

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16TH 2013 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (Chairman); John Scutt; Susan Sinclair; Jilly Caesar; Charlie Butcher; Geoff Brighton. Sue Harwood; (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Judy Onslow; County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; Tony Madeley, Parish Lengthsman; one other member of the public

13/41 Apologies for Absence

Parish Councillors Nick Davis and David Caukill.

13/42 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of July 10th 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

13/43 Declaration of Interests

None declared.

13/44 Report of District Councillor

Councillor Onslow explained that she now has a devolved budget of £3000 to spend on projects in her ward. An application has already been received from Hawkley Parish Hall Trust (HPHT) in respect of the new play equipment that is required. She proposed that the possible benefits of ownership of and responsibility for this equipment being passed to the Parish Council might be worthy of consideration. Councillors thought this an interesting idea worth pursuing further, subject to an approach from HPHT.

13/45 Report of County Councillor

In response to a query on the source of statistics on visitors to the Park area Councillor Clarke reported that these were compiled by Tourism South East. As the last census cost nearly £500m new methods of compilation are being considered. Life expectancy rates in Hampshire for those currently aged 45 are now 90.7 years for men, 91.9 for women, approximately 18 months longer than for those currently aged 65. Ahead of the winter, HCC salt barns are now full and a total of 40 salt spreaders are ready. 26% of the road network (carrying 85% of the traffic) is now deemed Priority 1. Hawkley's streetlights are due to be replaced on November 14th.

Councillor Susan Sinclair reported that the grit bin on Stone Lane stolen last year has not been replaced and Councillor Clarke offered to make this request again.

13/46 Finance

a) The clerk presented a financial summary for the period to October 2013 and cheque numbers 300130 –300133 were all authorised and signed.

b) The clerk reported that the Parish Council had passed the recent external audit process with no queries arising.

c) It was agreed to fund the cost of installation of a secure box for the defibrillator, box to be positioned on the parish hall with power for lighting and heating. Cost including VAT is £324.00.

d) It was agreed to make a grant of £1500.00 towards the cost of replacing the slide in the parish hall play area. Cheque numbers 3001227 and 300128 were then signed.

e) A request for a grant from the newly created Hawkley Local History Group was considered. Councillors agreed on a sum of £250.00. Cheque number 300129 was then signed.

f) The Clerk presented a document to aid discussion on the setting of next year's precept. As per the budget agreed last year, expenses have been very high this year due to the work carried out on Upper Green and the fencing work on Stairs Hill. It was agreed that while overall costs are likely to fall next year, reserves will still be greatly reduced and so a rise in the precept may be sensible. After much discussion an increase of £1000.00 to £10,000.00 was unanimously resolved upon

g) Clerk to respond positively to EHDC's consultation on payment of the support grant to town and parish councils.

13/47 Bollards on Standfast Lane

Willing permission of landowners has now been obtained however HCC is unhappy with the detail of the plan to install extra posts, declaring that access must be absolutely unfettered during the open period. Clerk to explore alternative solutions and report back.

13/48 Planning

SDNP/13/004216/HOUS 1 Orchard Cottages, Vicarage Lane, Hawkley

Single storey extn to rear

No objection.

13/04302/HOUS Garden House, Hawkley

Enclosure and extension to porch at front

No objection

13/04407/CND Tubbs Farm, Hawkley

13/04381/ HOUS Tubbs Farm, Hawkley

Conversion of attic space over garage to home office with installation of conservation roof lights

No objection

13/04560/HOUS Tulls Cottage, Hawkley

Two storey extension to rear

No objection.

13/49 Planning Committee

The view was expressed that as Hawkley residents so rarely attend planning committee meetings and as applications are so rarely contentious, these meetings should be abandoned. Officer comment from EHDC appears to support this option. The Chairman disagreed, feeling that it is important for residents to be able to listen and or speak and perhaps influence the decision-making process if they wish to. The Clerk reported that HALC are strongly in favour of all decisions being made in as open and transparent a manner as possible.

After discussion it was agreed to make the following additions to Standing Orders:

The Planning Committee will consist of three members of the Parish Council. When it is necessary to hold a planning committee meeting and one of those three members is unable to attend, then any alternative member of the parish council may attend as a voting substitute member in his place.

Also:

In limited circumstances and where the chairman of the planning committee and the clerk in consultation with the chairman of the parish council agree that it is not necessary to call a meeting of the planning committee, the clerk may be delegated to submit a comment of 'no objection' via the planning portal.

The Chairman thanked all three members of the planning committee for their hard work and care that they take when considering all planning application responses.

13/50 Parish Plan

The Chairman thanked Councillors Jilly Caesar and Susan Sinclair for their tremendous efforts to date on the plan. Following receipt of further information it was agreed that the plan would be enhanced by some further work. Charlie Butcher has very kindly undertaken to do this and it is hoped that the plan will be ready for presentation at the Community Forum on January 8th 2014. The Chairman asked that all available Councillors attend the Forum in January.

13/51 Lower Green Pond

Councillor John Scutt reported on recent developments following several advisory visits to the pond from SDNPA Ranger, Rob Nicholls. The pond was allowed to dry out over the warmer months and as much as 3 feet of silt has been removed. Clay has been used to plug possible leaks and some vegetation has been removed. This has all been done at no cost to the parish thanks to the hard work and dedication and the generosity of local residents.

13/52 Website

An Empshott resident is unhappy with the current description of Empshott on the parish website and has submitted an alternative version. This was distributed to all councillors for their consideration. After discussion it was agreed that the current version needs updating in places but that the resident's proposal does not paint a picture of Empshott that they can recognise. Councillors Susan Sinclair and Geoff Brighton kindly agreed to work together to produce a modified version. Clerk to contact the resident and thank them for their interest.

13/53 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

The constitution is currently being updated and then the AGM will take place.

b) Footpaths

Nothing to comment on beyond what has already been discussed.

c) Lengthsman

Stinging nettles and other overgrowth will hamper access to the grit bin at the junction of Church Lane and Stairs Hill. Geoff Brighton kindly offered to trim the immediate area. Clerk to report a site of long-standing fly tipping and a damaged road sign.

d) Coryton Trust & LGHFF

Operating smoothly after an unpleasant interlude reported in the local press concerning the Coryton Trust. A revised protocol for selection of tenants has now been agreed by the Coryton Trust Trustees.

13/54 Date of next meeting

Wednesday February 12th at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Chairman

Date