

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH 2012 AT 7.30PM IN HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Vaughan Clarke; three members of the public.

11/44 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Judy Onslow, and Parish Councillors David Caukill and Charlie Butcher were absent due to other commitments.

11/45 Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes omitted to note that Nick Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute items 11/37c) and 11/37d) although it was correctly recorded that he left the room for discussion on these items. The nature of the interest in the first item is that he is a member of the fireworks committee and in the second that he manages the website. The minutes of the last meeting held on November 20th were then approved and signed as a true record.

11/46 Declarations of Interest

Geoff Brighton declared a personal interest in agenda item 8c (minute item 11/51c) the nature of that interest being that he is a friend of and a neighbour to the applicant. The application does not affect his own property.

Jilly Caesar declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8b (minute item 11/51b), the nature of the interest being that her spouse is acting as agent to the application.

11/47 Matters arising

a) Stairs Hill remains ongoing; it should shortly progress to EHDC's committee process. Help with funding is being sought from the SDNPA. The Clerk and Geoff Brighton will meet with HCC shortly to discuss fencing options. A quote for motorway-style barrier was judged excessive at nearly £3000.00.

b) Parish Plan

The Chairman thanked Susan Sinclair and Jilly Caesar for their great efforts to date. The flyer in the magazine has brought a very small number of interesting responses containing a variety of ideas. These include a car park in the village, protection of the verges to include pull-in areas, promotion of wildflower verges, improved broadband reception, a communal solar panel scheme, a group heating oil purchase scheme, more affordable housing both private and social to enable residents to stay in the village, improved community transport into Petersfield, a PO outreach service, a mobile library and a community shop. These ideas met with a mixed response; it was pointed out that both the mobile library already visits Hawkley, and that a heating oil syndicate already exists, some ideas were considered unrealistic and others wholly undesirable to some. A long debate ensued. The Chairman proposed that Jilly Caesar and Susan Sinclair attempt to draw up a draft document for presentation and further discussion at the next meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting and it is hoped that more residents will attend.

c) Hawkley sign on Lower Green

Norman Beaumont has indicated this work should be carried out in the next month.

11/48 Report of District Councillor

No report due to unavoidable absence.

11/49 Report of County Councillor

With national unemployment now standing at 8.4%, it is heartening to note that overall unemployment in East Hampshire stands at 1.5%. In 'The Hangers and Forest' ward, it stands at 1.1% (11 men and 5 women). HCC's bid for £5 million of government funding to improve rural broadband has been successful, it will be combined with County and District funding and work will start shortly. Highways budget to remain unchanged. HCC is promoting electric car use.

11/50 Finance

a) The Clerk presented a financial summary of the period since the last meeting; no questions arising.

The Clerk pointed out that the current cashbook, like its predecessor, provides an interesting insight into the activities of the Parish Council and is an easily accessible record but is almost full. Councillors sanctioned the purchase of a further book from Shaw and Sons costing £56.48 plus VAT.

b) The Chairman reported that the Internal Audit Review has taken place and he thanked Councillors Susan Sinclair Charlie Butcher and Geoff Brighton for their work in this respect. The working party has satisfied itself that all necessary procedures and safeguards are in place. The Chairman proposed adoption of their report. This was agreed by all present and the Chairman then signed the report.

11/51 Planning

a) *51203/001 Old Post Office, Stairs Hill, Empshott*

The plans are considered to bring a very welcome end to what has become a local eyesore. No objection.

b) *54031 Jolly Robins Barn, Vicarage Lane, Hawkley*

Jilly Caesar left the room for discussion on this item. No objection.

c) *31394/001 Yew Tree Cottage, Stairs Hill, Empshott*

No objection.

11/52 Support for a TRO on two existing BOATs

The project to clear the land around Cobbett's View has been ongoing for some time, aided by Big Lottery funding. The view is greatly improved for all to enjoy and the Ashford Hangers team of HCC officers, rangers and volunteers is now overseeing work to improve the surface of the access routes. They are hoping to achieve a TRO on BOATs 745 and 746 west from the existing TRO, to Cockshott Lane. Hawkley Parish Council is asked for its support. All Councillors endorsed the project and asked the Clerk to write to HCC Rights of Way office, supporting the application for a Traffic Regulation Order banning motorised vehicles along those routes.

11/53 Proposals to mark the Diamond Jubilee

Councillors had already opted to accept the kind offer of a free commemorative Oak tree and several sites to plant it were discussed. Lengthsman Tony Madeley proposed the informal parking area at the eastern end of Pockocks Lane and this was unanimously approved, subject to the permission of the landowner. The Chairman offered to seek this. Mr Madeley kindly offered to receive and plant the tree.

A proposal from Fields in Trust (FiT) to participate in the Queen Elizabeth 11 Challenge by renaming a recreational open space in honour of the Sovereign was discussed and then rejected.

11/54 Notice boards in Empshott

It being felt by some Councillors that the Stairs Hill notice board not only poses a danger to those who visit it on account of its location by a very busy road, but is also rather outside the centre of the community, its possible removal and relocation was discussed. After discussion it was agreed to leave it where it is but that it would benefit from the addition of heavy duty foam backing to ease its use. Susan Sinclair confirmed that Sir James Scott is happy with the continued use of the Grange Farm notice board as is and his view concurred with that of many on the Parish Council that an extra or alternative board nearby would constitute unnecessary clutter.

11/55 Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that while HCC was readily prepared to continue the scheme for two years, EHDC has proved reluctant to continue to pay for the excellent service. District Councillor Judy Onslow was thanked in her absence for her ready help and vociferous support in persuading EHDC officers to think again. It is very much hoped that these efforts have met with success but the outcome is as yet unconfirmed. Councillors agreed that if EHDC agree to continue but with a reduced payment, then the Parish Council should meet any reasonable shortfall.

11/56 Turf repairs on Upper Green

Careless parking has once more caused extensive damage and it was agreed to seek a quotation for a lasting repair from Nigel Brown with a view to the work being carried out before the situation deteriorates.

11/57 Correspondence

a) EHCAB has written to thank the Parish Council for its recent donation.

b) The Chairman commented unfavourably upon the response received from the SDNPA with regard to the letter recently sent by the clerk asking about the NPA's intentions with regards to unauthorised Travellers' sites within the Park area. All present concurred that the response received was disappointing and discouraging.

11/56 Reports of Representatives

a) **Hawkley Parish Hall**

Nick Davis reported that all continues to go well with the new hall.

b) **Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

c) **Lengthsman**

The Clerk will report some asbestos fly-tipped in Empshott. John Scutt kindly agreed to speak to a local landowner regarding large quantities of silt being washed off a field and causing problems with blocked drainage channels. Gulleys need clearing almost the entire length of Pockocks Lane, a simple job with a digger, Nick Davis offered to investigate. Church Lane is in an appalling state, Clerk to report to HCC.

d) LGHFF

Continues to function well. Potential beneficiaries are always being sought.

11/57 Date of next meetings:

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on April 18th.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on May 9th.

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

Chairman

Date