

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkley Parish Council Hawkley Parish Hall, Thursday 16th April 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: P Cregeen (Chairman)
N Davis (Vice Chairman)
Cllr's: R.Robinson, C Butcher, J Scutt, J Caesar, S Sinclair

Also present: J. Onslow (District Councillor),
Two residents

Mrs S Harwood, Clerk

The Audited Parish Council accounts for 2006/7, along with a set of unaudited accounts for 2007/8 were on display and available for inspection.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from B Adams, Cllr D. Caukhill, G Robinson and County Councillor Michael Cartwright.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 12th April 2007:

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

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman stated that he had been Chair since 3rd May 2007 with Nick Davis serving as Vice Chairman over the same period. In the May 2007 elections, 7 Councillors were elected unopposed with an 8th (David Caukhill) being co-opted in August.

19 Planning applications were considered during the year (up 1 on the previous year): 1 was withdrawn 1 was refused 12 were successful and 5 decisions remain outstanding. In addition 3 appeals were decided: there was 1 dismissal 1 refusal and 1 withdrawal.

The gypsy encampment is still a cause for much concern. The appeal was held in May 2007 and there was much local interest. The Inspector listened to concerns expressed such as the inappropriate nature of the site within an AONB and within the proposed new SDNP.

However the appeal was upheld and the family now have consent to stay for 3 years (from September 07), there being no designated site within the district to which they could be relocated. The Parish Council will continue to monitor events closely. The erection of stables without planning permission is much to be regretted but is insufficient grounds for eviction.

The SDNP boundary debate continues and the Inspector's decision is awaited. While Hawkley remains within the redrawn boundaries, Liss and Petersfield do not and the Parish Council wrote in support of their inclusion. B Adams keeps the Parish Council abreast of developments as their Representative on the SDNP Committee.

Turning to highways matters, a TRO has now been placed on Standfast Lane and should soon be followed by a PRO. It is hoped that this will help in preventing the damage caused by 4WD users. Motorbike users are still a problem and the Parish Council will continue to work to stop this.

Vandals unknown have damaged three cast iron signposts and Hampshire Highways have agreed to repair these.

The Parish Council pledged its support for the work of the Hawkley Parish Hall Trust with a cheque for £1000.00 towards the refurbishment plans.

Gill Robinson has kindly agreed to remain as Representative to the Ashford Hangers Committee.

During 2007, the Parish Council funded improvement work to Uplands Pond. There is a will to carry out works to the Jolly Robins Pond this year. Funding is to be sought to substantially cut back the overgrowth and numbers of trees and so encourage plant life. The pond is owned by HCC with the Parish council being Steward.

The Hawkley Lengthman Tony Madeley continues to work for the Parish, clearing blocked drains, emptying rubbish bins and effecting some repairs and alerting the Council to problems that need their attention.

The Chairman closed by welcoming the new Clerk, Mrs Sue Harwood and by offering the outgoing Clerk, Mrs Margaret Birrell the very good wishes and thanks of the whole Parish Council for her unstinting work during the last year.

A question was asked concerning the location of the 3 owl boxes, and the Chairman explained where they are located. The asset value of the owl boxes was queried and the Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

An offer of help was made to help clear the Jolly Robins Pond. The Chairman thanked the resident and explained that as the intention was to remove tree roots, professional contractors were likely to be needed.

It was noted that the stile is missing on the footpath from Pocock's Lane to Upland's Farm. As a result motorbikes as well as horse riders are now using it and the ground is suffering accordingly. It was resolved to remind the landowner of his responsibilities to ensure the stile is replaced.

A discussion took place on the desirability of speed limit signs being introduced in an effort to slow down cars passing through the village. Speeding cars are considered to pose a real and serious danger to the many children playing. Two accidents are already known to have happened. Local residents are thought to be culpable as well as people passing through Hawkley. N Davies offered to write a short piece for the Parish Magazine reminding people of the need for careful and considerate driving through the village. This was agreed to be a good idea and other ideas will be explored, being generally considered preferable to having numerous road signs placed around the village.

The problem of parked cars encroaching onto the Green was raised. The grass is becoming very muddy in places, impeding access to the church along the footpath. A resident present who has already put shingle down offered to repeat this exercise, for which he was thanked. N Davis agreed to speak to a resident who is thought to be parking in this undesirable way.

4. Report from County Councillor:

Mr Cartwright being unavoidably absent a report was read out on his behalf, offering his apologies for being unable to attend and outlining his portfolio. HCC Council Tax increased 4.5% and the Fire and Rescue Authority's (of which he is Chairman) rose 3.9%. Mr Cartwright explained that he does have an input into highway improvement schemes

are prioritised. The grant funding opportunities available to parishes through the devolved budget scheme was highlighted.

5. Report from District Councillor:

Mrs Onslow outlined her portfolio, highlighting the success this year of the EHDC's focus on glass recycling and explaining that EHDC continue to seek further recycling opportunities.

6. Members of the Parish:

One further matter was raised, namely the dreadful state of the road surface along Mill Lane despite Highways having promised several times that essential repair work will be done. Temporary repairs did not arrest the deterioration. Mrs Onslow offered to pursue the matter with HCC.

7. Closing of the Meeting:

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date