

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting: **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING ON ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Date: 2nd November 2016

Ref: NG.

Copt Hall.

Typed: 4th November 2016

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Mrs J Newman (Chairman), Mr M Appelbe, Miss M Cronin, Mr P Dartnell, Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mrs A Hastie Mr J Hunt, Dr M Robertson , Mrs B Weeden, Mr P Whittle, Mr C Williamson

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

Mr. S Holden, Mr. G Bland, Mrs. B Palmer, Mr. N Gray,

- | | Action |
|---|--------|
| 1. <u>Adjournment for Public Questions and Comments</u> | |
| 1.1 A resident spoke asking for an update on the planning application at Springfield Gardens which had been withdrawn. The Clerk informed her that the planning officer at TWBC had said that there had been issues with KCC and Highways and a new application was anticipated. The resident further asked for an update on the Adult Gym application through the Tesco plastic bag community project fund. The Clerk informed her that it was one of 3 projects currently being voted for by the public and Tesco would announce which projects had attracted what funding in approximately a month's time. | |
| 2. <u>Apologies for absence</u> | |
| 2.1 Mrs M Brinsley (Vice Chairman), Mr P Jones. | |
| 3. <u>Declaration of Interests</u> | |
| 3.1 None. | |
| 4. <u>Matters for Discussion</u> | |
| 4.1 All Saints Church Surveys. Members voted to go into closed session to discuss this. The public were asked to leave but readmitted afterwards for the rest of the meeting. | |
| 4.2 Status of HPC's offer to buy All Saints Church. JN, supported by MR proposed: <i>In view of the findings of our surveyors, the Council will withdraw its offer for the purchase of All Saints Church.</i> This was unanimously accepted. The Clerk is to write to the Agent for the vendor of All Saints Church to this effect. | |
| 4.4 Future of All Saints Church. JN stated that following the discussions held at item 4.1, she sensed a particular concern amongst the Members about this building. Hawkhurst Parish Council doesn't feel it can take the project on but All Saints is an important building in the village. Therefore, if anyone is prepared to protect the building, HPC would be supportive of it within its democratic processes. Members were in agreement with this. All agreed that the Clerk should tell the Conservation Officer at TWBC that the Council supported him working with Duncan Philips to | |

protect All Saints Church. All also agreed that the Council would in principle support any future Buildings Preservation Trust asking for TWBC support and including the Conservation Officer amongst its trustees, thereby better attracting funding for repairs. BF suggested encouraging support for this through articles in the Village Magazine. MR said he felt it was important that the village residents knew that the Council had thought about this properly and that the decision is properly based. Members agreed it was important to issue a press release on the decision as soon as possible due to a high level of speculation in the village on the matter. AH suggested it included that the building is at risk, but the costs of repair are higher than anticipated. It is non-viable for the Council as a project but funds could be available to a building preservation trust. JN and the Clerk will write this on Friday.

5. Closure

5.1 The meeting closed at 20.30

Signed.....

Date.....

Julia Newman, Chairman