

# HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 2008 AT 7.30PM  
HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Cartwright (Councillor); Gill Robinson.

In addition, two members of the public observed the meeting.

**08/32 Apologies for Absence**

David Caukill and District Councillor Judy Onslow were both obliged to attend meetings elsewhere,

**08/33 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**08/34 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on August 6th were approved and signed as a true record.

**08/35 Matters Arising:**

**a) Planning Enforcement;**

EHDC's enforcement notice served on the property in Oakshott Hanger has resulted in the removal of items deemed to be non-agricultural. Much mess remains but there is nothing else the Parish Council can do to oblige the owner to clear up his property.

On Stairs Hill, the Clerk reported that EHDC are dealing with this matter as best they can. A deadline has now been issued to the owner and it is hoped that this will result in a significant improvement.

**b) Jolly Robins Pond;**

The Chairman reported that a grant for half the cost has been given by SDJC, subject to certain conditions. Councillor Cartwright was happy to confirm that an application for the balance from his devolved budget has been successful. The major work involved is therefore fully funded without resort to the precept. The Chairman will supervise the work and he invited local residents to collect the logs from the site.

**c) Expiry of TRO on Standfast Lane/ Waterford Lane;**

The Clerk has submitted a response to HCC's proposal, protesting against its seasonal as opposed to permanent restriction. In the event that the seasonal TRO is imposed, the Clerk has requested that the closure period is extended in accordance with the Parish Council's request. The BOATs will continue to be monitored and any evidence of abuse of the designated route will promote the ongoing argument for downgrading to a bridleway.

**d) Progress on cast iron signposts;**

The work to the signposts is progressing and the Jolly Robins sign is now in place. A temporary wooden sign has been erected on Lower Green while the cast iron sign is being repaired.

**e) Parking at Jolly Robins;**

It was reported that DRUM Housing have agreed to the placing of a sign by the bungalows requesting that the lay by be left clear for residents' parking. The sign has now been authorised and it will be put in place when the maintenance team get around to it.

**f) Adoption of telephone kiosk;**

An application has now been submitted to adopt the kiosk on Lower Green. It is now in the hands of BT. BT have promised to clean the kiosk on Upper Green and replace the door.

**g) SEERA Gypsy Consultation.**

The Chairman explained the purpose and broad content of this consultation. The Parish Council has submitted a response based on input from David Caukill and himself.

**08/36 Report from District Councillor**

No report, Councillor Onslow being absent.

**08/37 Report from County Councillor**

Councillor Cartwright underlined his support for the wish of the Parish Council to see a permanent TRO on BOATS 24 and 26. He will contact the Area Rights of Way Officer to reiterate the case. He also mentioned that there is a balance remaining in his devolved budget for which the Parish Council may wish to consider an application.

The

**08/38 Finance:**

The NatWest account has now been closed and the Parish Council's funds are safely deposited in Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk noted with irritation a small exit charge imposed by NatWest.

Several requests for financial help were carefully considered: Petersfield CAB will receive £150; LUPIN (a voluntary community group helping transport people to doctors' appointments etc based in Liss) will receive £100; the Hawkley Children's Christmas Party will receive £150 (the Clerk was asked to confirm that Empshott children have been invited); the Hawkley Fireworks Fund will receive £150.

Several other payments were authorised in line with those presented on the financial statement, which was then signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had earlier distributed information on which to base a discussion and decision on the setting of the parish precept for the year 2009/10. Bob Robinson felt there was no need to budget for a contested by-election as this had been precepted for in previous budgets and not used so in effect is still in reserve. Similarly, he felt that significant contingency funds remained unspent in reserves and so this should not be budgeted for once more. Discussion ensued. Bob Robinson proposed a small decrease in the requested precept from £7300 to £7150 and this was accepted.

#### **08/39 Planning Applications**

The Clerk distributed a list of recent applications and decisions.

#### **08/40 Correspondence and other matters:**

##### **a) Village Seats;**

A vehicle has irreparably damaged the old seat on Upper Green and the Chairman sought views on whether or not it should be replaced. As the seats are very popular with walkers and other visitors as well as locals, it was resolved to obtain a seat similar to that purchased in 2006.

Susan Sinclair commented that Empshott Green would also benefit from a seat, as there are none there at present. This was agreed upon.

The Clerk will research the firm who provided the seat in 2006 and seek a quote for two more. Funding will then be sought from County Councillor Cartwright's devolved budget. The resident who accidentally damaged the old seat will be invited to make a contribution.

##### **b) Reporting of fallen trees;**

Members were reminded that if a tree falls and obstructs a highway, then the landowner may be contacted in the first instance if known, however responsibility for keeping the highway clear remains with the County Council (who will treat the incident as an emergency).

##### **c) Mill Lane;**

The Chairman reported the good news that Hampshire Highways have obtained funding for decent repairs to the dip in Mill Lane, to include relaying of the surface. While this is a great improvement on the usual patching, it is felt that any repairs will not be effective in the longer term unless the nearby spring is taken into account. Highways have been made aware of the spring and have said they will do their best. The closest resident is awaiting their arrival and will monitor their plans.

##### **d) Japanese Knotweed.**

Councillors were all concerned by the worrying report of a large clump of this invasive and rapid growing plant. Disposal is a lengthy and expensive procedure. The Clerk has reported it to Highways, who have despatched a specialist contractor to look at it and it is to be hoped that Highways agree to deal with it.

#### **08/41 Reports of representatives:**

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

Nick Davis reported that a lottery grant application was unsuccessful but the committee remain committed to the refurbishment project and are actively exploring alternative funding.

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

Landowner Vivian Evans is thanked for his prompt action in removing a tree lying across footpath 9. c)

##### **Ashford Hangers;**

Gill Robinson reported on recent excellent work done to restore the Hangers.

##### **d) Lengthman;**

Tony Madeley reported that the overhanging hedges along the Selborne Road have still not been cut back. The Clerk will chase Highways as they promised to do the work months ago. Due to the consequent danger involved from passing traffic, the Chairman proposed that the Clerk write to EHDC and HCC and state that the Parish Lengthsman will not be picking up litter along this stretch until the hedges are cut. This was readily agreed. The bins along the route will still be emptied. Overhanging branches on Stairs Hill also pose a hazard to pedestrians.

Rubbish from the gypsy settlement has been dumped in the hedge. Chairman to visit and ask that it be removed.

##### **e) EHAPTC.**

Nothing substantive to report.

#### **08/30 Items for next meeting;**

None. This item will be dropped from future agendas.

The Chairman proposed that a report from the SDAF PC Representative Bob Robinson be added as an agenda item. Bob Robinson has attended his first meeting in this capacity. He intends to make sure that

local opinion is taken into consideration and also that AONB status is given due weight. The Chairman also proposed that he himself make a report as HPC representative on the Coryton Trust (with which all is proceeding smoothly at present). Agreed.

**08/31 Date of next Meeting;**

February 11th 2009 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

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Chairman

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Date