

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25TH 2009 AT 7.30PM HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (In the Chair); Nick Davis; John Scutt; Susan Sinclair; Charlie Butcher; David Caukill; Jilly Caesar.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke, District Councillor Judy Onslow.

In addition three residents attended.

Before the start of agenda items, Linda Munday from EHDC and Jo Dixon from Community Action Hampshire gave a presentation on the benefits of a Parish Plan.

09/19 Apologies for Absence

David Caukill was out of the country on business.

09/20 Declarations of Interest

Nick Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items 8b and 8c, the nature of that interest being that he is on the committee of both the Hawkley Fireworks Fund and the Hawkley Parish Hall Trust and that he has agreed to manage the village website in the future and the grant sought is to contribute to the costs this will incur. He left the room during discussion on these items.

09/21 Co-option of Candidate to fill Casual Vacancy

Chairman Peter Cregeen explained that a vacancy had been created by the departure of Bob Robinson, that the vacancy had been advertised in accordance with correct procedure, and that as no call for a by election was received, EHDC had now given permission to fill the vacancy by co-option. Councillors then unanimously co-opted Geoffrey Brighton by show of hands. Councillor Brighton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

09/22 Approval of minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on August 5th were approved and signed accordingly.

09/23 Matters Arising:

The Chairman reported the following:

- Michael Mates has been in touch and is trying to progress the matter of the QA signage;
- David Caukill has written to Michael Mates and several other relevant MPs and Peter Cregeen has written on behalf of the Parish Council to express strong support for all that was said. At a district level the matter continues to frustrate.
- Tony Madeley has cleaned the circular seat on Upper Green. It was agreed to accept advice not to treat it further, rather to allow it to weather naturally.

09/24 Report from District Councillor

Judy Onslow reported that progress is being made towards finding a permanent site for gypsies and travellers in the district and an amount has been set aside to contribute to the costs of this. It is to be hoped that an announcement may be made by Easter 2010. The Parish Council continues to be concerned that the temporary permission on the Liss Road site will lapse before an official alternative is available.

09/25 Report of County Councillor

Peter Cregeen welcomed Vaughan Clarke to his first meeting as the new County Councillor. Vaughan Clarke then reported on HCC's hope to be able to keep council tax increases to a low level next year. There is a small balance left in the devolved budget, should Hawkley have any suitable project. It is hoped that HCC's new method of managing drain clearance should start to yield results. Finally, HCC is keen to appoint a successor to replace the outgoing Gill Robinson on the Ashford Hangers Committee. The Clerk will place a short article in the Parish magazine seeking a volunteer.

09/26 Finance:

- a) The financial statement showing recent transactions and payments to be approved was agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Donations of £200.00 to Hawkley Fireworks fund was agreed, £150.00 to Hawkley Children's Christmas Party and £1000.00 to Hawkley Parish Hall Trust.
- c) A contribution of £100 towards costs of hosting and managing village website was agreed.
- d) An increase in the amount paid to Tony Madeley for the twice-monthly grass cutting of Upper Green during the growing season was discussed. A fee of £500.00, to be reviewed annually, was unanimously agreed.
- e) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has passed the recent external audit, however Councillors were asked to approve the appointment of Ken Abraham as internal auditor, as this had not been formally minuted at the time of his appointment.
- f) All present agreed the appointment.

g) Setting of precept for FY 2010/11. A discussion took place based on the document previously distributed by the Clerk. Although grant funding has increased which has helped with the costs of several projects, it was agreed to raise the precept back to the level of 2006/7, ie £8000.00. As well as reducing fixed costs as a proportion of the whole, the sum agreed also allowed for a further substantial donation to the Parish Hall project.

09/27 Uplands Pond

A countryside officer for SDJC has written a piece for the Parish Magazine with the full version being on the website. A plea for volunteers was included and Peter Cregeen will be taking names and organising a day of work. It is hoped that SDJC will be able to attend to offer advice.

09/28 Footpaths Officer

Geoff Brighton kindly volunteered to take on this role to cover Empshott.

09/29 Planning

An updated spreadsheet of planning applications will be sent to all Councillors. Geoff Brighton is booked onto an HALC planning course in March; until that time Peter Cregeen will be the third person on the planning committee.

09/30 Update on gypsies

Nothing to add to the discussion that had already taken place.

09/31 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

Fundraising plans for the updating of the hall are proceeding apace. There is cause for optimism that work could start as early as 2010. Financial support is being actively sought from various bodies as well as individuals. All Parish Councillors voiced their support of this very worthwhile project.

b) Footpaths

Notices regarding the seasonal closure of Waterford Lane and Standfast Lane are still not in place. The Clerk will chase these up.

c) Lengthsman

Peter Cregeen reported on the lamentable state of the drainage ditch on Church Lane, following the cutting back of the hedge. HCC has confirmed now that the work is the responsibility of the landowner. Peter Cregeen will follow up as a matter of urgency.

There is a great deal of litter on Stairs Hill, currently. The Clerk will report this to Tony Madeley who will do his best, but he is hampered by the fast traffic and the absence of a pavement.

d) EHAPTC.

Next meeting is Dec 2nd and the Clerk will attend.

e) Coyton Trust

Peter Cregeen confirmed that the trust continues to function very smoothly.

09/32 Date of next Meeting:

A request has been received to hold the meeting on an evening other than Wednesday. Discussion revealed that this is the only one that all Councillors are generally able to attend.

Next meeting set for February 10th 2010. The next two dates will be fixed at the next meeting.

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

Chairman

Date