

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22ND 2015 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (Chairman); Nick Davis; Susan Sinclair; David Caukill; Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher

Sue Harwood; (Clerk) was in attendance.

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

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman proposed a few moments of silence in memory of John Scutt who died on Saturday January 17th 2015. John Scutt will be remembered for his long service to Hawkley Parish Council as a hard-working and effective Councillor who for many years served as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

14/46 Apologies for Absence

None

14/47 Chairman's Comments

Matters pertaining to the clearance of vegetation in Uplands Pond and Jolly Robins Pond will be addressed by Nick Davis and the Clerk. The reinstatement of Empshott Green common land appears to be in hand.

14/48 Approval of Minutes of Last Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on October 1st 2014 were approved and signed as a true record. The minutes of the planning committee meetings held on 30th April, 3rd September and 16th December were all approved by those present at those meetings and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

14/48 Declaration of Interests

Nick Davis declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7b) minute 14/51b) below, the nature of that interest being that he hosts and manages the parish website and in agenda item 7c) minute 14/51c) below, the nature of that interest being that he leads the fireworks committee.

14/49 Report of District Councillor

Councillor Onslow reported that EHDC's share of the precept will remain frozen for a further year. She remains in contact with the National Park Authority regarding provision of authorised sites for travellers. There is a balance available in her devolved budget and Geoff Brighton arranged to contact her with regard to the Empshott Hut refurbishment project.

14/50 Report of County Councillor

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

14/51 Finance

a) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to January 2015 and cheque numbers 300153-300156 were authorised and signed.

b) Nick Davis left the room. A contribution of £150 towards hosting and maintaining the parish website was agreed.

c) A contribution of £300 towards the Hawkley Fireworks display was agreed. This is an increase of £100 over the contribution made towards the previous display as the poor weather reduced attendance and so the gate collection was lower.

Cheques numbers 300157 and 300158 were then agreed and signed. Nick Davis returned to the room.

d) Charlie Butcher discussed the work of the three councillors appointed to examine internal control processes, being himself, Susan Sinclair and Geoff Brighton. All present declared themselves satisfied and the Statement of Internal Control was duly agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

e) The Clerk presented a document to aid discussion on the setting of this year's precept. It was agreed that the maintenance budget should allow for topping up of the bark chippings in the play area which may be necessary at some point, but did not need to exceed £1500. It was felt that the budget for grants and donations should be increased to take account of a probable application from the Empshott Hut refurbishment project. The Clerk felt that there are unlikely to be further significant costs associated with the parish plan and this budget item was reduced to £50. The training budget was left at £100 to take account of possible new councillors. Reserves of six months precept were considered very satisfactory. Consequently, an unchanged precept of £10000.00 was proposed by the Chairman and was resolved upon by all Councillors.

14/52 Play Area Inspections

Nick Davis reported that the Parish Hall Caretaker, Neil Ransome, has very kindly agreed to take on the important role of responsibility for regular play area inspections. These must take place on a monthly basis. Clerk to make contact to confirm this arrangement.

14/53 HCC work to Ford below Empshott Green

All present agreed that the work by HCC carried out to this much-loved historic feature of Empshott, while other certainly necessary work re-surfacing the road was being completed, was greatly to be regretted. It has resulted in an eyesore that has interrupted the water flow and has flooded the immediate area. The steep drop off either side is now considered to pose a serious a hazard to motorists and an expensive accident at some point is considered almost inevitable.

District Councillor Judy Onslow undertook to contact the SDNP. Photographic evidence of 'before and after' to be shared. Clerk and Geoff Brighton to monitor progress.

14/54 Reports of Representatives

- a) The Cricket Club will be hosting a summer ball in June.
- b) Some paths still blocked by fallen trees, Clerk to contact landowner.
- c) The Chairman announced with great regret that the Parish Lengthsman, Tony Madeley, has opted to retire from April 1st 2015. He was warmly thanked for his hard work in all weathers over a 12 year period. The clerk will contact HCC and EHDC in the first instance, to ask whether they are prepared to continue to fund the post. Several potholes on Mill Lane were reported (County Councillor Vaughan Clarke offered to report), a gated entrance to BOAT 745 below Wheatham Hill (Clerk to investigate), an overgrown hedge (David Caukill to speak to landowner), a falling hedge (Chairman to talk to landowner). It was also mentioned that the tree on Upper Green may be diseased and need replacing. This matter to be placed on next agenda.
- d) The Chairman reported that the LGHFF food bank may be disbanded due to a lack of demand.

14/55 Date of next meetings

APM Wednesday April 8th 2015 at 7.00pm. David Caukill offered to investigate the possibility of a presentation at that meeting by RAF Odiham, to explain more about Chinook flights over the area.

AGM Wednesday May 20th 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Chairman

Date