

## Hawkhurst Parish Council

**Hawkhurst Parish Council**

Meeting: **Full Council**  
Date: 08<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015  
Ref: nm.  
Typed: 09<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015

**Copt Hall**

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### PRESENT

Mr. P Dartnell (Chairman), Mr. M Appelbe, Mrs. M Brinsley, Mr. G Davies, Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mrs. A Hastie, Mr. P Jones, Mrs. J Newman, Dr M Robertson, Mrs. B Weeden and Mr. P Whittle.

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### ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

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

- 1 **Adjournment for public speaking.**
- 1.1 TWBC Cllr Beverley Palmer addressed the meeting and detailed a recent decision by the Cabinet to commit to defending the AONB and greenbelt and tackle traffic congestion. There is soon to be a call for sites for the new Local Plan. BP urged HPC Members to engage with planning officers preparing the new Local Plan. Members explained that indeed they had done so face to face from 2011 and at all consultation stages of the previous Local Plan, had objected to the Highgate Hill site from its first mention at a meeting with TWBC in March 2013 and thereafter but it had still been included in the first draft SA DPD. They had also met with Jean Marshall in July 2014 to promote the substitution of the brownfield sites but these had not been included and Highgate Hill had remained in the draft. Members agreed that a continued collaboration with officers on the new Local Plan, as had taken place on the NDP would be beneficial.  
Cllr Hastie arrived at this point at 8.00 pm.
- 1.2 Sarah Allan, Founder and Director of More4kidz addressed the meeting. She described her plans to create activity classes targeting babies and adults by creating a families and children's centre. She would offer classes for school age children after school and pre-school children during school hours. SA is currently running 2 classes at Hurst Green but would like to take on the Sports Hall at KGV (around its current users) as a permanent base for her activities. She feels there is a serious lack of provision from local authorities of the kind of classes and activities that mothers, families and babies need, particularly in rural communities like Hawkhurst and has been heavily influenced by her own experience. She has a strong commitment to making Hawkhurst a better place for young parents, young and older children and future generations in Hawkhurst. She presented a proposal paper for how she would like to use the hall and the 8 classes she would like to establish there as well as other services she would like to develop in the future. As she runs a not-for-profit organisation, she requested consideration of a preferential rate to enable her to get the services off the ground, hoping to start on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She has a particular interest in special educational needs and would like to establish a sensory area within the hall.
- 1.3 The Chairman read out a statement from Lambert and Foster on behalf of a resident, relating to Item 10.1 15/509164/FULL The Spinney, Rye Road. The Chairman wished it noted that Hawkhurst Parish Council has employed Lambert & Foster to act on its behalf in relation to All Saints Church. The Parish Council has no connection in relation to 15/509164/FULL or The Spinney, Rye Road or its owners.
- 2.
- 2.1 **Apologies for Absence:**  
Apologies were received from Mr. J Hunt and Mr. C Williamson.
- 3.
- 3.1 **Declaration of interests:**  
PJ declared a personal interest for item 7.3 as he is Chairman of RBL and will abstain.  
MB declared a personal interest in Planning Item 85 as she knows the property owner.
- 4.
- 4.1 **Approval of minutes of previous meeting**  
PD proposed acceptance of the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, all agreed.
- 5.
- 5.1 **Matters arising**  
Transport. MA Nothing to report.
- 5.2 Youth. A poster for the new Youth Club is ready and will be put up in shops and on noticeboards in the village as well as inserted in the Village Magazine. PD, supported by AH proposed *acceptance by*

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*Hawkhurst Parish Council of the fee of £25 per session for hire of the RBL Hall for the Youth Club. 9 voted for, with 2 abstentions including PJ. The Clerk will write to the Manager of Tesco to thank them for a weekly donation of food and drink to support the new Club, which they will also deliver.*

5.3 Police. PD read JH's report that Crime statistics were average for the time of year, including 2 thefts, 1 attempted theft, 2 burglary other than a dwelling, 1 blackmail, and 4 assault, 4 criminal damage and 1 harassment. The PCSO noted an increase in thefts from cars and advised that the public remove valuable items from cars overnight.

5.4 Local Community

Speedwatch – F&GP will discuss spare resources year-end on 15<sup>th</sup> February. If HPC does not feel able to identify funds for a new speed camera, a request will be made to Sean Holden to consider funding it from his Members Fund. It was noted that speed camera signs can now be seen on Rye Road and the High Street, thanks to the campaigning of Hawkhurst Speedwatch.

Footpath Map – MR reported that the frame is in hand. MR's contact for website construction now no longer offers this service, so a new contact will be sought to put the walking map online. The Clerk has written to KCC about footpaths on the High Street route to the Cottage Hospital and Hastings Road to the cemetery in particular and improvement work has been promised for April.

HCT – NTR

### **6 Reports of Committee Chairmen**

6.1 Buildings – A meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January. A new, better value contract for streetlight electricity has commenced. A quote has been received to paint the exterior of the Sports Hall before the end of March. The installation of the aluminium sheets on the Copt Hall doors was delayed due to illness but is due shortly. A letter to Hurstway re: parking in Copt Hall car park has resolved the problem. GD is to revisit video camera surveillance.

6.2 Land – There has been no meeting, with the next due on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tates will be installing the new barrier at KGV field on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. CW has installed a new moose ride to replace a broken one at KGV playground.

6.3 F&GP – The next meeting is due on February 15<sup>th</sup> to assess the year-end position.

6.4 Personnel –NTR.

6.5 Fete – The Committee has decided not to hold a summer fete for 2016 and instead to concentrate on the celebrations for HM Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 12<sup>th</sup>, which will take the form of a Royal Teddy Bear's Picnic. Tesco have indicated their wish to support the event possibly with the donation of a cake for each Royal Teddy with a crown (paper or other).

6.6 NDP – JN reported that a meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. An update was received from Feria and the Regulation 14 draft is due by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The timescale for the Regulation 14 Consultation (which will be hosted by the Parish Council) now aims for the end of March. This allows time for comments from Members and NDP Committee Members to be incorporated. Chris Austen had received feedback from KCC Cllr Matthew Balfour (KCC Portfolio holder for Transport) relating to the designated HGV route status of the A229. He believes he is unlikely to be able to change this EU designation, but has been in talks with a mapping software manufacturer to see a change of emphasis to make A21 the preferential route over A229. This is the most widely used mapping system by freight companies. Following the topographical survey in December, Feria's work on a free-flowing double roundabout proposal for the A229/A268 junction has been considered by Ben Hamilton-Baillie. B H-B believes that although the space is smaller than Poynton, 2 smaller roundabouts could be made to work, leaving the War Memorial in situ and taking a small amount from the pavement at the end of the Colonnade. This will be shown as an example in the NDP document. The NDP Committee were however of the view that it would not be acceptable to pay for such a scheme with the development of 300 houses in Hawkhurst. The business case for a new medical centre has now been approved and submitted by the GPs to the NHS. MR has been working with KCC PROW officer Jonathan Bibby on Green Links for the village. MR has been offered lots of yellow footpath markers to improve the signage of Public Rights of Way around the village. The Community Hall project is currently focused on the All Saints Church site. JN now has contacts from the Diocese for communities that have already done church conversions and she is seeking running cost information from them. Heritage maps of Hawkhurst in the NDP will show listed buildings and other areas of interest. Overall, the emphasis of the Hawkhurst NDP will be: to control housing; to protect the landscape; to improve access and movement including the crossroads and green links; to improve facilities including a medical centre, sports facilities and a community centre. The Committee have been involved in more NDP related presentations. JN and MR presented to Ticehurst NDP Committee, which covers Ticehurst, Flimwell and Stonegate. Ticehurst plan to use Feria. JN will also be presenting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to the KALC area Committee in Cranbrook and AH will be presenting to Year 4 students at Marlborough House School on NDPs. The Draft Regulation 14 NDP report will go to all Members for their views ahead of an extraordinary NDP

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meeting. PD gave an update on the All Saints negotiations. A formal offer was made by HPC which has been verbally rejected by the owner. Peter Buswell is to meet with the owner.

### 7. **Matters for further discussion**

- 7.1 HM Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations. See Item 6.5. The Bonfire Society will organize the lighting of the village beacon at The Moor in line with national celebrations on 21<sup>st</sup> April for HM Queen's actual birthday.
- 7.2 More4Kidz. Following Sarah Allan's presentation (see Item 1.2), BF described his visit with BW to a mother and baby class at Hurst Green Village Hall being run by SA. He was very impressed, it was very professionally run and the children seemed very happy. BF felt that if we had the same classes at the Sports Hall in Hawkhurst, it would enhance the village. BF proposed to look at the Sports Hall running costs the next day with BW and the Clerk and establish a possible charging basis for SA's proposal. AH, supported by MB, proposed that *More4kidz is offered a 3 month payment 'holiday' to get established and thereafter to pay at a 'break even' rate to be determined by the Buildings Committee.* Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal. BF and BW will email all Members the next day with the proposed rate for their comments. Members agreed that if the majority are supportive, as Chair of Buildings Committee, BF will make the proposal to SA on behalf of HPC and Buildings Committee. SA stated that she is seeking to complement local businesses and provision, not compete with it. Members agreed in their support for her initiative.
- 7.3 Resolution to agree £25.00 per session charge for use of the RBL Hall for the new Youth Club. See resolution at Item 5.2.
- 7.4 PD and MB described the excellent service that has been received by the Parish Council for the last 2 years from Peter Morgan, in relation to the internal audit work and external audit report preparation. MB, supported by BF proposed *appointment of Peter Morgan by Hawkhurst Parish Council to carry out its audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.* This was unanimously agreed by Members.
- 7.5 Creation of an All Saints Purchase Committee. Members discussed PD's request for volunteers for a committee to carry out the work required to see through the purchase of the disused church with a view to it becoming converted to a Community Centre, run by a new HCT 2016 Trust. PJ suggested that it would be appropriate for the Council's existing F&GP committee would be an appropriate body to take on the task. PJ supported by BF proposed that *Hawkhurst Parish Council delegates F&GP Committee with the task of carrying out the work to see through the purchase of All Saints Church on behalf of Hawkhurst Parish Council.* 10 voted in favour with 1 abstention (JN).

### 8: Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	19.01.2016	1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkhurst Scout Group	Thank you letter	Noted
2	21.01.2016	The Counselling Centre	Thank you letter	Noted
3	26.01.2016	TWCAB	Thank you letter	Noted
4	27.01.2016	Copy of letter/email from Benenden Parish Council to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council regarding the Amenity Refuse Vehicle	Copy for Members for consideration	Members agreed that whilst HPC's Chair correctly took views to Chairmen's meetings following FCM discussion, the Chairmen's meeting was advisory to TWBC and not an executive body of collective Parish Councils
5	02.02.2016	Transport Accessibility Group	Annual subscription	Members agreed to renew this subscription.
6	05.02.16	Hawkhurst Local History Society	Request to store a volume of old documents in the new community centre (if All	Clerk to reply offering support but also asking if the Public Records Office has

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		Saints Church)	been approached for specialist storage services.
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9: Finance

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JANUARY 2016**

Accounts for payment	£	7,198.59
Payment received	£	11,028.50
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3,829.91</b>
Cambridge & Counties Reserve	£	86,147.60
Lloyds Current	£	10,061.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	108,177.78
Petty Cash	£	186.90

9.1 Payments were examined and voted for unanimously.

9.2 PD confirmed that he had checked the petty cash and the bank rec.

10. Planning

10.1. Planning & Highways Information:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
Kent County Council	Minerals and waste Local Plan	Kent	8 weeks consultation from Friday 8th January to Friday 4th March 2016
National Trust	National Trust Briefing – AONBs and Development Sept 2015	UK AONBs	Concern following analysis of poor understanding of planning officers' understanding of their obligation to protect AONBs under NPPF. Members wish a letter to be sent to David Jukes and Jane Lynch with this report expressing concern that TWBC planning officers may also fall into this category and asking for their comments.
Highways England	Consultation on proposals for a Lower Thames Crossing	Gravesham to Tilbury	responses to be received by 24th March 2016
15/509164/F ULL	Two storey side extension, loft conversion with dormer windows and rooflights	The Spinney, Rye Rd, Hawkhurst . TN18 4HD	Extended period for consultation. Members reviewed their original comments and had no change or new comments to add in the light of the new drawing recently supplied.
TWBC	SADPD review by Planning Inspector	Hawkhurst Parish	Showed acceptance of Woodham Hall and Springfield brownfield sites for allocation. Highgate Hill not proposed for allocation. The significance of the Hawkhurst NDP also recognised.

10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
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15/509949/FULL	3 new dwellings being 1 bungalow, 2 chalet bungalows	Watkins & Doncaster Conghurst Lane	
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### 10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
	None		

### 10.4 Planning Applications

Nu mb er	Applicati on No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decisi on	Agree e	Ag ain st	Abst ain	Plan Ctte e
85	15/510206/ FULL	Two storey rear extension including Juliette balcony	The Coach House, Little Fowlers, Rye Road		Agree	All			N
86	16/500013/ FULL	First Floor side extension, 2 storey and single storey rear extensions; alterations to fenestration, construction of cart shed style garage with roof storage	2 Gingerbread Lane		Agree	10		BW	N
87	15/510058/ FULL	Part retrospective - change of use of existing church into 5 residential units	Methodist Church Highgate Hill	The proposal is felt to be over-intensive for the space available both inside the building and on the land surrounding it. The room dimensions are felt to be too small and it is felt that 2 or perhaps 3 units would be more reasonable than 5. The access is believed to be poor and 7 parking spaces will be too few, creating congestion. There is no bins area.	Against	BF	9	MA	N

### 10 Burials and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
	None	

### 12 Notes and Information

12.1

	Date	from	subject
1	26.1.16	Kent County Playing Fields Associaton	January Newsletter supporting Young People in Sport
2	21.01.16	KCC Library Service	Withdrawal of mobile library services including The Chestnuts, The Moor, visited 2 or less times in 12 months to 30.09.15
3	15.01.16	NALC	Arrangements for lighting of bonfires and beacons on 21.04.16, The Queen's actual birthday.

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<b>13</b>	<b><u>Confidential</u></b> None
<b>14</b> 14.1	<b><u>Closure</u></b> The meeting closed at 21.44
<b>15</b> 15.1	<b><u>Future Meetings</u></b> The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 commencing at 19:45.

Signed.....Date.....  
Peter Dartnell, Chairman of the Parish Council.