

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkley Parish Council Hawkley Parish Hall, Wednesday 28th April 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

DRAFT

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

ALSO PRESENT: Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor).

And two residents.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from District Councillor Judy Onslow (absent due to other commitments).

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 29th April 2009:

These, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman commented on the health of the Parish Council's finances, with a balance at the end of the year in excess of £11,000.00. This despite giving grants to the Hawkley Children's Christmas Party, the fireworks evening, Petersfield CAB and also a sizeable donation of £1,000.00 to the Parish Hall upgrade project.

He noted the departure during the year of Councillor Bob Robinson and his wife Gill, ably replaced by Geoff Brighton. Geoff has joined the planning committee and has also taken on Gill's role as footpaths officer.

17 planning applications were considered over the year and thanks are due to John Scutt and his planning committee for their hard work.

The Parish Council has adopted and insured the circular seat on Upper Green and it is looking much better for its thorough clean. Elsewhere in the parish the three main ponds continue to flourish.

The two grit bins purchased at the start of the year were put to very good use during the heavy winter snow and HCC have been asked to provide two more. Many thanks to Nigel Brown and his men who worked very hard over several days to keep the lanes clear of snow.

During the year the Parish Council has entered into frustrating correspondence with HCC, Portsmouth City Council and the Highways Agency over the absence of signs to the A&E department at the QA Hospital. Despite the support of Michael Mates no progress has yet been made but we will persevere. Similarly the Ham Barn roundabout continues to frustrate.

The gypsy situation also remains unresolved, with no visible signs of progress towards finding a site despite 3 years of looking.

Tony Madeley was then thanked warmly for his work throughout the year keeping Hawkley's verges neat and tidy and free of litter at no cost to the parish as his post is funded by HCC and EHDC. It was noted that his work on the B3006 Selborne Road is especially dangerous due to the high speed of passing traffic, although the trees being cut right back has helped greatly. Similarly, Tony's work on Stairs Hill is made difficult by the amount of junk dumped by the roadside.

In closing the Chairman thanked the Clerk and all members of the Parish Council for their hard work and support over the last year

4. Report from District Councillor:

In Judy Onslow's absence, the Chairman read out her report. This highlighted the management changes at EHDC, with David Parkinson becoming Leader and Sandy Hopkins being appointed Joint Chief Executive with Havant Borough Council. Joint working opportunities are being explored. In the future, waste and recycling will be undertaken jointly with Winchester City Council. Much progress has been made on the Local Development Framework that will replace the Local Plan. Grants are available through EHDC's Housing Department for disabled facilities and residents are encouraged to apply where relevant. Progress is being made towards establishing a permanent site but details are not available. Finally there is cause for hope that the mess on Stairs Hill will be cleared in the coming months.

5. Report from County Councillor:

HCC has been able to keep the increase in council tax rise to 1.9% despite having the lowest increase in government funding of any county in the country. The most contentious issue this year has been the roads – first their gritting and clearing during the snow and now their state of disrepair. HCC has allocated an extra £12.5 million for road improvements.

5 Open Forum:

A resident asked why no interest was paid on the account. The Chairman explained that the rate payable on the money, deposited with Unity Trust Bank, is set at base minus 0.9% and while this equated to 4.1% when the account was moved, with the base rate now at a record low of 0.5% no interest is payable. This is offset by a first class service.

Lengthsman Tony Madeley reported several issues: the road surface along Uplands Lane between the crossroads and Uplands Farm is badly in need of attention; the deep hole on Mabbots Lane opposite Walnut Cottage poses a serious danger especially to two-wheeled road users; the pavement on Upper Green has eroded in parts leaving protruding metal plates which in turn oblige infirm pedestrians to walk up the road; two car seats remain dumped on the BOAT in Empshott. The Clerk will report these where necessary and press HCC for action.

Fallen trees were reported on a footpath up the hill out of Priors Dean. Clerk to clarify and contact landowner to seek their removal.

Councillor Jilly Caesar reported on a new initiative set up by Hampshire Constabulary. A PCSO based at Petersfield Police Station can be contacted directly to report rural crime such as theft of farming implements or garden ornaments. While serious crime should still be reported through the usual channels it is to be hoped that this may combat the targeting of vulnerable properties in rural areas. The Clerk will arrange for an article in the parish magazine.

Nick Davis gave more details of the exciting new project to redevelop and upgrade the Parish Hall.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date