

Draft

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 2011 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; District Councillor Judy Onslow and three members of the public.

11/31 Apologies for Absence

Parish Councillors David Caukill and John Scutt were absent due to other commitments.

11/32 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on July 20th were approved and signed as a true record.

11/33 Declarations of Interest

Geoff Brighton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (minute below) the nature of that interest being that he is a friend of and a near neighbour to the applicant. Peter Cregeen to replace Geoff Brighton on planning committee for this application.

11/34 Matters arising

a) Standfast Lane

HCC has now arranged for padlocked bollards to be installed at either end in an effort to reduce the abuse of the seasonal TRO and it is very much hoped that these will be effective. The number of the combination lock has been given to local landowners to secure access, as well as to all members of Parish Council.

b) Stairs Hill

District Councillor Judy Onslow reported that EHDC hope to be able to remove the vehicles soon, once their owners have been formally notified. The Clerk suggested that financing this very costly operation has been a significant cause of the delay and proposed that Councillors consider making a significant contribution to the cost in order to try to move the episode on. After discussion a figure of £600.00 was agreed. Clerk to write to EHDC making this offer and once more seeking action to be taken. Clerk to seek quotations for the fence, Geoff Brighton kindly agreed to meet workmen on site to agree optimum approach.

c) Parish Plan

While the Chairman expressed his reservations about the necessity for and wisdom of a parish plan, he thanked Jilly Caesar and Susan Sinclair for the hard work they have put in to date. A copy of Steep's plan was distributed as a useful insight although all agreed it that the degree of detail was not desirable for Hawkley. Judy Onslow encouraged the initiative saying that this would enable residents to have a say in the future of the parish, and to identify for example preferred sites for any future housing rather than having these key decisions overly influenced by outside forces. The importance of thorough consultation with as many residents as possible was emphasised and there was discussion over the best way to achieve this. Jilly Casesar and Susan Sinclair then proposed placing an informative introductory article in the parish magazine, encouraging interested residents to come forward. A draft questionnaire will be circulated to all Councillors and a final version will be agreed at the next meeting.

11/35 Report of District Councillor

Judy Onslow acknowledged the early difficulties that have been experienced with the new waste collection contractors, but said that EHDC officers have been working extremely hard to resolve outstanding problems and most routes are now settling down.

Asked about progress towards establishing an authorised travellers' site, Mrs Onslow proposed that she and the Clerk liase on a letter to SDNPA regarding any forthcoming policy plans on this matter, in the light of the imminent national policy announcement.

11/36 Report of County Councillor

Preparations for the Olympics are gathering pace, with live big screens in several major towns and cities although sadly not in Petersfield due to local decisions which is a great shame, however the Olympic torch will pass through Petersfield on July 16th. Several local events are planned. 100 Hampshire companies have won Olympic contracts worth £30 million. HCC continues to strive to make significant cost savings and is now engaged in reducing its property portfolio from 53 offices to 15.

11/37 Finance

a) The Clerk presented a financial summary of the period since the last meeting; the Parish Council has passed the 2011-2012 External Audit, with no questions arising.

b) The Chairman read out a letter from EHCAB seeking grant funding. A grant of £300.00 was agreed. Nick Davis left the room for the next two items.

- c) A contribution of £200.00 towards the Hawkley Fireworks Fund was agreed.
- d) A contribution of £150.00 towards the costs of hosting the website was agreed.
- e) The Clerk had earlier distributed a discussion document to inform a decision on the precept for 2012/13. The single significant increase in the budget was an allowance for a contribution to the costs of clearing Stairs Hill and the subsequent installation of a fence on the land. Discussion ensued and a precept of £8000 was agreed for a third consecutive year.

11/38 Planning

Geoff Brighton explained the rationale behind Permitted Development Rights and the reason for their possible application in this case. He then left the room for discussion on this item.

Objection - the Parish Council objects to the attempted use of 'Permitted Development' rules to enable further development of the property in excess of the 50% rule. An unwelcome precedent would be created and this would likely result in similar 'add-ons' to previously enlarged properties in the parish, something the Parish Council considers undesirable

11/39 Notice board

Several quotes and ideas were considered. It was agreed to go with the lowest quote for the most simple design, very similar to the existing board. The backing material to facilitate ease of use was admired and it was agreed to apply this to the other boards in the parish and also to the Empshott Church notice board. Clerk to arrange.

11/40 Repairs to sign on Lower Green

A quote for £250 was accepted. The posts to be painted dark green.

11/28 Correspondence

a) The Chairman reported that a resident had drawn his attention to the worn ropes on the swings in the children's play area. Nick Davis confirmed that this is the responsibility of the Parish Hall committee and that in his view the wear and tear posed no danger to users. He would continue to monitor the situation.

b) A resident has written to the Parish Council seeking action to ban off-road vehicles of any kind from the second half of Cheesecombe Lane. Having spoken to HCC, the Clerk confirmed that Cheesecombe Farm Lane is an unclassified county road, the U212AA, and the second half is the T212AC (named Cottage Lane). It has never been downgraded to a BOAT. Judy Onslow added that £10,000 had been spent on works to the stream area and that it had been closed for 18 months during this process. It is at best extremely unlikely that such work would be contemplated in the future, not least as extensive damage was caused soon afterwards by returning off road users. The Chairman concurred that equally there was very little hope of a TRO being imposed on this ancient track but that residents could always try if they wished to do so.

c) Liss Parish Council is producing a booklet of walks in the area and one of the walks passes through Hawkley. Over the summer and in the absence of the Chairman but in consultation with Nick Davis, the Clerk had expressed support for the proposal on behalf of the Parish Council. It was felt that any walkers using the Hawkley Inn as a result were to be especially welcomed as they would arrive and depart on foot.

11/29 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

Nick Davis reported that all continues to go well, and users' bookings are encouraging. PV panels will be fitted to the roof.

b) Footpaths

Nothing to report beyond seasonal concern regarding prompt reinstatement of footpaths after earlier ploughing.

c) Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that while HCC paid their portion of the costs very promptly, that EHDC has yet to do so, despite numerous requests. Relevant officers are very busy dealing with problems relating to the new waste contract and it is hoped that the outstanding invoice will be paid shortly.

d) LGHFF

Continues to function pleasingly well.

e) Ashford Hangers

Following the last meeting, the Allisons are continuing to pursue the possibility of a small grant from HCC, matched by the Parish Council (£100 each) to invest in further owl boxes. This and other measures to promote wildlife and conservation were endorsed by all Councillors.

11/30 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will take place on February 15th.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Chairman

Date