

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25TH 2018
AT 7.30PM IN THE EMPSHOTT HUT

Draft

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Jo Humphrey; Susan Sinclair; Jilly Caesar; Geoff Brighton; Simon Dixon. Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

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

2 members of the public were present.

17/51 Apologies for Absence

Charlie Butcher; Robin Crittenden.

17/52 Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the meeting on November 1st 2018 were approved subject to one alteration. Minute 17/43 was amended to read as follows:

The Community Fibre Partnership is a new Broadband proposition that needs to be evaluated. There is conflicting data about the opportunity available to Hawkley. Openreach may be planning to build a fibre-to-the-premises network but the extent and timing of the benefits that may be available and how best the parish council can work to maximise the impact remains, at best, unclear. Our Broadband Champion invested a lot of effort last time - particularly within Empshott - but it came to nought. While he is able to guide the new process for Empshott (the Blackmoor Exchange), other commitments now prevent him from dealing with Hawkley. The chairman proposed to establish a working party to explore the options for those based on the Hawkley Exchange. 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.

The minutes were then signed as a true record.

17/53 Declarations of Interest

None declared

17/54 Public Forum

No resident wished to speak.

17/55 Chairman's Comments

The efforts of Geoff Brighton and others at a recent SDNPA planning committee meeting helped achieve a time limit of 6 years on Half Acre's planning permission for a utility dayroom.

A late addendum to the parish council's submission to the Boundary Commission was made in order to take account of the fact that Ropley is not in the SDNP. This had not been appreciated at the last meeting.

The cutting down and removal of the tree on Upper Green will go ahead as planned in the Spring. Depending on the health of the soil on the site, the replacement beech tree will be planted either soon after that or in the Autumn.

HCC contractors have completed surface repairs to the Snailing Lane BOAT. The chairman has met with HCC officers to address outstanding concerns.

A note will go into the parish mag encouraging all residents to contact EHDC if they notice any fly-tipping.

The chairman plans to consider how better to plan the use of the lengthsman's time in future.

17/56 Report of District Councillor

The Boundary Commission is due to publish their findings in early February.

EHDC has a dedicated Homeless team, loans towards rent are available to those thought to be vulnerable to homelessness.

EHDC is removing its support of the tourist information centre in Petersfield and as a result it is likely to close.

17/57 Report of County Councillor

Councillor Oppenheimer's report is included as an appendix to these minutes.

17/58 Finance

a) The clerk presented a financial summary for the period to January 2018 and cheque numbers 300244-300247 were authorised and signed. The summary is included as an appendix to these minutes.

b) The chairman circulated two documents to aid in the decision-making process. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the precept unchanged for a further year.

17/59 Planning matters

The minutes of the meeting of 7th December 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman of the planning committee.

17/60 Dog fouling

The parish council has received several complaints about a perceived rise in incidents of this behaviour around the parish. On numerous occasions full poo bags have been left for others to pick up. Councillors commented that a number of dogs are permitted to roam free and this is likely to be adding to the problem. It was agreed to place a firmly-worded article in the parish magazine in the first instance.

17/61 Traffic working party

Jo Humphrey detailed all the actions taken to date by the committee. They have had several useful meetings. It was agreed that a traffic monitoring process must be carried out. Should this confirm the need for action, then

her team will meet with HCC designers in order for various traffic calming proposals to be drawn up. It is hoped that details of these may be ready for the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

A working budget was considered. After much discussion this was set at £1250.00 ex VAT.

The chairman commented that much has already been achieved and he thanked Jo and her committee for all their hard work to date.

17/62 Broadband working party

The Chairman reported from Charlie Butcher that BT is planning for a fibre upgrade of the Hawkley exchange, to be carried out late 2018 or early 2019. It is not yet known whether this will be FTTP or a cabinet but will nonetheless be a significant improvement.

Meanwhile, Nick Walker, the parish's Broadband Champion was able to report that with HCC's new matched funding scheme, it may be that a FTTP connection with the Blackmore exchange for relevant households may be a viable option after all.

17/63 Communication

The chairman lamented the absence of a means to communicate directly with every member of the parish when it is desirable to do so. It was agreed that the current optimum method is through the parish magazine and a dedicated page was proposed, if necessary with the parish council providing financial support. The chairman will explore this further with the editor.

17/64 Financial regulations

The chairman proposed that regulation number 18 required councillors to set a maximum figure up to which he may authorise necessary expenditure on behalf of the council without requiring a full meeting to be called. After discussion, this was set at £800.00, agreed by all present.

17/65 Play area

The chairman is continuing regular monitoring of the play area himself, in the absence of any other volunteer coming forward. He reported on some minor repairs and maintenance that must be done and he will arrange for these to be done in the coming weeks, ahead of the annual formal inspection.

17/66 Reports of Representatives

Footpaths

Most routes very muddy given recent heavy rain. A fallen tree that was obstructing a RoW was removed promptly by the landowner.

Hawkley Parish Hall

The search for a new caretaker continues, otherwise all is going well and the hall continues to thrive. Decorating is due to start in the Spring.

17/67 Date of next meetings

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 9.00pm.

Chairman

Date