

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2017 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

*Draft*

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Jo Humphrey; Charlie Butcher; Peter Cregeen; Geoff Brighton and Robin Crittenden.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer and District Councillor Keith Budden.

## **17/01 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present, in particular newly elected County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer.

## **17/02 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Susan Sinclair and Jilly Caesar, both of whom were on holiday.

## **17/03 Election of Chairman**

The Chairman sought nominations. Cllr Charlie Butcher nominated Cllr David Caukill, seconded by Cllr Geoff Brighton. There were no other nominations and Cllr David Caukill was duly elected, approved by all present. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

## **17/04 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr David Caukill proposed Cllr Jo Humphrey, seconded by Cllr Robin Crittenden. There were no other nominations and Cllr Jo Humphrey was duly elected, approved by all present.

## **17/05 Appointment of Planning Committee and Chairman**

It was unanimously agreed that the current post holders would continue, namely Cllr Geoff Brighton as Chairman with Cllr Jilly Caesar and Cllr Jo Humphrey.

## **17/06 Appointment to other posts**

Similarly, it was unanimously agreed that the current post holders would continue, namely Cllr Geoff Brighton as Footpaths Officer, Cllrs Charlie Butcher David Caukill and Robin Crittenden to comprise the Staff Panel, and Cllrs Susan Sinclair Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher the Audit Review Committee. It was agreed that no individual representative be appointed to attend EHAPTC meetings but that these be attended on a rotational basis. The first will be attended by the Clerk. It was agreed to defer a decision on the appointment of the Parish Council's representative on the Liss Greatham and Hawkley Friendship Fund and on the Coryton Trust until the next meeting.

## **17/07 Approval of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on January 25th 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

## **17/08 Declaration of interests**

Cllrs Robin Crittenden and Jo Humphrey declared a non-pecuniary interest only in agenda item 12e) minute 17/12e) below, the nature of that interest being that they are both members of the PCC. Both chose not to participate in the decision-making process.

## **17/09 Public Forum**

No members of the public were present. Instead the Chairman updated members on various matters: the overrunning utility works on the Hawkley Rd are due to be completed in the coming days; the major part of the remedial work to Uplands Pond has now been completed; the current Half Acre planning application has been called in by the SDNPA (it was agreed to circulate to all members of the Park planning committee the parish council's recent letter to the SDNPA on the potential allocation of the site in the Park's forthcoming Local Plan); efforts to save the Lower Green phone kiosk have proved fruitless and the parish council will at some point be informed of how to implement the adoption process; thanks to HCC for fitting more secure hinges on the gates on Snailing Lane, which appear so far to be thwarting the off roaders intent on abusing the closure; a fruitful meeting has taken place with Lupin in Liss and the organisation will shortly place an advert in the parish magazine seeking volunteer drivers from the parish.

## **17/10 Report of District Councillor**

The only two remaining non-Conservative District Councillors have now crossed the floor.

EHDC now has an officer dedicated to tackling fly-tipping (Sonja Reames).

Hampshire Constabulary's new website includes a user-friendly means to report crime online as an alternative to using 101.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue have launched a useful new online home safety check tool. Home visits will result if thought advisable.

### **17/11 Report of County Councillor**

County Councillor Oppenheimer commented very favourably upon his early interactions with senior officers at HCC. There are ongoing funding challenges ahead as the costs of social care continue to mount and this will mean that funds for non-urgent projects will continue to be severely restricted. Devolution is likely to bring opportunities for increased income in the future. He is looking forward to being very much involved in the life of the 10 parishes in his newly enlarged ward and intends to be a hard-working and responsive Councillor, attending meetings whenever possible. Parish councillors agreed that improving broadband is a major aspiration in this parish and strenuous efforts to engage with the process will be very much welcomed.

### **17/12 Finance**

- a) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to May 2017 and cheque numbers 300227- 300229 were authorised and signed.
- b) The Statement of Internal Control had been previously considered by the Audit Review Committee as well as independently by the Chairman. It was discussed and approved in full on the recommendation of the Audit Review Committee and with the full agreement of the Chairman. The Chairman then signed the document.
- c) The Accounting Statements (certified by the clerk) and the Annual Governance Statement had been previously distributed for examination and consideration by the full council. The Chairman confirmed that he had checked all figures and testified to their accuracy. Both documents were then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- d) The Clerk reported that the insurance renewal documents had now been received and advised that the council must accept the small premium increase in accordance with the terms of the 5 year agreement signed last year. Cheque number 300230 was then authorised and signed.
- e) A request for a donation towards the major project currently underway - 'Making our Church more welcoming' has been received from Hawkley PCC. After much discussion, it was agreed that a sum of £750.00 would be made towards improving access and manoeuvrability for all within the church.
- f) Following a request, it was agreed to make a donation to Home Start (Butser) of £300.00 in recognition of their work with local families.

### **17/13 Planning**

- a) 17/02165/TCA The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Hawkley

*Reduce height of hedge to 3m, remove Acer trees within the hedge.*

No objection.

- b) A modification to standing orders was proposed by the Chairman, in order to allow members of the parish council other than those on the planning committee, to attend separately convened planning meetings and play a full voting role, if they wished to do so. The wording was discussed and agreed. Clerk to distribute updated copy to all councillors.

### **17/14 Lengthsman**

The sharp downhill bend on Hawkley Hill and the Snailing Lane/ Hawkley Rd junction require strimming to improve sightlines. A stile was noted for repair. Jolly Robins pond also requires strimming to remove nettles and sprouting tree growth. Clerk to report these to the lengthsman for action.

### **17/15 Bench seat on Upper Green**

The Chairman reported that one of these is rotting and he proposed its removal on safety grounds. All present agreed. Further it was agreed that it was not necessary to replace it.

### **17/16 Area of land outside Beech House**

The Chairman reported the welcome news that the current neighbourly arrangement to mow the land, which is situated to the front of Oak House, will continue. Its ownership remains uncertain.

### **17/17 Casual Vacancy**

The Chairman reported that Parish Councillor Peter Cregeen has indicated his wish to stand down. He has been a member of the Parish Council since 2003, and was Chairman from 2006-2016. All councillors expressed their grateful recognition of his hard work and it was noted that this and his lively contributions will be much missed.

### **17/18 Meeting on social housing**

Cllr Jo Humphrey reported in detail on a recent meeting with Radian and EHDC Housing Dept. She proposed placing a short article in the parish magazine explaining something of the registration process. This to encourage any eligible local residents, or others such as returning family members, to place their names on the waiting list at an early date in order to improve their chances of gaining a tenancy. Cllr Humphrey will also look into the shared ownership application process and meanwhile will continue to monitor the weekly Home Choice newsletter for vacancies in the parish. The parish council will consider at a future meeting whether there is any further action that they might usefully undertake in order to meet local housing needs.

### **17/19 Reports of Representatives**

#### **Footpaths**

The HCC rights of way team has recently installed a new bridge on a footpath crossing farmland close to Empshott and this is very much appreciated.

**Coryton Trust and LGHFF**

Nothing to report.

**17/20 Dates of next meetings**

To be confirmed.

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

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Chairman

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Date