

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH 2009 AT 7.30PM
HAWKLEY PARISH HALL

DRAFT

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

Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

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

08/44 Apologies for Absence

David Caukill, John Scutt and District Councillor Judy Onslow were unable to attend due to other commitments.

08/45 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

08/46 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on November 12th were approved and signed as a true record.

08/47 Matters Arising:

Michael Cartwright was warmly thanked for two generous contributions from his devolved budget. These met the full costs of the two new village seats and almost half the cost of the Jolly Robins Pond project. Empshott Green residents have changed their minds and no longer wish to see a seat on the grassed area. No other suitable site having been identified as yet, it will therefore be placed by the childrens' play area overlooking the cricket square where it will be very much appreciated.

Works to the pond are now completed and much satisfaction was expressed at the results. The SDJC have given their approval and a cheque should be received shortly. Mrs Robinson kindly offered to provide some primroses for planting. The Parish Council will source wild daffodils for planting in the autumn.

HCC have dealt with the Japanese Knotweed on Church Lane as they see fit.

Unfortunately HCC have confirmed that there may be no reserved parking spaces on a public highway and therefore nothing can be done after all to help residents of Jolly Robins Cottages in this respect.

The much-heralded repairs to Mill Lane have been delayed by the bad weather.

The Chairman read out a letter of thanks from the organisers of the Hawkley Childrens' Party; the event was a great success and the donation was much appreciated.

08/48 Report from District Councillor

In Councillor Onslow's absence, the Clerk read out a short report concerning EHDC's freeze on council tax, selected free Sunday parking in Petersfield, the merger of Petersfield and Alton CAB's and also a likely increase in developers' contributions of £500 towards environmental work.

08/49 Report from County Councillor

The devolved budget is all but spent for this year. The success of this initiative is likely to see it repeated next year. Thanks in part to prudent budgeting and a projected lower wage settlement, HCC has been able to propose a council tax increase of 1.9%, one of the lowest in the country. Councillor Cartwright noted that no decision has been announced on the proposed TRO for BOATS 24 and 26. Several present had seen vehicles using the route despite the current ban and the Clerk encouraged the gathering of evidence of such abuse.

The issue Ham Barn roundabout was raised. Bob Robinson read out the response received from Hampshire County Council regarding their previously expressed intention to look at this problem before the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel. No large-scale improvements can be expected for another decade. The Clerk was asked to write to Michael Mates in an effort to pin down the Highways Agency on this matter.

Councillor Cartwright then left the meeting.

08/50 Finance:

The payments listed in the quarterly financial statement were duly authorised. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to authorise the purchase of two grit bins, one to be sited opposite the old post office off Upper Green and one to be sited on Stone Hill, Empshott – both these locations being considered extremely dangerous in icy conditions. HCC have agreed to fill them with salt. The Parish Council will take no responsibility for the actual gritting but will merely provide the bins for use by residents.

08/51 Planning Applications

The Clerk distributed a list of recent applications and decisions.

08/52 New Model Publication Scheme

The Clerk having earlier distributed information on the new scheme, it was unanimously agreed to adopt it. Bob Robinson was thanked for his hard work on this project. Much information will be available on www.hawkley.org of which Bob Robinson is the editor. This website is not under the control of the Parish Council at all and the Clerk will formally request that the relevant information is displayed on it.

08/53 Ham Barn Roundabout

Already discussed.

08/54 Signs to QA Hospital

Concern was expressed at difficulties experienced in locating Hawkley's nearest A&E hospital due to the absence of signs on the A3 and the M27. Clerk to pursue.

08/55 Review of Asset Register

The Clerk reported that the assets noted on the Parish Council's insurance policy need to be updated. The new village seats need to be added and the existing seat needs to be valued at replacement cost. The circular seat needs to be added. The owl boxes will not be included as they are now 7 years old. These changes will be communicated to the insurance company when the policy renewal falls due on June 1st.

The asset register needs to be updated also to reflect these items, plus 3 notice boards, and the telephone kiosk.

08/56 Email Communication

Nick Davies reminded all present not to use the suffix '.uk' when using the hawkley email addresses, as this sends the emails to a former resident of Hawkley now living abroad. Every Parish Council member has a generic email address and the same applies to these. A list of these email addresses can be found on www.hawkley.org. It was also pointed out that the use of a digital signature for increased security is hampering communication and it was agreed that this would not be used in future.

08/57 Update on Gypsies

No further update was available. It was agreed that this must nonetheless remain an agenda item.

08/58 Village Seats

Already discussed

08/59 Reports of Representatives

a) Hawkley Parish Hall

Nothing to report

b) Footpaths

Nothing to report

c) Ashford Hangers

Concern at possible planned siting of picnic tables will be investigated.

d) Lengthman

The biannual payment to the lengthman has been increased and the contract with HCC and EHDC renewed for a further two years.

e) Coryton Trust

No problems to report from the cottages. The drop in value of the trust's underlying capital does not hamper day-to-day running as only the interest is used.

e) EHAPTC.

Nothing to report.

g) SDAF

Nothing to report.

08/60 Dates of next Meetings:

29th April 2009 at 7.30pm (Annual Parish Meeting)

20th May 2009 at 7.30pm (Annual Council Meeting)

12th August 2009 at 7.30pm

11th November 2009 at 7.30pm

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

Chairman

Date