

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27TH 2019
AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

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

District Councillor Charles Louisson was also present.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

19/38 Chairman's comments

The recently created secondary entrance into Half Acre has now been closed.

HCC has confirmed its view that the fallen tree on Vicarage Lane is the responsibility of the householder. The grill into the culvert is now partially blocked and the ditch is overflowing into the road. All must be vigilant and clear the road drain wherever possible to manage the risk of wider flooding. Highways will return in two weeks to assess progress.

The verges have now been cut.

Jolly Robins has been mown regularly through the growing season, which has greatly improved its appearance.

The new noticeboard will be installed shortly.

Work to the play area is almost complete.

An irresponsible dog owner is leaving dog mess around Upper Green, it is hoped that the perpetrator will shortly be identified and spoken to.

Long overdue repairs to the pavement on Upper Green are underway.

19/39 Apologies for Absence

Parish Councillor Susan Sinclair and County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer were both absent due to other commitments.

19/40 Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the meeting on August 21st 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

19/41 Minutes of planning meetings

The minutes of the planning meetings on 5th June 23rd July 15th October and 28th October 2019 were all approved and adopted.

19/41 Declarations of Interest

None declared

19/42 Public Forum

No residents present.

19/43 Report of District Councillor

EHDC has declared a climate emergency and is actively considering ways for district-wide efforts to reduce the carbon footprint. A report is expected early in the new year.

Cllr Louisson has arranged to hold local surgeries for residents once a week in a room in the Hawkley Inn. This will commence in the new year and will be extended beyond an initial trial period if there is sufficient interest.

Following reports from parish councillors of shortcomings and failings with the new refuse collection arrangements, he undertook to investigate and report back.

EHDC has now sold at a loss the Metro Inn Hotel near Liphook. This was a loss-making investment in its property portfolio, the proceeds to be reinvested.

19/44 Report of County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer's November report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

19/45 Finance

The clerk presented a financial summary for the period to November 2019. Cheque numbers 300301-300303 were authorised and signed.

The chairman drew attention to the relatively high reserves. He explained that this was because all major projects this year, which the parish council had budgeted for, were in the event covered by devolved grant funding as well as s106 and CIL monies. There is therefore an opportunity to consider how to spend this money for the long term good of the parish.

19/46 Asset register

The clerk had previously distributed an updated register and this was approved by all present and signed by the chairman.

19/47 Statement of Internal Control

The Statement of Internal Control along with the risk assessment had been previously considered by the Audit Review Committee. The report was discussed and approved on their recommendation. The Chairman then signed the document.

19/48 Financial regulations and standing orders

All members present agreed that these be approved and adopted in full and unchanged, it being felt that no changes were necessary at this time.

19/49 Trees on Lower Green

Simon Dixon reported that ash dieback has affected several ash trees and is causing concern. One tree in particular may require remedial attention if it is not to pose a risk to the public. Clerk to contact resident and arboriculturalist Alasdair Marr and ask him to investigate with a view to him then being engaged to carry out any necessary work.

19/50 Rural crime

Recent instances of break ins to outbuildings in particular and theft of tools and machinery were discussed at some length. Selective use of CCTV has been proposed but all agreed that this was not a realistic or effective option for the parish council to explore further. Better that all residents are aware of the dangers and take steps to secure their own properties. It was also agreed that the parish council should engage with the local community safety partnership. David Large kindly offered to attend their next meeting. Clerk to place short article in the parish magazine to encourage greater awareness and vigilance.

19/ 51 Parish Council communications

David Large kindly offered actively to explore the creation of a dedicated dynamic parish council/ community GDPR-compliant email address list.

The new email addresses appear to be working well.

19/52 Phone kiosk on Lower Green

BT has once more indicated its plan to remove the phone equipment and the clerk is in communication with BT and with EHDC with a view to adopting the kiosk in line with the original plan of 2014. The clerk is lobbying for the telegraph pole to be removed at the same time.

19/53 Watersplash

HCC has carried out works as agreed with locals. The pipes are still running while HCC considers the issue of signage. Clerk to report to HCC that water has been running over the road in recent rains.

19/54 Reports of Representatives

Footpaths

Fallen trees are being dealt with by landowners. Councillors were pleased to note work to clear the route of the footpath through Langmead Copse.

Hawkley Parish Hall

The cricket field is blighted by a small number of irresponsible dog owners.

19/55 Date of next meeting

January 29th 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2110hrs.

Chairman

Date