

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2020 AT 7.30PM  
CONDUCTED USING THE ZOOM PLATFORM

*Draft*

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Jo Humphrey; Susan Sinclair; Simon Dixon; Charlie Butcher; Geoff Brighton; Liz Buckle.

Also present: County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer; District Councillor Charles Louisson. Two residents were present.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance as well as the new Clerk, Katherine Horton.

**20/32 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced the recently appointed replacement Clerk. Mrs Katherine Horton will start in January and the two Clerks will overlap for a short period in order to facilitate a smooth handover.

**20/33 Apologies for Absence**

David Large.

**20/34 Declarations of interest**

None predeclared.

**20/35 Minutes of the meeting of August 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**

These were approved, to be signed at a later date.

**20/36 Minutes of Planning Meetings of October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>**

These were also approved, to be signed at a later date

None declared.

**20/37 Chairman's comments**

The poo bag dispenser is now in place, with thanks to the Large family.

The worn out road markings on Pockocks Lane have now been repainted.

The circular seat on Upper Green will be put back in place in the Spring.

Thanks to Simon Dixon for overseeing essential play area repairs.

Work appears to have ceased on the mobile phone mast for reasons unknown.

Many comments have been received about the new building on Half Acre but regrettably it does fall within the scope of their planning permission and so nothing can be done.

A task list has been submitted to the lengthsman but does not appear to have been executed, clerk to chase up.

Three complaints from horse riders about a speeding driver who regularly visits the village have been received. Once a registration number has been obtained, the driver will be contacted and asked to slow down.

**20/38 Public Forum**

A resident present explained that he is a retired transport planner and is willing to lend his expertise if appropriate He was thanked for his kind offer.

**20/39 District Councillor report**

Councillor Louisson explained that dealing with the ongoing Covid crisis remained a primary focus for the parish council, with many staff redeployed to community roles. Circa £30 million in what are largely Government grants have been distributed. An increase in planning applications is thought to reflect the greater numbers of residents working from home. The council's financial position remains strong with 90% of rents being received from EHDC's property portfolio and business rates and council tax income are also holding firm, albeit with some enforcement action where required as is usually the case.

**20/40 County Councillor report**

Councillor Oppenheimer presented his report which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

## **20/41 Finance**

- a) The clerk presented the financial summary. The Chairman confirmed that he had checked the figures against the bank statement. It will be signed at a later date. The chairman explained that the raised quarterly payment to the clerk was the backdated budgeted salary increase. Councillors were made aware that significant expenditure on the play area is likely to be necessary in the coming year or soon after.
- b) The Chairman had earlier distributed a discussion paper on funding of the Hawkley History project. A £500 grant was approved in principle and it was also agreed by all present that the parish council jointly with one other body would underwrite the cost of the project if necessary.
- c) The Audit Working Party having previously discussed the Statement of Internal Control and having made a small number of minor modifications recommended it for approval. This was agreed.
- d) The Financial Regulations and Standing Orders were both approved as fit for purpose for another year, it being felt that no changes were necessary at the current time.

## **20/42 Tree warden**

Several possible initiatives were discussed. It was proposed that a straightforward early project could be the promotion of ivy removal from trees, with landowner's approval and cooperation. Geoff Brighton kindly offered to pursue possible permission for one area of land.

## **20/43 Highways matters**

### **Cast iron fingerposts**

The chairman had previously distributed a discussion paper. It was agreed by all that the refurbishment and replacement where necessary of these signs is a very worthwhile project. A plan to replace the modern sign at the Church Lane/ Mill Lane junction in Empshott was abandoned as it was felt that the current luminosity is of great help in aiding lost motorists to find their way. Its arms need tightening, Geoff Brighton kindly offered to tackle this. A CIL funding application has been submitted to the SDNPA but this is unlikely to be successful. It was resolved to seek a firm quotation for total replacement of the Mill Lane/ Empshott Green junction as it is badly rusting and is missing a finial, and to start with this one, funded from the precept if necessary. Meanwhile we will continue to explore the availability of grants from various sources.

### **HGVs on Lower Green**

This was the subject of a further discussion document prepared by the chairman. In the absence of any easy answers, the Chairman undertook to continue to work with HCC to find a solution. He expressed gratitude for the offer of help from the resident well-versed in these matters.

### **Hawkley Hill**

A third paper outlined the extensive communication the Chairman has had with HCC (Highways) following the recent very sad accident following which a horse was put down. He proposed that the council engage with the CFI process with a view to implementing a scheme consisting of white lines to narrow the carriageway rather than a central white line marking the middle of it, plus painted SLOW signs coupled with installation of larger warning signs. After discussion this was agreed with the caveat that it will be possible to pull out at any point prior to commitment.

A resident has put forward a longer term proposal to apply to upgrade footpath 22a to a bridleway. Clerk to investigate. An alternative would be to install a bridleway in the wide verge for the use of horse riders and other vulnerable road users. In the first instance it is not known who owns the verge and this needs to be established. Both proposals were welcomed

in principle but it was recognised that there are significant barriers to the implementation of either.

**Drainage**

In the absence of anyone else taking responsibility, the parish council has funded the clearing out of the ditch in front of Oak House using a small digger. Rainfall since has not been sufficiently heavy to be able to judge whether this has worked. HCC still plan to replace the grille and examine the state of the culvert but no date has as yet been fixed.

**HCC verge cutting**

The Chairman asked Russell Oppenheimer if he could arrange for the April verge cut to be carried out later as it was of such limited benefit at that time. Councillor Oppenheimer replied that he would certainly do so but that there were many competing priorities of which promotion of wild flowers was one and that on that basis the scheme was considered to be a success. He agreed to investigate whether parish councils could at least be informed of the planned dates for the verge cuts to avoid the risk of a clash with local arrangements as almost happened this year.

**20/44**

**Phone Kiosk on Upper Green**

No report due to absence

**20/31 Date of next meeting**

January 20<sup>th</sup> 202 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2130hrs.

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Chairman

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Date