

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY MAY 26TH 2010 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

**DRAFT**

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (Chairman); Nick Davis; John Scutt; Susan Sinclair; Charlie Butcher; David Caukill; Jilly Caesar; Geoff Brighton.

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke.

### **10/01 Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Susan Sinclair was absent due to another commitment and District Councillor Judy Onslow was obliged to attend a meeting elsewhere.

### **10/02 Election of Chairman**

Nick Davis proposed Peter Cregeen, seconded by John Scutt. There being no other nominations, Peter Cregeen was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### **10/03 Election of Vice Chairman and confirmation of other officers**

Nick Davis was nominated by Peter Cregeen, seconded by Geoff Brighton. There being no other nominations, Nick Davis was duly elected. All other officers declared their willingness to continue with their current responsibilities, namely: John Scutt as head of the Planning Committee with Jilly Caesar and Geoff Brighton; John Scutt Jilly Caesar and Geoff Brighton as footpaths officers for Hawkley Oakshott and Empshott respectively; Nick Davis and Charlie Butcher on the Staffing Committee to be joined by David Caukill.

The Hawkley Parish representative on the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee remains unconfirmed for the present time.

### **10/04 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on February 11th were approved and signed as a true record.

### **10/05 Declarations of Interest**

Nick Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 10, the nature of that interest being that he is Chairman of the Hawkley Parish Hall Upgrade Committee. Jilly Caesar declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the same item, the nature of that interest being that her spouse Tony Caesar is the architect assigned to the project.

Peter Cregeen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8b).

### **10/06 Report from District Councillor**

In Judy Onslow's absence, the Chairman read out a statement which explained that EHDC are likely to extend the temporary planning permission to the travellers on Half Acre, Hawkley Road which is due to expire on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, as no official sites have yet been announced. New fencing and trees have been observed on the site but there is nothing the Parish Council can do about this.

It was resolved to write to Damian Hinds MP and ask when the Government will be amending current gypsy and traveller legislation. David Caukill kindly offered to draft a letter.

Disappointment was expressed that in three years no official sites have been formally approved.

Judy Onslow was congratulated on her appointment as Chairman of EHDC. It is hoped that this important appointment will not prevent attendance at at least some Parish Council meetings.

### **10/07 Report of County Councillor**

Vaughan Clarke reported that national cutbacks will affect HCC's budget and county level cuts will have to be implemented. Which areas will be affected is not yet decided. HCC is keen to be involved in a renewable energy trial project with a German company. If Hampshire is chosen a plant would be built but talks are in the early stages.

David Caukill asked what HCC is doing to find authorised travellers' sites. A response was promised.

### **10/08 Finance:**

- a) The financial statement showed recent transactions and payments to be approved.
- b) Peter Cregeen left the room for this item. In his absence an allowance of £150 was agreed.
- c) Document was agreed as a true statement and was signed by Chairman.
- d) Councillors considered the nine clauses of the Annual Governance Statement and answered affirmatively to all. Chairman then signed the document.
- e) Renewal premium was accepted as reasonable. Clerk reported that a £5 discount had been obtained but that no further reduction could be negotiated.

### **10/09 Empshott Flower Show**

This show has been organised to help raise funds to enable 60 kneelers to be made for Empshott Church. The kneelers have been costed at £55 each. A grant of £200 was agreed.

### **10/10 Hawkley Parish Hall**

Nick Davis reported that fundraising efforts are going extremely well so far with a number of generous individual donations, and it is very much hoped that the project can be given the go ahead this year. He stressed that while the upgraded facilities will be very much for the benefit of all residents, the committee would not wish our donation to impinge on the Parish Council's capacity to support other equally worthwhile causes. He and Jilly Caesar then left the room.

John Scutt was concerned that some in the village were reluctant to support such a major and expensive product, however after a lengthy discussion, David Caukill proposed that a minimum sum of £1500 be promised, but that the money should not yet be handed over as the final sum may vary depending on other grants given over the course of the year.

Nick Davis and Jilly Caesar then returned to the room.

#### **10/11 Planning Matters**

The inconvenience of printing off the copious pages of documents that tend to accompany larger planning applications was discussed.

David Caukill queried whether applicants could be obliged to provide hard copies when asked. It was agreed that in many cases applicants would be able to provide these and so should be asked to do so.

#### **10/12 SDNP Planning Consultation**

Councillors were unanimous in their belief that planning powers should remain delegated to EHDC. To pass this responsibility to the regional body would cause the vital role of local knowledge to be lost and would lead to lengthy delays in determining applications, as well as causing huge and unnecessary cost. In addition, EHDC are perceived to be doing a decent job. Clerk to submit response.

#### **10/13 Duck house on Uplands Pond**

The Parish Council has received a request to help fund a duck house for the pond. All present agreed that a duck house in this location was not desirable. The pond is considered too small for one. Further there is no desire to encourage ducks to settle there and destroy the fauna and insect life that may otherwise thrive. This is also the view of SDJC who would be loathe to help fund any work on the pond in future as a result. Finally, it was felt that the site of such a structure was undesirable within the rural setting.

#### **10/14 Reports of Representatives**

##### **a) Hawkley Parish Hall**

Nick Davis discussed the possibility of an Autumn gathering on Upper Green to promote the Village Hall project. Clerk to investigate matter of public liability insurance. It was queried whether Lower Green would be a more suitable location. The Parish Council gave its agreement in principle.

##### **b) Footpaths**

Geoff Brighton reported fallen trees and overgrowth continue to obstruct footpath numbers 20, 21 and 719. Clerk to contact landowners.

##### **c) Ashford Hangers**

This post remains unfilled at the current time. An expression of interest has been received and the Clerk hopes to be able to confirm an appointment at the next meeting.

##### **d) Lengthsman**

The potential hazard on the pavement in front of Upper Green Cottages, caused by raised metal access covers has been reported to HCC for action.

##### **d) Coryton Trust**

Peter Cregeen reported that the trust continues to function smoothly.

#### **10/15 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm.

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

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Chairman

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Date