

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6TH 2013 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

DRAFT

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; District Councillor Judy Onslow. .

12/42 Apologies for Absence

David Caukill is overseas and Charlie Butcher was absent due to work commitments.

12/43 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of November 7th 2012 were approved and signed as a true record.

12/44 Dispensation

It was resolved that dispensation be granted to all Parish Councillors present in order to enable them to set a precept. This item was discussed last month, however the Clerk proposed that advice and new information since received meant that further discussion was advisable.

12/45 Interests

None declared.

12/46 Report of District Councillor

As part of the further work required prior to resubmission of the Joint Core Strategy, progress should necessarily be made on the need for authorised sites for gypsies and travellers along with identification of actual suitable locations. Plans to increase housing stock must also be stepped up in the district.

12/47 Report of County Councillor

Councillor Clarke's report is attached as an appendix to the minutes.

The state of various roads was discussed once more. Peter Cregeen is meeting with engineers from HCC next week, and will visit with them the most seriously affected locations.

12/48 Parish Plan

Susan Sinclair and Jilly Caesar distributed copies of the draft plan to date. Various suggestions were made and these were noted. It was agreed to hold a public consultation following the Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council agreed to make a contribution in the order of £300.00 towards production costs and the Clerk will seek match-funding from EHDC. Clerk to investigate printing costs.

12/49 Upper Green

The Clerk reported that HCC engineers have now approved the scheme but are unable to assist with funding. Richard Hoare has kindly reduced his estimate by a small amount and the work will commence in the coming weeks.

12/50 Stairs Hill

It was reported that the rusting cars that have for so long blighted Stairs Hill and obstructed easy access to the footpath have at long last been removed. It is not clear why this has happened and whether more cars will shortly take their place. It was agreed to install the fence as agreed last year and as approved by HCC, as soon as is felt practically possible.

12/51 Village Oak Tree

Chairman Peter Cregeen reported that he has purchased a replacement tree at his own expense and it has now been planted. It is to be hoped that the new tree will thrive, and he was thanked for this generous gesture. Tree Warden Madeline Allison mentioned that she would like to investigate funding for new trees to be planted in specific locations, including Upper and Lower Green. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

12/52 Statement of Internal Control

The Chairman declared that a working party consisting of Councillors Susan Sinclair Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher had satisfied itself that all appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and that all were happy to propose that the Statement of Internal Control (distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting) be approved and signed. There were no questions arising and the Chairman then signed the document.

12/53 HCC (Highways) consultation on highway maintenance

It was agreed to respond with a favourable comment on the helpful attitude of the local team of engineers. They are always prompt to respond to enquiries and do what they can to help. Susan Sinclair commented on the excellent high standard of work carried out on Church Lane in May 2012. Others wished to report that in their view, the contractors used by HCC frequently do an extremely poor and inadequate job of filling in potholes, with the result that repairs last only a short time before the problem returns. With regard to long term plans to resurface whole roads or lengths of roads, it was felt that the Parish Council should have sight of the list of candidates before they are agreed as those selected do not always appear to be those most in need of attention.

Finally it was noted that the Parish Council-purchased grit bin on the far end of Mill Lane known locally as Stone Hill has been stolen. Clerk to report in the hope that HCC will agree to fund a replacement.

12/54 Finance

- a) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to February 2013 and cheque numbers 300104 to 300106 were authorised and signed.
- b) The Clerk explained the extent to which the Government's localised Council Tax Support scheme will reduce the tax base and also the effect and implications of the grant settlement scheme. It was unanimously agreed that last month's decision to increase the precept from £8000 to £9000 was still the right decision and should remain unchanged.
- c) The Chairman proposed that having studied the document and being aware of the high standard of service provided by the Internal Auditor, Ken Abraham, that a request from Mr Abraham that the Parish Council agree a five-year contract be accepted. The Clerk will sign the contract and return a copy to Mr Abraham.
- d) The Clerk left the room for this item. On her return the Clerk was informed that Councillors were happy to agree to her request to stop payment of allowances and to increase her salary by the same amount. Further, Councillors decided on a small pay rise to a round sum of £4000.00 per annum. The Clerk thanked the Council.
- e) Although there are grounds for cautious optimism, HCC and EHDC have not yet agreed to fund the Parish Lengthsman scheme for a further year. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should fund the Lengthsman's necessarily increased insurance premium and all agreed this. The exact figure is not yet known.

12/55 Planning

SDNP/12/02209/FUL Quarry Farm, Empshott Green, Hawkley GU33 6HU

New vehicular access and hardstanding

Objection.

SDNP/13/00053 Ford Arun, Snailing Lane Hawkley GU33 6HQ

Single storey extension to rear.

No objection.

13/00366/APNB Hatchmoor Farm, Snailing Lane

Prior notification, Agricultural Storage Barn.

No objection.

12/56 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

Nick Davis reported that the a part time manager has now been appointed.

b) Footpaths

At long last the replacements bollards are in place on Standfast Lane.

c) Lengthsman

Nothing to add beyond points already raised.

d) LGHFF

e) Coryton Trust

Both continue to function smoothly. Several small grants have been awarded by the LGHFF.

12/41 Date of next meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 25th April

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 8th May

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Chairman

Date