 15th were approved and signed as a true record.

### **12/06 Declarations of Interest**

Peter Cregeen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 9b) (minute item 12/09b). He left the room during discussion on this matter.

### **12/07 Report of District Councillor**

No report due to unavoidable absence.

### **12/08 Report of County Councillor**

Annual cost of home to school transport in Hampshire is £25million, and it is felt that major savings could be made if parents were provided with incentives to drive children to school themselves. Suggestions have been made about increasing capacity on the Portsmouth/ Waterloo line however longer trains cannot be used due to the location of the multi points system close to the end of the platforms.

The Olympic Torch is coming through Petersfield on Monday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 8.30am.

### **12/09 Finance**

- a) The Clerk presented a financial summary of the period since the February meeting; no questions arising.
- b) As the allowance has been unchanged since 2006, all present agreed to increase it by £50 to £200.00. The Chairman then returned to the room.
- c) The Clerk distributed copies of the Accounting Statements for examination. The Chairman confirmed that he had earlier verified the figures against the cashbook and the current bank statement. Councillors approved the statements and these were then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- d) The Clerk had earlier distributed copies of the Annual Governance Statement. Councillors agreed all the individual clauses therein and the Chairman and the Clerk then signed the statement.
- e) All items and values on the asset register were agreed unchanged. It was also agreed that for insurance purposes, replacement values should be used, that the circular seat on Upper Green be valued at £3000.00, and that only the three benches and the circular seat be insured, other items being of insufficient value to justify a claim in the event of loss or damage.
- f) The Clerk reported that Allianz, with whom the Parish Council has been insured for many years, has proposed a premium of approximately £350.00. Two other quotes had therefore been sought. Aviva had not come back in time however Zurich's proposal for similar cover is approximately £150.00 cheaper. After discussion it was agreed to change to Zurich with effect from June 1<sup>st</sup>.

g) Victim Support has written to the Parish Council seeking a grant. It appears that they have helped 3 people in Hawkley in the last year. A grant of £200.00 was agreed.

h) The Chairman read out excerpts from a letter from a young resident who is seeking sponsorship to help him advance his career in football. It was explained that Parish Councils are unable to offer financial support to individuals and the Clerk has written to the young man explaining this and wishing him well.

#### **12/10 Planning**

a) *SDNP/12/00295/APNB Happer Snapper, The Hollow, Hawkley*

*General Purpose Farm Building*

Objection owing to proximity to Hanger's Way long-distance walking route.

#### **12/11 Stairs Hill**

Geoff Brighton reported that he and the Clerk met with HCC Highways and a Safety Officer on site and obtained permission to put in a fence to their specification. Three quotes were sought and two have been obtained and it was agreed to accept the most competitive. Clerk to update EHDC.

#### **12/12 Turf repairs on Upper Green**

Nick Davis is continuing to pursue the optimum solution.

#### **12/13 Community Speedwatch**

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting at EHDC. Hampshire Police are keen to promote this scheme. A minimum investment of £500.00 and a team of regular volunteers and one volunteer coordinator would be required to apply to implement it on Stairs Hill, Empshott. Some Councillors questioned whether the scheme was likely to be effective. All agreed that the work would be unpleasant and possibly dangerous and there were unlikely to be sufficient volunteers.

#### **12/14 Parish Plan**

Due to other commitments, little progress has been made since the last meeting however Susan Sinclair and Jilly Caesar continue to welcome contributions from any residents. They will seek information and advice from EHDC and SDNPA on the way forward and will report back at the next meeting. They remain committed to production of the document.

#### **12/15 Reports of Representatives**

a) **Hawkley Parish Hall**

Nick Davis reported that all continues to go well with the new hall.

b) **Footpaths**

In some cases, landowners have failed to maintain rights of way where crops have been planted. The Clerk reported that the HCC team writes to all known landowners twice a year to remind them of their responsibilities in this respect.

The seasonal TRO having ended, the bollards have now been removed from either end of Standfast Lane and are being stored by HCC RoW team. The Empshott end now has a padlock and key and the keys are in the custody of Geoff Brighton.

c) **Lengthsman**

Tony Madeley reported that the usual blocked ditch continues to cause problems. Clerk to follow up. He requested that a short article be placed in the parish magazine regarding the provenance of the new oak tree. Clerk to arrange. It was also decided that the tree is very vulnerable to careless hedge and / or verge cutting and should be staked. Peter Cregeen kindly offered to do this.

He also explained that his lawn mower is becoming increasingly unreliable for use cutting Upper Green. Resident David Lentaigne kindly offered the use of his and this offer was accepted with gratitude.

Susan Sinclair commented favourably upon the recent resurfacing of Church Lane. The work was carried out very efficiently and to a high standard, with necessary drainage work being done at the same time, and residents are very pleased with the result.

d) **LGHFF**

Continues to function well. Potential beneficiaries are always being sought.

#### **12/16 Date of next meetings:**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

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Chairman

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Date