

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THURSDAY MAY 8TH 2019
AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

Draft

PRESENT: David Caukill (Chairman); Jo Humphrey; Susan Sinclair; Simon Dixon; Charlie Butcher; Geoff Brighton; Liz Buckle; David Large.

District Councillor Charles Louisson was also present.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance and 8 members of the public were present.

19/01 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He warmly welcomed Liz Buckle and David Large to the parish council and congratulated District Councillor Charles Louisson on his recent electoral success. Vodafone have as yet failed to identify an acceptable site for the mobile phone mast which can also meet their technical requirements.

Openreach are making progress with high speed broadband provision and it is expected to be available to residents in the Lower Green area shortly.

The cast iron village signs are now being manufactured. Final approval of agreed traffic calming measures is yet to be received from HCC.

19/02 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer was absent due to other meeting commitments.

19/03 Election of Chairman

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

19/04 Election of Vice Chairman

Susan Sinclair proposed Jo Humphrey, seconded by Simon Dixon. There were no other nominations and Jo Humphrey was duly elected, approved by all present.

19/05 Election of Planning Committee and Chairman

It was unanimously agreed that Geoff Brighton would continue as Chairman with Jo Humphrey on the committee. Susan Sinclair nominated Simon Dixon for the vacancy seconded by Jo Humphrey. Simon Dixon was duly elected, approved by all present.

19/06 Appointment to other posts

Similarly, it was unanimously agreed that the current post holders would continue with vacancies being filled where necessary, namely Geoff Brighton as Footpaths Officer, Charlie Butcher David Caukill joined by Liz Buckle to comprise the Staff Panel, and Susan Sinclair Geoff Brighton and Charlie Butcher, the Audit Review Committee. Simon Dixon agreed to continue as Play Area Monitor, Jo Humphrey kindly to act as the Parish Hall representative.

19/07 Acceptance of Office

All councillors duly signed the declaration.

19/08 Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the meeting on March 20th 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

19/09 Declarations of Interest

None declared

19/10 Public Forum

The noticeboard on Upper Green is in a dilapidated state. Clerk is taking action.

An improved mobile phone signal thanks to the new mast is to be welcomed but the beauty of the local area must be considered also when siting the mast.

It is regrettable that no report was made following previous serious accidents on the site of the Watersplash. Safety must be a more important issue than seeking to recreate the lost ford.

If the ford is lost there will be a serious impact on wildlife and fauna in the immediate area as well as loss of amenity.

19/11 Report of District Councillor

Councillor Louisson is pleased to have been democratically elected with a high turnout despite national concerns. He expressed thanks to Keith Budden and recognised that he will be a hard act to follow. EHDC now has 32 Conservative councillors out of 43 vs a previous 42 and this will lead to changes at Penns Place.

He is keen to work with those areas which currently are not due to receive access to high speed broadband such as parts of Empshott. Planning enforcement needs to be applied more rigorously. Applications to his devolved budget are welcome. The £1 million EHDC Community Infrastructure Fund also remains open.

19/12 Report of County Councillor

No report due to absence

19/13 Finance

a) The clerk presented a financial summary for the period to May 2019. It was proposed and agreed that the payment for mowing Upper Green should be increased to £600 per annum. Cheque numbers 300277-300282 were authorised and signed.

b) The chairman presented the Internal Audit report, previously distributed to all councillors.

c) The chairman confirmed that he had checked all figures and testified to their accuracy. The Accounting Statements were then signed by the chairman and the clerk. The 'Certificate of Exemption' from a limited assurance review was also signed by the chairman and the clerk. These documents will be uploaded to the website.

d) Following a request for grant funding from EHCAB it was agreed that a sum of £300 would be appropriate.

19/14 Parish Council communications

The chairman continues to work hard to ensure that the parish council's data management procedures meet with GDPR regulations and to improve communications both within the parish council and between the parish council and the local community. This may involve the purchase of a dedicated laptop for the clerk, a bespoke email distribution list and specific parish council email addresses for parish councillors.

19/15 Lengthsman

It was noted with much regret that HCC intends to cut all verges in the parish at the end of May. This is not only very early in the season it risks putting an end to the wild flowers currently thriving in the various verges. While it is too late for this year, strenuous efforts will be made via County Councillor Oppenheimer to have it done two months later next year. The clerk will submit a seasonal task list for June. It was noted that regular strimming of the Jolly Robins pond area needs to be undertaken in accordance with the 'sense of place' advice received from the SDNPA as a traffic calming measure.

19/16 Play Area

Simon Dixon reported that significant expense in the play area may now be necessary after years of constant use, which is otherwise to be welcomed. The swing seats need replacing and their proposed replacement was approved in pursuant to the quotation tabled. Simon Dixon also reported that the protective woodchip surface underfoot is thin in places and needs addressing. The initial estimate for a complete new surface was questioned on the grounds of both need and cost. After much discussion on possible ways forward it was agreed to postpone a decision on this aspect; further information on potential options should be available for the August meeting.

19/17 Parking on Upper Green

A written request has been received to allow 4 tractors and trailers to park on the Green during a forthcoming wedding as an alternative to 60 plus cars seeking to park in the area. Eventually it was agreed to allow this. A kind offer from a resident to make their nearby field available to be used for parking and turning of the vehicles in the event of wet weather being likely to damage the verges and cause deep ruts to form on the Green was gratefully accepted.

19/18 Watersplash

Following earlier representations, several councillors agreed that the possible loss of this historic feature was very much to be regretted. Several comments were made: when works were carried out by HCC in 2014 amongst other issues the formerly rutted concrete surface was replaced by a smoother tarmac. A number of factors have combined to allow algae to form on part of the road surface which made that area slippery. The artificial plugs making the damn which created the 'new' ford have been removed by persons unknown; while the loss of the ford and the consequent loss of the localised flora and wildlife is to be lamented, the road is presently safer as a consequence. Many residents in the parish, including much of Empshott in particular, believe that it is worth striving for a redesign of the site to re-instate the ford so long as it can be done safely. This has been achieved elsewhere in Hampshire and further afield. It was felt that while HCC is highly unlikely to fund any changes, their permission will be required and so an early meeting is desirable. Clerk to set up a meeting between HCC (Highways) and Susan Sinclair and Geoff Brighton along with a small number of residents.

19/19 Reports of Representatives

Footpaths

Geoff Brighton reported on several issues. Clerk to seek costings for repairs where appropriate.

Hawkley Parish Hall

The new representative Jo Humphrey will report back at the next meeting.

19/20 Date of next meeting

August 21st 2019 at 7.30pm. Location tbc.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Chairman

Date