

## HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Hawkley, held at Hawkley Parish Hall, on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: B.W.P. Adams .....Chairman  
Mrs. D.J. Barber .....P. Cregeen.....N.Davis .....R. Robinson  
Mrs. D.A.Knowles .....Mrs.M.Birrell, Clerk to the Parish Council

Also present: M. Cartwright, County Councillor,  
J. Onslow, District Councillor  
S. Sinclair (Member of the Public) and G. Robinson (Ashford Hangers Representative).

Apologies: D. Rigby

The Audited Parish Council accounts for 2005/6, along with a set of unaudited accounts for 2006/7 were on display and available for inspection.

- Apologies for Absence  
Apologies were received from D. Rigby due to illness.
- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006  
Two typographical errors were identified and noted for correction, regarding the spelling of Standfast Lane and Watersford Lane.  
Thereafter, RESOLVED; that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006, which had previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed as true record.
- Chairman's Annual Report  
Change of Parish Clerk: Mr. N.W.O. Miles, Clerk for a long number of years, retired in September 2006, and was replaced by Mrs. M. Birrell from 1.10.2006. The Chairman thanked N.W.O. Miles and welcomed Mrs.M.Birrell.  
Loss of Vice-Chairman: Cllr. B. Spicer died during a Parish Council Meeting in November and will be sadly missed.  
Gypsy Appeal: The Appeal is due to be resumed on 1-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007. Details of the venue and timing were advised. 170 People signed a petition against the encampment.  
Planning Applications: 18 Planning applications received in the past year.  
Lengthsman Scheme: The work of the Lengthsman was explained and it was confirmed that the contract with EHDC/HCC has been extended for another two years.  
Elections: 4 Parish Councillors plan to retire at the May elections. One already lost through death (B.Spicer). 8 New candidates have come forward; one of whom prefers to be co-opted. At present, we are awaiting confirmation that 7 candidates will be elected uncontested.  
Charity land at Empshott: The transfer of the Empshott Hut to Empshott PCC is almost complete, with a delay caused by a search for the Deeds (currently not located). The PCC intend to raise funds to upgrade/modernise the Hut in the future.

South Downs Forum: The Chairman reported that he has now become a member of the South Downs Forum and updated all present on the current situation; it looks like the South Downs Park proposals will succeed.

Cross Country Vehicles: HCC have agreed to put a temporary restriction order (TRO) on Standfast Lane to restrict use to a bridleway, preventing access and abuse by 4 wheel drive vehicles.

Precept: The Precept was increased by 13% this year due to potential election expenditure costs. A list of expenditure on grants and donations was presented.

General: During the past year, the Parish Council met for 4 ordinary meetings, 1 Annual Parish Meeting, 1 Annual Parish Council Meeting and 1 Extraordinary Meeting. Parish was also represented at HAPTC, EHAPTC, County Meetings and Parish views represented in a number of consultative documents.

Thanks: The Chairman thanked everyone including the present Council, District Councillor, County Councillor, N.W. Miles and Mrs. M. Birrell.

Questions from the Public to the Chairman:

P. Cregeen reported that he had visited the Gypsy Site at the weekend due to their stray dogs being reported loose on the road. The occupants were apologetic and the site appeared tidy.

S. Sinclair (Member of the Public present) asked when Planning Meetings take place. B. Adams advised her of the process that takes place when new planning applications are received by the Parish Council.

4. Report of the County Councillor:

M. Cartwright thanked the retiring Councillors for their support and co-operation over the past 2 years. He reported on a 4.9% increase in HCC Rates, a huge increase in spending in Adult Social Care and the pressures on funding. He outlined his responsibilities as Vice-Chairman of the HCC Pension fund and Chairman of the Fire Authority. He is also a HCC Representative on the South Downs Joint Committee. He explained the new HATS committee's and purpose and confirmed that highways and potholes were top of the list at present. The following comments were made to M. Cartwright in response to his speech.

a. D. Knowles advised of the very poor state of Mill Lane.

b. R. Robinson expressed concerns over the closure of the Selborne Road by HCC and poor notice period given to Hawkley Residents.

5. Report of the District Councillor:

J. Onslow reported on the new EHDC recycling scheme introduced for bottle collection (Pilot Scheme) and improvements to recycling.

The Climate Change Debate is ongoing, advising residents on saving energy supplies. She reported meeting with the Enforcement Officer regarding the Gypsy Encampment, and updated everyone on the current situation. J. Onslow thanked everyone present for their support throughout the past year.

6. Notice of Matters from Members of the Parish to be Referred to Parish Council Meetings:

M. Cartwright raised a question about the possible introduction of a half hour Public Question Time for the start of each meeting. B. Adams confirmed that this had been trialled unsuccessfully in the past, due to lack of Public demand.

7. Closing of the Meeting:  
After R. Robinson had offered a 'thank you' to the Retiring Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.19 p.m.

Signature (Chairman) .....

Peter Cregeen

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.....