

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17TH 2010 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke and one member of the public.

10/28 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Judy Onslow and Councillor David Caukill were both absent due to other commitments.

10/29 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on August 11th were approved and signed as a true record.

10/30 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Nick Davis Charlie Butcher and Jilly Caesar all declared an interest in agenda item 9f) recorded below as 10/35f): Nick Davis is Chairman of the Parish Hall Upgrade Committee; Charlie Butcher is a member of that committee; Jilly Caesar's spouse is architect to the project. All three left the room for discussion on this matter.

Councillor Nick Davis also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items 9d) and 9e), the nature of those interests being that he sits on the Hawkley Fireworks Committee and that he administers the website.

10/31 Report from District Councillor

No report due to absence. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mrs Onslow and her various comments would be reported to the meeting where relevant.

10/32 Report of County Councillor

Vaughan Clark relayed the latest news on probable County level spending cuts. HCC is gearing up for a repeat of last year's harsh winter weather. The new grit bins will shortly be delivered to Church Lane and Mill Lane.

The Clerk complained that all efforts to communicate with the RoW office in QECP have failed and that as a result no progress has been made clearing the obstructions on Stairs Hill.

10/33 Planning Matters

John Scutt reviewed recent planning applications and decisions.

10/33 Ham Barn Roundabout

Councillors discussed recent articles and letters in the Petersfield Post, and noted Damian Hinds MP's pressure for local consultation at all stages. Clerk to write to him, and meanwhile to keep abreast of any initiatives within HCC or EHDC, to ensure that Hawkley Parish Council's participation in said consultation process.

10/34 Watersford/ Standfast Lane

Susan Sinclair reported that she had witnessed several instances of motorised use of this BOAT despite the seasonal TRO. All agreed that the HCC signage is unhelpful, being obscure confusing and easy to misinterpret. The Clerk had obtained a quote for metal signs to be placed at either end and it was agreed that this could only help. Attempts to formalise permission through the RoW office having failed (see minute 10/32), the signs will be put in place as soon as they are available.

10/35 Finance:

a) The financial statement showed recent transactions and payments to be approved.

b) The Parish Council has passed the external audit. However the auditor has indicated that a review of the internal audit process must be carried out annually and on a rolling basis and that this has not been done.

Councillors expressed concern at the amount of time that would be taken up in complying with this requirement and queried why it is necessary when a professional auditor is employed by the Parish Council to undertake a thorough review of all activities. It was felt that such 'nonsense' implies a lack of trust, and that this is regrettable when all those involved work extremely hard for the good of Hawkley. The Clerk may well agree with this stance but responded that nonetheless the review must be undertaken in order to comply with the terms of the annual external audit process. Therefore Councillors Geoff Brighton Charlie Butcher and Susan Sinclair all very kindly volunteered to form a working party to undertake the necessary review, in conjunction with the Clerk. The working party will then report to the full Council at the next meeting.

c) Regarding the precept, the Chairman summarised the detailed report distributed by the Clerk ahead of the meeting. There were no questions arising and all present agreed with the Chairman's proposal of a precept of £8000.00, unchanged over last year.

d) A contribution of £150.00 towards the costs of staging the Hawkley fireworks and bonfire party was agreed.

e) A contribution of £100.00 towards the costs of hosting and administering the village website was agreed.

f) Before leaving the room, Nick Davis reported on the latest position regarding the village hall project. He indicated that the target is almost reached and that work will start on December 1st. The Chairman reminded the meeting that a minimum contribution of £1500.00 had been agreed at the May meeting. He drew attention to the surplus that the Parish Council has now built up through careful management and successful grant applications for work undertaken in the parish, and to the clear indications that the village as a whole is behind this project now (illustrated not least by the excellent attendance at the September party and by the high level of individual donations). The matter was discussed and there was unanimous agreement that the sum should be increased to a total of £5000.00. All present readily agreed.

10/36 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

Nick Davis thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Hall Committee and reported that this meant that the initial target of £235,000.00 had been reached. Fund-raising would not stop now, with future monies going towards the costs of equipping the new hall.

b) Footpaths

Geoff Brighton has already alerted the Clerk to a small number of paths in need of attention. Further a rotten stile needs to be reported to the landowner.

c) Ashford Hangers

Nothing to report.

d) Lengthsman

Tony Madeley reported that trees and bushes now obscure the fingerposts on Cheesecomb Lane. He kindly agreed to cut this back. Church Lane is in a particularly shocking state with potholes and collapsing verges. A signpost on the B3006 has been knocked flat by the verge cutter.

e) Coryton Trust

Peter Cregeen reported that at a recent meeting of the trustees, a related fund, the 'Liss and Greatham Sick and Poor Fund' was brought up. Hawkley has been invited to be involved with this fund, to support it as well as to benefit from it. It was agreed in principle that participation could only be a positive benefit to the village, however Councillors wanted clarification on several points and a decision was deferred until the next meeting.

10/37 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at 7.30pm. This and future meetings will be held at the Empshott hut until work on the Hawkley Parish Hall is completed.

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

Chairman

Date