

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5TH 2009 AT 7.30PM HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (In the Chair); Bob Robinson; John Scutt; Susan Sinclair; Charlie Butcher; David Caukill

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Gill Robinson; Tony Madeley

In addition two residents attended.

Before the start of agenda items, Bob Robinson announced that he and his wife Gill would be moving to Liphook and that in due course this would create a vacancy on the Parish Council. The Chairman received this news with regret.

09/10 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Vaughan Clark and District Councillor Judy Onslow were unable to attend due to other commitments. Nick Davis and Jilly Caesar were also absent on holiday.

09/11 Approval of minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on May 27th were approved and signed accordingly.

09/12 Declarations of Interest

Peter Cregeen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 7c), minuted item 09/16c).

09/13 Matters Arising:

The Chairman reported the following:

- Dead tree now felled by HCC. Over the winter months HCC will plant a native oak in its place;
- Frustrating issue of absence of QA hospital signs has now been passed to Michael Mates;
- HCC claim to be dealing with Knotweed at the two sites that Nick Davis has taken them to and the matter is now in their hands;
- 'Walkers only' signs have been placed at either end of footpath 16 in an effort to deter horse riders. Effect to be monitored.

09/14 Report from District Councillor

Councillor Onslow being absent, there was no report. Peter Cregeen commented on and was extremely critical of the continuing lack of progress towards the finding of an alternative site for the gypsies. All agreed that this is highly unsatisfactory and is worrying given that there is now just a year to run until the expiry of temporary planning permission for the travellers' site. Bob Robinson queried why plots of HCC-owned land that might be considered suitable are not being used for this purpose. It was queried whether, in the light of further encampments in the district being set up without planning permission, EHDC are now being seen as a 'soft touch'.

09/15 Report of County Councillor

No report due to absence.

09/16 Finance:

a) The financial statement showing recent transactions and payments to be approved was agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk reported that no interest was paid on the account last quarter. The rate payable is set at 0.9% below the Bank of England base and as is well known that rate has now plunged to 0.5%.

b) The Clerk reported that the recent internal audit highlighted two shortcomings. Firstly the fidelity guarantee cover was considered to be too low at £10,000 and so this has now been raised to £16,000. Allianz made no charge for this. Secondly, the Chairman's allowance should have been settled without the Chairman being present, although the Clerk noted that the Chairman had actually argued for a lower sum to be paid! See next item.

c) The Chairman left the room. It was agreed that the Chairman's allowance would be paid at £150.00, unchanged from last year (which was also confirmed as being in accordance with the wishes of the Parish Council at £150). The Chairman then returned.

09/17 Circular seat on Upper Green

The Chairman read out a letter from the Hawkley Ladies Group, which confirmed that they raised the money and had the seat made and that they should be delighted for the Parish Council to adopt the seat. Adoption of the seat was then resolved upon. It was agreed to insure the seat for the remainder of this year at a cost of £28.49. It will now be added to the list of Parish Council assets, with a value of £2500.00. Peter Cregeen proposed that Tony Madeley clean and oil the seat, and be paid accordingly.

09/18 Empshott seat

Susan Sinclair proposed that the current location of this commemorative Silver Jubilee seat is no longer suitable. While the B3006 was at that time a relatively quiet lane, it is now a busy through road and the site is unpleasant and dangerous. As a result the seat is not used. It was commented that the seat would

be extremely difficult and expensive to move as it sits on a concrete base; nor is it especially attractive. However there is a plaque mounted on it, which notes that the seat was purchased to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. After discussion it was agreed that the wooden seat purchased for Empshott last year and currently located overlooking the cricket square in Hawkley should be moved back to a suitable spot in Empshott and that the plaque on the concrete seat should be removed and placed on this one. Susan Sinclair will consult with residents and confirm a suitable location for the next meeting.

09/19 Uplands Pond

The Chairman commented on the success of last year's project to restore Jolly Robins Pond, achieved at no cost to the Parish Council and said he would like to see the same positive improvements made to Uplands Pond. There followed some debate as to whether overhanging trees should be removed and whether extensive dredging of the pond was required. The Clerk has approached the SDJC for their advice and for possible part-funding of the project and their response is awaited.

09/20 SDJC Parish Update

This document had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Bob Robinson said that he considered the proposed survey as creating an extremely important record of all Hawkley's assets and eyesores for future use, and he feels that the Parish Council should consider what to list on it to preserve Hawkley into the future. The Chairman felt that the survey was unnecessary, would state the obvious and would merely document what the Parish Council was already doing. Bob Robinson is keen that Hawkley should play an active role in the future national park and asked that all Councillors read the document carefully and respond to him with ideas.

09/21 Planning applications

John Scutt reported that there had been 5 applications to date since the last meeting. The Planning Advisory Panel objected to just one (34495/009 Mill Cottage, Mill Lane. Detached double garage and ancillary living accommodation) however this objection has been overruled by EHDC.

09/22 Update on gypsies

Nothing to add to the discussion that had already taken place.

09/17 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

No report due to absence.

b) Footpaths

Nothing to report.

c) Ashford Hangers

Nothing to report. Gill Robinson noted that a new representative will be required in the future due to their move to Liphook and she offered to put a small piece in the parish magazine. Similarly a new footpaths officer for Empshott will be required.

d) Lengthman

Tony Madeley highlighted several points and the Clerk noted these for action.

e) EHAPTC.

Nothing to report.

09/18 Date of next Meeting:

November 25th 2009.

Following the closure of agenda items, a resident requested the consideration of a 30 mph limit through the village. It was reported that this has previously been considered and rejected by the Parish Council – the introduction of more road signs being undesirable and the limits ignored anyway. The Chairman mooted the possibility that new village name signs may make it clearer to visitors that they are entering a village and should slow down but he had his doubts that this would really help.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Chairman

Date