

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2015 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

*DRAFT*

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; District Councillor Judy Onslow and three residents.

## **15/01 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all Parish Councillors to the new four year term of office of Hawkley Parish Council, especially new Councillors Jo Humphrey and Robin Crittenden.

## **15/02 Apologies for Absence**

David Caukill

## **15/03 Election of Chairman**

Jilly Caesar proposed Peter Cregeen, seconded by Susan Sinclair, there were no other nominations and Peter Cregeen was duly elected.

## **15/04 Election of Vice Chairman**

Peter Cregeen proposed Charlie Butcher, seconded by Susan Sinclair, there were no other nominations and Charlie Butcher was duly elected.

All Parish Councillors then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

## **15/05 Appointment of Planning Committee and Chairman**

The Chairman proposed that Geoff Brighton be elected as Chair of the Planning Committee, approved by all present. Geoff Brighton then proposed that he be joined by Jilly Caesar and Jo Humphrey and this too was unanimously agreed.

## **15/06 Appointment to other posts**

The Chairman proposed that Geoff Brighton continue as Footpaths Officer, that the Staff Panel consist of Charlie Butcher David Caukill and Robin Crittenden, that the Audit Review Committee continue to be made up of Susan Sinclair Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher and finally that he, Peter Cregeen, continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Liss Greatham and Hawkley Friendship Fund and on the Coryton Trust. All these proposed appointments were approved and resolved upon by all present. It was agreed that no individual representative be appointed to attend EHAPTC meetings but that these be attended on a rota basis. The first to be attended by the clerk as no councillors were available on this occasion.

## **15/07 Approval of Minutes of Last Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting on January 21st were approved and signed as a true record.

## **15/08 Declaration of Interests**

Peter Cregeen declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11b) minute item 16/11b). Geoff Brighton and Susan Sinclair both declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11c), minute item 15/11c) the nature of that interest being that they are chairman and member respectively of the Empshott Hut Refurbishment Committee.

## **15/09 Report of District Councillor**

Much work has been going on to address the litter issue across the district, with decent results, though fresh litter is now adding to the problem which is very frustrating. On the spot fines have been introduced and other measures are being considered.

## **15/10 Report of County Councillor**

Councillor Clarke's report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

## **15/11 Finance**

a) The Clerk presented a financial summary for the period to May 2015 and cheque numbers 300160- 300166 were authorised and signed, where they do not appear here below as separate items for a decision.

It was explained that the internal audit review had taken place and the Parish Council had passed with no queries arising. The report was circulated. It was noted that although the play equipment is worth approximately £20,000.00 it was to be entered on the asset register with a nominal value of £1 as no payment had been made at the time of its recent adoption.

Charlie Knowles has agreed to take over the mowing of Upper Green from Tony Madeley.

b) The Chairman left the room. A Chairman's Allowance of £200 was agreed. He then returned to the room.

c) Geoff Brighton gave a presentation on the Empshott Hut project. It was discussed in great detail. Issues covered included the nature of the project itself, likely overall cost, amounts raised to date, other potential funding sources, amount given to the Hawkley Parish Hall project, parish population breakdown, recent grants

and donations made to both Hawkley and Empshott, the existing surplus, the increase in grants and donations in the budget as agreed in January with this project in mind. The Chairman proposed a grant of £2000.00 and this was agreed with and resolved upon by all present.

d) The accounting statements were approved. The Chairman confirmed that he had examined the accounts and confirmed the figures stated. The annual governance statement had been previously distributed for examination and consideration and this too was approved by all present on the recommendation of the Audit Review Committee members.

e)) The Clerk explained that this is the third year of a three year agreement, therefore in fact there is no decision to be made.

#### **15/12 HCC Lengthsman Scheme**

The Clerk had earlier distributed documents relating to the possible inclusion of Hawkley in an existing cluster arrangement, lead managed by Grayshott Parish Council. It was agreed that as both EHDC and HCC are unwilling to continue with a separate funding arrangement for Hawkley, that this opportunity should be taken up if at all possible. Clerk to pursue. It will be necessary to create a list of jobs for the visiting lengthsman to carry out and the Chairman undertook to visit retired lengthsman Tony Madeley in the first instance to seek his advice as to priority maintenance jobs.

#### **15/13 Chestnut Tree on Upper Green**

It has been suggested that the tree may be infected with viral mosaic disease, and that felling and replacement should be considered, replacement to be planted beyond root spread of existing tree, therefore off centre. It was generally agreed that this drastic action should be avoided if there was a possibility that the tree may recover and also that the tree would not be felled without first having sought expert advice. After discussion it was agreed to monitor the tree carefully over the coming months and to review the situation in the autumn. The Clerk will contact the arboriculture department at EHDC in case they are prepared to offer free advice.

#### **15/14 Play area inspection**

Report not yet received.

#### **15/15 Condition of BOAT 4**

A resident reported on the deleterious state of this BOAT as a result of heavy use by large numbers of 4wd vehicles and motorbikes. The surface is now badly damaged and rutted and is considered to be too dangerous for the enjoyment of walkers and those on horseback. Councillors sympathised but considered that as this regrettable use by off road vehicles is not unlawful, there is nothing they can do to prevent it, temporary or seasonal closures being very hard to obtain even in locations where the damage is considerably worse. County Councillor Clarke reported that the SDNPA is hoping to tackle the issue more generally but there are no definite plans as yet.

#### **15/16 Liss Neighbourhood Plan**

A letter regarding this was distributed to all councillors for their possible interest. Clerk will remain in contact with the relevant body in Liss and will keep councillors informed of progress.

#### **15/17 Reports of Representatives**

##### **Footpaths**

The Clerk suggested that she investigate possible grant funding for a kissing gate to prevent use of the footpath at the end of Pockocks Lane as a bridleway, which can render it very muddy underfoot. This was agreed.

##### **Coryton Trust and LGHFF**

Nothing to report.

#### **15/18 Date of next meetings**

Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

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Chairman

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Date