

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST 2017 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

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

25 members of the public were present.

17/33 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the geographical boundaries of the parish for the benefit of those present and detailed the small precept that the parish council manages. He outlined the running of the meeting.

17/34 Apologies for Absence

None.

17/35 Co-option and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Chairman proposed that Simon Dixon be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy created by the retirement of Peter Cregeen. This met with unanimous approval and Simon Dixon was welcomed to the parish council. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

17/36 Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the meeting on August 9th 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

17/37 Chairman's Comments

BT has dropped its proposal to take out the phone from the kiosk on Lower Green. Repairs are underway on BOAT 25, the parish council will now lobby HCC to impose a seasonal TRO, the landowner must be prevailed upon to repair and preserve the ditches running along either side. Elsewhere, the relevant landowner has suggested that he will undertake to improve the flooding issue on Bridleway 27. The lengthsman has now repaired the stile below Champlers Farm. A grit bin survey has been carried out and the results passed to HCC, 2 need replacing, hopefully at HCC expense. Parish Councillors must consider whether they wish to fund a second cut of highway verges and hedges on the basis that HCC's once a year cut is insufficient.

17/38 Declarations of Interest

None declared

17/39 Public Forum

6 residents addressed the parish council on traffic speeds in the village. Matters raised included: the parish council must explore every option available and these must then be put to the village as a whole; everyone will work together towards the optimum outcome for all; the situation has got very much worse in recent years; pedestrian safety is compromised, as it is for other user groups including those on horseback cyclists and young children; action is now required; other deterrents must be considered such as '20 is Plenty' stickers on wheelie bins, 'Dead Slow' signs, more signage on Pockocks Lane; a traffic consultant would offer a useful service; everyone would like the village to be a safer place for all to walk about in; Government policy is for 20-30mph limits in villages. Finally, it was suggested that the parish council failed in its duty by not participating in the Village 30 scheme a decade ago. The chairman observed that with the amount of contemporary publicity it is inconceivable that the parish council, or the electorate of the parish generally, could have been unaware of the scheme; Village 30 would have been implemented if thought relevant to this parish. Rather today's meeting is focussed on today's agenda. The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and noted the broad consensus in favour of his suggestion for a working party to be set up.

District Councillor for Ropley and East Tisted Charles Louisson spoke in favour of the proposals being put forward in the current boundary review. If these are implemented, Hawkley parish will be merged with the Ropley and East Tisted ward. He highlighted the similarity of issues being experienced in the two areas.

17/40 Report of District Councillor

Councillor Budden reported that he has managed to persuade the traffic police to site a mobile speed camera on Stairs Hill. This was very much welcomed. He spoke against the proposed boundary changes as he very much enjoys representing the parish and does so to great effect. He reported a spate of car and house break-ins and warned everyone to be especially vigilant. There is said to be a 'mild' risk of a flu epidemic this winter and those eligible are encouraged to get flu jabs.

17/41 Report of County Councillor

Councillor Oppenheimer's report is included as an appendix to these minutes. Further, he is supportive of the parish council's efforts to oppose the allocation of Half Acre as an authorised site for gypsies and travellers. He asked that the parish also comment favourably upon aspects of the plan of which they are supportive.

17/42 Finance

- a) The External Audit Report had previously been distributed to all councillors. The minor technicality issued as a ‘matter arising;’ was noted.
- b) A letter seeking financial support has been received from The Rosemary Foundation. A grant of £250.00 was agreed.
- c) A contribution of £300.00 towards the Hawkley Firework Fund was also agreed.
- d) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to November 2017 and cheque numbers 300236-300243 were authorised and signed. The summary is included as an appendix to these minutes.

17/43 Community Fibre Partnership

While Hawkley’s Broadband Champion has made some progress in Empshott he is now too busy to work to promote network improvements elsewhere. Openreach is planning to build a fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) network but the extent of the benefits this may bring and how best the parish council can work to maximise the impact remains at best unclear. The chairman proposed to resurrect the village working party to explore the options. Charlie Butcher offered to be the parish council representative and two residents expressed a welcome interest in joining. Councillor Oppenheimer offered to give advice and support where he is able.

17/44 Boundary Commission revised proposals

District Councillor Louisson’s earlier comments were noted. It was agreed that while the proposals may make economic sense, the possible loss of Hawkley’s excellent effective and hard-working District Councillor, Keith Budden, is very much to be regretted. It was suggested that the new name of the ward should recognise the incorporation of Hawkley. Clerk to submit response.

17/45 Planning

- a) 17/05086/LDC Froggats, Snailing Lane, Hawkley GU33 6HQ

LDC for an existing use or operation or activity incl those in breach of a planning condition – use of a single family dwelling (C3) without restriction of agricultural occupancy condition.

No objection

b) Draft response to the SDNPA Local Plan Pre-submission consultation

The Chairman had earlier circulated a draft response to which all councillors indicated their approval. He undertook to consider Councillor Oppenheimer’s request that it be modified to include comments on the more positive aspects of the plan and to submit it ahead of the deadline. He pointed out that any resident is welcome to respond to the consultation and offered to share the parish council’s response.

17/46 Traffic and highways concerns in Hawkley

The Chairman introduced the discussion of traffic speeds by reading a prepared statement, attached as an appendix to these minutes. It was agreed that the forthcoming police mobile speed radar operation on Stairs Hill is very welcome indeed, especially given multiple reports of serious accidents happening on a regular basis. Councillors discussed the Chairman’s proposal of a working party, consisting of parish councillors and residents from across the parish, to thoroughly research both the problem and all possible solutions. It was agreed that this is a desirable way forward. Jo Humphrey agreed to chair the committee, joined by Geoff Brighton and Simon Dixon. Participating residents to be confirmed. Terms of reference will be agreed at the first meeting.

17/47 Lengthsman

A number of tasks were agreed. The clerk reported that good use has been made of the service this year and only a small number of hours of his time remain.

17/48 Reports of Representatives

Footpaths

Geoff Brighton has put the closure bollards up on either end of Standfast Lane. He reported on a RoW where the footpath has not been reinstated after planting.

LGHFF

It was agreed to accept Peter Cregeen’s kind offer to continue as the parish council’s representative on the LGHFF. The chairman undertook to seek updates from him from time to time.

17/49 Play area monitor

It is hoped that this post will soon be filled. Meanwhile, the chairman is kindly undertaking this duty.

17/50 Date of next meetings

January 24th 2018 at 7.30pm in the Empshott Hut

April 11th 2018 at 7pm in Hawkley Parish Hall, the APM

May 16th 2018 at 7.30pm in Hawkley Parish Hall, the AGM

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Chairman

Date