

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 2016 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

*DRAFT*

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Charlie Butcher; Susan Sinclair; Jilly Caesar; Geoff Brighton; Peter Cregeen and Robin Crittenden.

ALSO PRESENT: District Councillor Keith Budden; County Councillor Vaughan Clarke.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance along with 3 residents.

### **16/39 Apologies for absence**

Jo Humphrey was absent due to another commitment.

### **16/40 Approval of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on July 6th 2016 were approved subject to a grammatical error and signed as a true record.

### **16/41 Declaration of interests**

None declared.

### **16/42 Public forum**

The two residents both expressed their reservations about the proposed new street light. They objected to the detracting from the rural nature of the village in general which would be caused by the new street furniture, and to the light which would be thrown over nearby houses in particular. They queried the actual risk to life and limb and the need for more light given that most people arriving at and leaving the hall on foot would be carrying torches as the surrounding areas are poorly lit. A supplementary light on a timer switch operated from the village hall was suggested as an alternative. Secondly, they both wished to register ongoing concerns about the village shop proposal. The Chairman proposed that both agenda items be brought forward in order for the two matters to be addressed and this was agreed.

### **16/43 Proposed additional street light**

The Chairman explained that HCC has agreed in principle to the attaching of a 'conservation grade' light on the existing wooden pole situated by the lych gate and that EHDC has said that they wish to carry out their own consultation prior to any permission being given and that the parish council would have to meet the costs of any installation. Such costings have not yet been received, therefore no decision can be made. The Chairman assured the residents that their views would be taken into account.

### **16/44 Village shop proposal**

The Chairman explained that a public meeting took place earlier in the week, the conclusion of which was that the plan should proceed further. There are several proposals on the table and the project has a very long way to go yet. At this stage there is nothing that the parish council is being asked to make a decision on.

Country Councillor Vaughan Clarke declared that in his view, residents prepared to throw themselves into a community-wide initiative such as this should be applauded and given the strongest encouragement.

### **16/45 Chairman's comments**

The landowner of the north field at the Snailing Lane junction was thanked for his prompt attention to the hedges, they have been cut back significantly and this has greatly improved the sight lines. It is hoped that the landowner of the south side will take similar action in response to the parish council's request.

Nigel Brown was thanked for installing a post on the Pockocks Lane footpath without charge, and this appears to have been effective in putting a stop to use of the footpath by those on horseback.

It is hoped that the recently cleared eyesore of cars dumped on Stairs Hill does not build up once more. This situation will be monitored.

Preparations for the relocation of a young beech tree to Upper Green continue. It is anticipated that the existing tree will be removed in the spring and the hole left empty for several months in order to confirm that honey fungus is not present.

Uplands Pond has looked a mess for a long time as the reeds planted several years ago by local request have been allowed to grow unchecked. This must be dealt with without much further delay, and a kind offer from a local landowner to arrange for the work to be done at no cost to the parish has been gratefully accepted.

The Chairman expressed the view that the enthusiasm of some larger parishes to accept greater devolved responsibilities for local assets was not matched by his own. All present concurred. This matter will also be monitored.

The Chairman has written to the Minister of State for Local Government, copied to Damian Hinds MP, to object to a proposal that all future rises on our precept be capped at 2% per annum unless a larger increase is approved in a local referendum.

**16/46 Report of County Councillor**

Councillor Clarke's report is attached as an appendix to these minutes. He also encouraged the PCC to approach him for possible grant funding to help with the production costs of the village magazine.

**16/47 Report of District Councillor**

Councillor Budden reported on how much he valued attending last weekend's Remembrance Day service in Hawkley Church. He attended the recent meeting hosted by the SDNPA at which their emerging Local Plan was discussed. He outlined an idea regarding land allocation which met with the approval of the parish council in principle, to be discussed further at the January meeting. He may also be able to offer financial help for the village magazine if it is required.

**16/48 Finance**

a) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to November 2016 and cheque numbers 300222-300223 were authorised and signed.

b) The Clerk presented the external audit report for examination. The parish council passed the process with no queries arising.

**16/49 Lengthsman**

Several tasks were added to the list, and the Clerk encouraged all councillors to notify her of any further ones that may arise. Photographic evidence is always much appreciated.

**16/50 Parish Plan Update**

This is an ongoing task. Several revisions and updates were noted. Councillor Robin Crittenden kindly offered to look into what might be done to prevent verges being strimmed where wild flowers might otherwise flourish. Chairman to update the grid and distribute to all councillors prior to the next meeting.

**16/51 Lower Green Telephone Kiosk**

BT has announced that it wishes to remove the phone equipment from this kiosk. The Clerk has responded, objecting to the plan. It was agreed that should the objection be overruled, the parish council would then act to safeguard the future of the kiosk by adopting it for £1. A small group of residents of Lower Green has agreed to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the kiosk in this instance, doing the work themselves if the parish council will fund materials to a maximum cost of £100 per annum. This proposal was warmly welcomed and agreed upon.

**16/52 Reports of representatives**

**Footpaths**

Councillor Geoff Brighton reported the damage to the bollard on Standfast Lane and the theft of the bollard on Watersford Lane. Unfortunately, there have been several thefts in the area and these matters may be related. HCC has acted promptly to replace the missing bollard. He concurred with the Chairman's view that while the planned remedial repairs by HCC to the Snailing Lane BOAT are very much welcomed, the hard surface will not be long-lasting unless the nearby drains are also maintained properly. The Clerk has contacted HCC for their input on this matter but no reply has as yet been received. This matter will also be monitored.

**Coryton Trust and LGHFF**

Councillor Peter Cregeen to attend a meeting of the Trust next week.

**Hawkley Parish Hall Trust**

Councillor Jilly Caesar reported that an extraordinary meeting of the trustees would take place shortly at which the latest village shop proposals would be discussed. Also, the village hall caretaker has resigned and so a new one is being sought.

**16/53 SDNPA Local Plan Consultation**

While much of the emerging detail is confidential at this stage, the Chairman stated as public knowledge the information that the land allocations for potential gypsy and traveller sites will include Half Acre. An extensive discussion took place at the end of which it was reluctantly concluded that for the moment there is not felt to be anything that the parish council can do to contest this decision.

**16/54 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday January 25th 2016.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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Chairman

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Date