

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 2010 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

**DRAFT**

PRESENT: Nick Davis (Acting Chairman); John Scutt; Susan Sinclair; Charlie Butcher; David Caukill; Jilly Caesar; Geoff Brighton.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke, District Councillor Judy Onslow; Lengthsman Tony Madeley.

In addition three residents attended.

Before the start of agenda items, Natalie Meagher (Housing Needs Manager EHDC) gave a presentation on affordable housing. Councillors asked several questions and then Mrs Meagher left the meeting.

### **09/33 Apologies for Absence**

Chairman Peter Cregeen was recovering from a recent operation in hospital.

### **09/34 Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

### **09/35 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on November 25th were approved and signed accordingly.

### **09/36 Matters Arising:**

Acting Chairman Nick Davis reported that the QA signage saga continues. A response has been made, with particular support once more from Michael Mates MP, to an especially 'crass' attitude expressed by an area manager from the Highways Agency.

### **09/37 Report from District Councillor**

Judy Onslow reported that great efforts continue to be made towards finding a permanent site for gypsies and travellers in the district, in the face of great difficulties. The Parish Council continues to be concerned that the temporary permission on the Liss Road site will lapse before an official alternative is available. It was agreed by all present that a change in legislation is required. Further, long-running efforts by EHDC to remove mess from outside a property on Stairs Hill are likely to see the site cleared in the coming months, to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

### **09/38 Report of County Councillor**

Vaughan Clarke then reported on HCC's planned measures to increase salt supplies for use in future adverse weather conditions. Fifty teams are also out mending potholes throughout the county. Councillors mentioned that in some cases the work has not been done to an adequate standard and Councillor Clarke asked that in such cases, details of the contractor are noted and passed to Highways. A survey of the state of all roads is planned. However the soaring costs of the statutory provision of adult care have to be met first and this comes at a cost to the highways maintenance budget.

### **09/39 Finance:**

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

### **09/40 Devolved Budget**

Nick Davis sought ideas on possible projects to take advantage of this scheme, as Hawkley has not made an application this year. He proposed a Christmas tree for Upper Green and this met with a favourable response. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.

### **09/41 Snow Clearing and Grit bins**

HCC intends to meet demand for further grit bins throughout the county at a provisional cost of £800,000. The Clerk has requested a further 3 for Hawkley Parish. Priority sites were agreed as being: junction of Stairs Hill and Church Lane; Lower Green; vicinity of Hawkley Mill. Discrete green bins are preferred and the Clerk was asked to ask for these, if at all possible.

### **09/42 Ham Barn**

Councillors expressed concern that with the Hindhead Tunnel nearing completion, neither HCC nor the Highways Agency has announced plans to deal with this longstanding issue. Vaughan Clarke offered to seek an update.

### **09/43 Update on Gypsies**

A letter from Greatham Parish Council seeking a meeting to discuss concerted action was read out. It was agreed that the Parish Council had nothing to achieve by such a meeting. Nothing further to add to the discussion that had already taken place.

### **09/44 Consideration of a Parish Plan**

Last meeting's presentation was reviewed and considered. Nick Davis proposed that this initiative would not enable the Parish Council to achieve anything that it is not already doing. He expressed discomfort with the thought of spending money unnecessarily, even if it is EHDC's money, in this case. Other Councillors concurred with this view and no one spoke in favour. As to whether such a

plan offers a degree of protection in the case of any unwelcome external initiative, it was generally felt that Councillors were sufficiently pro-active in guarding against such a measure. It was resolved not to carry this project forward, for the time being.

**09/45 Possible withdrawal of HALC from NALC**

The Clerk had previously distributed relevant paperwork on this matter. It was agreed that Hawkley Parish Council did not wish to vote for a withdrawal by HALC from the national body. If HALC does withdraw, then this position would be looked at again, as membership of HALC is also seen as extremely beneficial.

**09/46 CPRE Fly Tipping Initiative**

The CPRE has contacted the Parish Council seeking support for a local initiative to counter fly tipping. After discussion, it was resolved that as the parish is fortunate to suffer very little if at all from this blight, participation in the scheme was not desirable.

**09/47 Reports of Representatives**

**a) Hawkley Parish Hall**

A committee has now been set up to carry the project forward. This news was welcomed.

**b) Footpaths**

Geoff Brighton reported that notices regarding the seasonal closure of Waterford Lane and Standfast are now in place but are being ignored. The Clerk proposed again that any Councillors who witness such abuse take details and photographic evidence where practicable and offenders will then be reported to HCC.

Fallen trees are blocking footpath 21. Clerk to report to landowner.

**c) Lengthsman**

A particularly deep and dangerous pothole on Mabbots Lane has now been reported to HCC. The ditch there needs dredging once more, but HCC have declined to do so and have stated that the landowner is responsible. Also, a warning sign on Hawkley Hill has been pushed over.

**d) EHAPTC.**

Clerk reported on a recent meeting. All Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to maintain their Declaration of Interests, held at EHDC, and also of the need to report interests in relation to any agenda items that may arise.

**e) Coryton Trust**

Nick Davis reported on behalf of Peter Cregeen that the trust continues to function very smoothly.

**09/48 Date of next Meeting:**

The next meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting, will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

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Chairman

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Date