

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting: **Full Council**
Date: 10th December 2012
Ref: am.
Typed: 11th December 2012

Copt Hall

PRESENT

Mr K Brown (Chairman), Mr M Appelbe, Mr J Billingham, Mrs M Brinsley, Mr P Dartnell, Mr B Fitzpatrick, Mr J Hunt, Mr P Jones, Mr T Lee, Mrs J Newman, Mrs B Weeden, Mr C Williamson

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

Mr. R Weeden, Mrs. B Palmer, Mr. J Cunningham, Mr. R Manning
KM, K&SC

- 1 Adjournment for public speaking.
- 1.1 Police Chief Inspector Nicola Faulconbridge, Area Commander for the area, has recently taken up the post and outlined police operations for the area. There will no significant changes in the way neighbourhood policing is currently undertaken and the resulting low levels of reported crime in the area reflects the effectiveness of this system of policing. She then responded to a series of questions from Members. She was of the opinion that local youth clubs were beneficial to the community. Operations were continuing to combat drug abuse with intelligence being continuously gathered. Ch Insp Faulconbridge said it was essential all criminal incidents were reported to assist the police in seeing the full picture. Evidence obtained by residents using privately owned CCTV is welcomed by the police. The introduction of the Police Commissioner should not change the operational matters for the police as this will remain the responsibility of the Chief Constable.
- 1.2 The Chairman thanked the Chief Inspector for her informative talk and also requested she pass on the thanks of all the Council to the officers who carry out a very good job here in Hawkhurst.
- 1.3 The Community Warden was in attendance but had nothing to report.
- 2 Apologies for absence:
- 2.1 Apology received from Mr G Davies.
3. Declaration of interests:
- 3.1 BF declared a personal interest in planning item 80.
- 3.2 MA declared a personal interest in correspondence item 8.4.
- 4 Approval of minutes of previous meetings
- 4.1 To receive Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2012. JH abstained as he was not in attendance.
- 4.2 To note the Minutes of the F&GP Committee held on 19th November 2012
- 4.3 To note the Minutes of the Land Committee held on 26th November 2012
- 5 Matters arising
- 5.1 Transport & Highways. (MA) Following reports of some recent timetable changes resulting busses from East Sussex not connecting with Maidstone bound busses, the matter has been passed to KCC and ESCC who control the timetables. Following continued difficulties experienced by KCC in commissioning the lights in the bus shelters, the Parish Council's lighting maintenance contractor has been instructed to complete the work. The Council will contra-charge the cost to KCC when completed. MA is unable to attend future twice yearly meetings of the Tunbridge Wells Transport Forum. MB offered to undertake this role.

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- 5.2 Youth Matters. KB has contacted all the parishes in the TWBC area regarding the withdrawal by KCC of youth services provision in rural areas. He has suggested that some parishes may wish to form clusters of 5 parishes each contributing towards the cost of funding a youth worker to provide an outreach service. So far four councils have expressed an interest in this. It was also noted that local independent schools are unable to make their mini busses available for community use therefore other options need to be investigated.
- 5.3 Police. (JH). Last month saw a 50% increase in reported crime to 23. This was largely due to a spate of thefts of high value garden machinery from sheds in a relatively small area of the village.
- 5.4 Local Interest. (KB). Nothing currently to report.
- 5.5 Hawkhurst Community Centre. (BW). Consultants have been commissioned to begin preparing the design brief and detailed cost estimates for budgeting purposes. It is intended to commence work on site by relocating the garage block in the spring. The Trust would like the Council to consider donating the capital receipt from the planned sale of the former toilet site to this project as it would meet the condition set by TWBC when the sited was gifted to the council.
- 5.6 Hawkhurst Community Partnership. (MB) It is understood some funds are owed to the Council following the completion of the Healthcheck and Partnership projects. This is to be finalised by the Partnership members shortly.
- 5.7 Village Magazine. Members were each asked to give their views of the Village Magazine. Overall it has been well received and Members recognised that MA and JN give their time freely towards its production and administration. Members would like to see more contributions from the diverse range of groups in the village with more emphasis given on promoting village life and activities. Some felt that these articles should take the lead in the layout of the magazine. However, it was recognised if groups do not contribute then the publication will not be able change. Distribution and collection points may need to be better publicised. Members agreed to review this matter again in three months.
- 6 Reports of Committee Chairmen
- 6.1 Buildings Committee. (BF). The external lighting at the Sports Pavilion is being repaired and the heating controls repaired. It was agreed to cancel the scheduled committee meeting on 17th December as there were no outstanding matters requiring a committee decision.
- 6.2 Land Committee. (MA). Following the play equipment safety inspection repairs and maintenance works have been completed.
- 6.3 F&GP Committee. (KB). Following the street lighting upgrade, the unmetered supply certificate shows a reduction of 25% consumption. CW raised a query regarding the accuracy of past inventories of street lighting and the effect on previous costs. KB will look into this and report to the Council.
- 6.4 Fete Committee. (KB). The Chairman thanked all those involved in the event on 8th December which appears to have been very successful and well received. He also thanked the organisers of the bonfire event for a spectacular show.
- 7 Matters for further discussion
- 7.1 Speed Watch. Members noted the report and request from a resident for support for a campaign to reduce traffic speeding along the High Street. Members discussed the merits of extending the 30MPH limit to the west of Marlborough House School. Some Members had reservations about the effectiveness of this and the likelihood of it being enforced. However, Members agreed to ask the police for their views and for any current traffic speed data that may be used to support this and further agreed to support the residents campaign.

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7.2 Kent Fire & Rescue hydrant inspections. (late item) KF&RS are seeking co-operation with parish councils to carry out visibility and access surveys of fire hydrants. Members agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

7.3 TWBC Planning Committees. (late item) Members noted the extract from the minutes just received of the Parish Chairmen's meeting at TWBC on 27th November concerning a proposed trial plan to combine the two planning committees into one for a year. The following concerns were raised:

- There has been no consultation with parishes on this plan
- This could result in the loss of some local representation
- The balance of committee members between urban and rural wards could be detrimental
- Will create unacceptably lengthy meetings
- The loss of site visits replaced by video will not present the right view or understanding of an application proposal.

8 Correspondence

1	26/11/12	HPC/TWBC	Letter to Leader at TWBC regarding article in K&SC 16 th November about disposal of site in Cranbrook.
2	19/11/12	Lord Lieutenant of Kent	Annual Civic Service at Maidstone on 12 th March 2013
3	27/11/12	Resident	Speed Watch along the High Street (7.i.)
4	12/11/12	Akeomai Trust	Funding for Day Centre

8.4 Members agreed to make a donation of £150 to the Akeomai Trust

9. Finance

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE NOVEMBER 2012

Accounts for payment	£	7,876.21
Payment received	£	11,035.44
Net Expenditure	£	3,159.23
Lloyds High Interest Reserve	£	50,000.00
Lloyds Current	£	10,000.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	71,058.73
Petty Cash	-£	22.88

9.1 KB, supported by BW, proposed the accounts for payment be accepted. All agreed.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning and Highways Information

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
None			

10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
12/02600	Two storey side extension	Oak Tree Cottage, Stream Lane	08/11/12
12/02546	TPO. Tree removal works	17 Oakfield	13/11/12
12/02763	Single storey rear extension	Springfield, High Street	15/11/12
12/02797	Single storey side extension	The Foundry, High Street	30/11/12
12/02627	Field shelters	Roses Farm, Cranbrook	30/11/12

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10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
12/02509	Extensions and alterations	The Spinney, Rye Road	08/11/12

10.4 Planning Applications

Item	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Call in
80	12/03077/ HOUSE/C LC	Side & rear extensions and front porch	Amery, Theobalds		Agree	All			
81	12/03124/ HOUSE/E A1	Front and side extension and garage	10 Oakfield	Includes retrospective for TV aerial	Agree	11		MA	
82	12/03172/F UL/SE2	Replacement agricultural barn	Little Pixhall Farm, High Street		Agree	10		BW, MA	
83	12/03236/L BC/CP3	LBC. Porch, log store and implement store	2 Pixhall Cottages, High Street	Members did not support the applications, in particular the Listed Building Consent application. It was felt the addition of a porch and toilet would detract from the character of the listed property which is one of a pair. They also believed the size of the proposed garage to be far too large being nearly the same size footprint as the pair of listed cottages and would therefore be out of character with the cottages and dominate the site.	Against	9		JN, MA, CW	
83	12/03235/ CP3	Porch, log store and implement store	2 Pixhall Cottages, High Street	As above	Against	9		JN, MA, CW	

11 | Burial & Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased
None	

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12 Notes and Information

	Date	From	Subject
1	27/1/12	KCPFA	Newsletter
2	04/12/12	KCC	Make Kent Quicker broadband campaign update

- 13 Confidential: Pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following items:
- 13.1 Visit Hawkhurst web site transfer. Members noted the report from the Community Partnership transferring the ownership to the Parish Council. The Council went on to discuss the maintenance and marketing of the site. There was a discussion regarding the existing marketing and maintenance company and the possibility of continuing this arrangement at no cost to the council. As CW had also expressed an interest in taking this role on and a contract agreement would be involved, he declared a prejudicial interest and left the room. KB, supported by PJ, proposed the recommendation contained within the report be accepted. 9 agreed, TL abstained and PJ was against.
- 14 Closure
- 14.1 The meeting closed at 21:50
- 15 Future Meetings
- 15.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 14th January 2013 at Copt Hall commencing at 19:45.

Signed.....Date.....
 Keith Brown, Chairman of the Parish Council.