

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting: **Full Council**
Date: 13th April 2015
Ref: nm.
Typed: 21th April 2015

Copt Hall

PRESENT

Mr. P Dartnell (Chairman), Mr. M Appelbe, Mrs. M Brinsley (Vice Chairman), Mr. G Davies, Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mr. P Jones, Dr M Robertson, Mrs. B Weeden, Mr. C Williamson, Mr. P Whittle.

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

Mr. R Weeden, Mrs. B Palmer, Mr. N. Gray, Mr. S Holden
KM, K&SC

1 Adjournment for public speaking.

1.1 Kent County Councilor Sean Holden addressed the meeting updating the council on the meeting he has had with Matthew Balfour, new KCC Cabinet Member, who is very supportive of the efforts of the Working Group in tackling rural speeding. SH has helped with funding for a new tripod for the SID device with funds from his Members Fund. He has also contributed £2,000 towards the Streetcruizer project from this Fund. BW raised the 135% increase in land rent asked of Hawkhurst Pre-School (see item 8.7) and asked SH to assist. He has raised it with the property section at KCC and is expecting a review.

1.2 Keith Lagdon of Speedwatch in Hawkhurst addressed the meeting. He reported that a mobile camera van will now visit Hawkhurst on a regular basis and has begun monitoring. KL is hoping to get the data from these visits for The Village Magazine to publish. This would be supported by Sgt Ross Shearing. The latest Speedwatch results have shown a worsening situation with 45% of those observed exceeding 40mph (in a 30 mph zone) on the High Street. The average of those speeding was 45mph. MB thanked the Speedwatch group for their continued efforts. BF mentioned the ongoing problem of red-light jumping behind stuck lorries trying to turn into Cranbrook Rd from Rye Rd. Clerk to email KCC to ask the white line be urgently re-painted in the correct place.

1.3 Annie Clayton (Neighbourhood Policing Inspector) addressed the meeting. She also attended the meeting at Maidstone Police HQ with Anne Barnes of the Working Group set up by Helen Grant, also including Sean Holden, Keith Lagdon and PD (see item 1.1). Kent police are to look at the validity of an evidential argument for Speedwatch. Mr Pate is supportive but there are concerns of the administrative burden of 'not guilty' pleas. The camera van has identified 2 safe locations to position itself in Hawkhurst. The vans are run by Kent & Medway Camera Safety Partnership and Kent Police have to bid for their services. She will actively support the effort to get van data for publishing. She wanted to emphasise that Police Enforcement do not have adequate resources to place an enforcement officer at Highgate Hill lights to catch red-light jumpers. She has bid for Specials from the Road Policing Unit who operate speeding camera equipment and hopes Hawkhurst will be prioritized for this. She also supports education and engineering solutions and in particular big, bold 30 mph signs at village entries on white wooden fencing. Drivers need a reminder they are in a village with schools, pedestrians etc. Members agreed the signage issue will be placed on the May Agenda.

1.4 Sophie Dezechache of Young Peoples Bus Service addressed the meeting regarding Streetcruizer. The Bus has now been transferred to YPBS solely for youth provision. The association with WRAP has now been terminated. YPBS has received a 1 year grant and is supported at TWBC by Nick Green and Kevin Hetherington. YPBS will work in partnership with Eddie Walsh at KCC who will provide 2 youth workers plus a sexual health nurse, included in the per session cost from YPBS to hirers. CSU at TWBC are providing funds to restore the service at Calverley Park, Tunbridge Wells. The cost to Hawkhurst Parish Council would be £45 per session, but on a Tuesday night. SD told PD that YPBS has so far received grants of £3,000 from TWBC, £2,000 from KCC Cllr Sean Holden and a £1,000 donation from residents. She told PD that Hams Travel will be servicing the bus, with safety checks carried out every 3 months. Servicing is free and repairs are payable. YPBS has 3 and possibly 4 drivers on the team, 2 of which are ex-Arriva bus drivers. SD told BW that there are 2 directors – herself and Andy Leslie. SD told PD that current bookings are Paddock Wood every fortnight and CSU for TWBC at Calverley. Benenden are surveying youth users to ascertain Streetcruizer's popularity. SD told CW that there is no contractual obligation to provide services in TW in exchange for the bus – services in TW will be paid for, as they are by CSU at Calverley. Members agreed to add the Streetcruizer proposal to the May agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Apologies were received from Mrs. A Hastie, Mr. J Hunt and Mrs. J Newman and Cllr Beverley Palmer.

3. **Declaration of interests:**

GD declared that he had been lobbied in that he had received a phone call re: Planning Item 10.4.7 15/502109, that a neighbour had no objection.

CW declared that he knows Sophie Dezechache (Item 1.4) but has no pecuniary interest in YPBS or the Streetcruizer bus.

4. **Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

PD, supported by BW proposed acceptance of the Minutes of 9th March 2015. This was accepted with 1 abstention. PD, supported by BW proposed acceptance of the Minutes of 30th March 2015. This was accepted with 2 abstentions.

Matters arising

5.1 Transport & Highways. Stagecoach have told the Transport Accessibility Group that they are cutting Sunday services from Hawkhurst but will be running them on Bank Holidays. The No. 5 Arriva bus will continue to run. HPC has an action item to engage a consultant for a traffic survey in the village – clerk to chase Judith Norris. Clerk to also email Sean Holden and request a KCC traffic survey.

5.2 Youth Matters. See Item 1.4. SD was also asked when the Streetcruizer service will commence and advised that she had been told after 24th April.

5.3 Police. JH was absent so crime results for March will be reported in May. PD expressed concern at the recent business robberies in Sandhurst, Sissinghurst and Rolvenden.

5.4 Local Community Interest.

a. Speed Watch. See Items 1.2 and 1.3.

b. Footpath sign – MR gave a detailed update. HPC are now signed up with Ordnance Survey for maps. Fera are making a map of the Parish for the NDP and will make a pdf copy that can be passed to Kate Chitham to design with KCC will also run an eye over it for us. MR hopes to have a laminated map to show the next meeting with a view to choosing frames. As for a location, Dunks Trustees are yet to determine, the Library requires a licence fee, the BP garage could be asked or Budgens are very supportive and if free-standing, the frame can be opened from behind so the front isn't obscured.

5.5 Hawkhurst Community Trust. Extraordinary meeting of HCT took place on 30th March. Whitehead Monckton reports that the original Scheme from 1997 has now been found by the Charities Commission and allows HCT to sell Copt Hall and either invest the funds or use them to build a new community centre. It is not clear if the funds can be transferred to a new charity with the same charitable aims and W-M are working to establish this with CC. PD is to study the different legal forms a new charity may take and report to HCT and HPC on this.

6. **Reports of Committee Chairmen**

6.1 Buildings. BF reported that the Office has been repainted and new blinds fitted. Quotes are being obtained for redecorating the Sports Hall, the windows are now being cleaned monthly and the cleaners have been provided with additional equipment. Quotations are being sought for a new HPC sign for The Office at The Moor.

6.2 Land. A meeting took place on 23rd March. There had been some complaint about the wetness of KGV Playing Field and the decision taken to organize drainage of the junior pitch. A new paling fence has been organized for Fowlers Wood. KCC Grounds Maintenance services are being monitored and job sheets requested. Redress is being sought through Park Leisure for the prematurely rotted section of some play equipment. The 1953 Commemoration benches have been collected from Kino. One is beyond repair. The other could be salvageable dependent on cost. BF remembered one being previously repaired at £750. It was agreed CW would ask Charles Brinsley to quote to repair the better bench for consideration at the May meeting. A fair has been booked for The Moor for the last week of May. Hawkhurst is entered for South East in Bloom. PD is concerned at the weeds in The Colonnade, which are the responsibility of shopkeepers and KCC.

6.3 F&GP. PD no meeting has taken place. Asset Register is almost complete. Audit begins 14th April.

6.4 Personnel. The 3 month appraisal is planned for April 22 for the Assistant Clerk.

6.5 Fete. The next meeting will be on April 14th. The Summer Festival will include the Church fete and include a dog show, music festival into the evening, circus workshop for kids, a car show, land train, hog roast, Thai food, creperie and German sausage stall.

6.6 NDP. In JN's absence, the Clerk reported that the NDP consultants Fera Urbanism and NDP Committee members would make a site walk on July 16th for familiarisation. Invitations would be sent to

Hawkhurst Parish Council

local groups, organisations, councillors and businesses for a Visioning event on April 30th and 3 day Design Forum from the 26th – 28th May. Open evenings will allow members of the public to get an update on the progress of the Design Forum workshops, culminating in a Final Presentation on the evening of 28th May. All events are to take place at the British Legion.

7. **Matters for further discussion**

7.1 60 day notice account. Lloyds Reserve Account holds over £100,000. £25,000 is being added to the 12 month bond at Cambridge & Counties. PD, supported by MB proposed *£50,000 be moved to the Aldermore interest-earning account proposed by GD*. This was unanimously supported.

7.2 Defibrillator. MA spoke in favour of the benefit to Hawkhurst of having a defibrillator at Highgate. KALC recommend 2 particular models. Indoor mounted is around £1,000.00 and an heated outdoor cabinet is a further £500, with a small ongoing cost of replacement batteries. MA proposed HPC obtain one. CW reported that the Bonfire Society was proposing adding to its bucket collection receipts of £370 to make £500 as a donation towards a defibrillator for Hawkhurst if HPC will fund the remainder of the cost. Furthermore, Southern Gas Networks will match the charitable works of employees, attracting a further potential £500 as the chair of the Bonfire Soc. works for them. Therefore HPC could be asked to make up the £500 for an outdoor case plus the ongoing battery costs. MA and CW to liaise and bring final proposal to May meeting.

7.3 Annual Parish Assembly. Greg Clarke had to withdraw as speaker. PD will give an annual report. The NDP Committee will also give a report followed by Speedwatch and PSgt Ross Shearing. It was felt that a local history speaker in addition would make the meeting too long, so will not be booked. PD will present the Community Award to Derek Sedge, Clerk to buy flowers for Mrs Sedge.

8: Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	05/03/15	Lloyds Bank	HH branch opening hours changing to 10.00 – 3.00 pm Tuesday and Thursday from 1 st June 2015.	Noted. HPC dismayed but feel appeal will not change decision.
2	09/03/15	YPBS	Sophie Dezechache's proposals for the Streetcruizer Bus	See item 1.4
3	18/03/15	Weald of Kent Housing Association	They are putting forward Bowles Lodge as the name for the new facility for approval.	Noted
4	19/03/15	Samaritans	Thanks to HPC for donation and continued support.	Noted
5	24/03/15	Dunks and Springetts	Invitation to Dunks Open Day Sat April 18 th 2015 2-6 pm	Noted
6	01/04/15	Resident	Request for clarification of HPC's decision re: planning application for Church Court.	Clerk's reply on file.
7	01/04/15	Hawkhurst Pre-School	135% Rise in land rent.	Clerk to raise letter of objection to landlord.

9: Finance

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE MARCH 2015

Accounts for payment	£ 43,678.96
Payment received	£ 7,224.02
Net Expenditure	-£ 36,454.94
Cambridge & Counties	£ 60,000.00

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Reserve

Lloyds Current	£ 10,609.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£ 108,048.37
Petty Cash	£ 157.35

9.2 Payments were examined and voted for unanimously.

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

10. Planning

10.1.1 Communications with Tunbridge Wells Planning Department –

PD has now received both a written and personal apology regarding his letter to Jane Lynch Head of Planning at TWBC concerning the Planning application 14/506827/FULL Lillesden Frith, Horns Road, that the Parish Council had requested to be called- in to go to the Planning Committee. The error in the Planning Department's own procedure has been acknowledged. Judicial review would cost tens of thousands of pounds. Despite a possibility of success it was agreed not to pursue that course of action.

At the Chairmen's Meeting at TWBC, it was advised to cover design preferences relating to listed buildings in the NDP. Other Parish Councils, Brenchley in particular, also felt PC views were ignored by Planning Officers. Cllr Alan McDermott has offered to talk to HPC Members in a special meeting about their concerns. PD, supported by BW resolved to set up an extraordinary Full Council Meeting for this. PD stressed all Members must attend and this was agreed. PD thanked PW for attending and speaking to Planning Cttee at TWBC for Station Garage which was granted permission. It was noted that Hawkhurst's outstanding housing allocation was 54 and now 48 with the granting of Station Garage.

10.1.2

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
15/500666	2 storey side extension to bungalow	Heron Court, Horns Road	Application withdrawn
15/500867	Construction of new detached dwelling	Adjacent Hensill Barn, Talbot Road	Application withdrawn
15/500780	Demolition of existing buildings and petrol station and construction of 6 new dwellings	Station Garage, Gills Green	5.00pm 8 th April, for consideration by TWBC Planning Committee, Town Hall, Mount Pleasant, TW.
15/500728	Change of use from builders yard to residential parking	Builders Yard behind Lacombe School Terrace	Amended red outline to include access per 11.03.15

10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
14/506201	Prior notification for change of use of 1st floor office from B to C3 dwellinghouse.	Abacus House, Cranbrook Road	Prior approval not required
14/00571	Change of use from C2/C3 (residential care home) with conversion to 3 dwellings; retention of existing residential unit	Chislehurst Care Ltd, Hillside, Cranbrook Road	
14/501176	Demolition of vacant commercial buildings and replacement by two 2 storey houses with adjoining	Watkins and Doncaster, Conghurst Lane	

Hawkhurst Parish Council

	garages and 1 bungalow with detached single garage		
15/501171	Lawful Development Certificate for replacement of retaining walls within property and erection of conservatory at the rear.	Highbanks, 13 Oakfield	
14/505904	Erection of Two-storey, 3 bed dwelling with attached garage	Former PF Skeet Yard, Talbot Rd	
14/506864	Change of use from Parish Office, meeting room and chapel maisonette	All Saints Lodge Rye Road	
1505898	Single storey extension to south elevation	Cockshot Barn Highgate Hill	
15/500780/FULL	Demolition of existing buildings associated with disused garage workshop and petrol station and construct 6 new dwellings	Station Garage Gills Green	
14/506764	Construction of a detached garage/storage building	Louisa Lodge East, Park Lane	

10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
	None		

10.4 Planning Applications

No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
1	15/501136/FULL	Erection of stables and associated hard-standing. Changer of use of paddock from agricultural to equestrian use.	Cockshot Barn, Highgate Hill		Agree	5	BW, PJ	3	
2	15/501411/LBC	LBC for removal of 2 windows and their replacement with new double glazed windows (works completed)	Four Wents Cottage, Water Lane		Agree	7		3	
3	15/501505/FULL & 15/501509/LBC	Conversion of barn and attached brick building to dwelling; proposed conversion of existing cowshed to form ancillary residential space, repairs to cart lodge, minor alterations to highways access, proposed timber frame garage for existing property	Clayhill, Rye Road		Agree	8		2	
4	15/502051/FULL	Erection of a timber	2		Agree	6		4	

Hawkhurst Parish Council

No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
	LL	framed open fronted store attached to existing workshop (retrospective)	Springfield Cottages, Sopers Lane						
5	15/502036/FULL	Demolition of existing bungalow, shed and garage. Erection of replacement house and garage.	Green Lawns, Stream Lane		Agree	8		2	
6	15/501828/FULL	Retrospective change of use of stables from private use to a commercial riding school and retrospective permission for hardstanding and equestrian menage floodlighting	Ten Oaks Farm, Heartenock Lane	Traffic concerns due to volume expected on very narrow, twisty lane with very poor surface and concerns about the impact of light pollution, particularly in the AONB.	Against	1	5	4	Y
7	15/502109/FULL	Applying external insulation to rendered walls and cladding with weatherboard to match existing cladding. Replace barn windows with glazed frontage	Little Conghurst Oast, Conghurst Lane		Agree	8		2	
8	15/502192/FULL	External flue to north side elevation	1 Ford Villas, Highgate Hill	The design of the addition of this flue is inconsistent and out of keeping with the age and design of this property and visually obtrusive.	Against	2	3	5	
9	15/501487/FULL	Change of Use from dog grooming premises to self contained flat. Demolition and alterations to parts of external stores. Construction of footpath to courtyard cottage.	Post Office High Street		Agree	8		2	

10 Burials and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
09/03/2015	Mr. Leslie Clifford Corfield	Burial

12 Notes and Information

	Date	from	subject
1	26/03/2015	WKPS	Spring 2015 Newsletter

Hawkhurst Parish Council

2	26/03/2015	WKPS	Resume of WKPS event 19.03.15 Event 'Do we need large scale housing developments in the Weald of Kent?'
3	02/04/2015	Kent County Playing Fields Association	April 2015 Newsletter
4	07/04/2015	Came & Company	Council Matters Newsletter

13 **Confidential**

None

14 **Closure**

14.1 The meeting closed at 22.05

15 **Future Meetings**

15.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 11th May 2015 commencing at 19:45.

Signed.....Date.....

Peter Dartnell, Chairman of the Parish Council.