

## Hawkhurst Parish Council

**Hawkhurst Parish Council**

Meeting:

**Full Council**

Date:

13<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Ref:

nm.

**Copt Hall**

Typed:

16<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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### PRESENT

Mr P Dartnell (Chairman), Mrs M Brinsley (Vice Chairman), Mr M Appelbe, Mr G Davies, Mr P Jones, Mrs J Newman, Dr M Robertson, Mrs B Weeden, Mr P Whittle

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### ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

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

- 1 **Adjournment for public speaking.**
  - 1.1 County Cllr Sean Holden addressed the meeting.  
He reported that he has not had a further response from the Police Commissioner requesting a meeting on court use of Speedwatch evidence. He has however spoken to Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone who is keen to take part in the meeting with the Police Commissioner. There followed some discussion between SH and Members and the approach of Kent Highways and Transport to the Highgate Hill Planning Application. BW felt KHT were inconsistent in objecting to single drives being added to the A229 due to its status as a recommended European lorry route, yet not objecting to Highgate Hill. JN agreed since KHT have now concluded that nothing can be done to improve the traffic flow problems at Highgate Hill crossroads short of removing buildings there. BW further mentioned recent comments from Eric Pickles reinforcing the need to prioritise brownfield land and preserve greenbelt. SH agreed that the National Planning Policy Forum clearly prioritises brownfield land.
2. **Apologies for absence:**  
Mr B Fitzpatrick, Mr J Hunt, Mr C Williamson
3. **Declaration of interests:**  
None.
4. **Approval of minutes of previous meetings**  
Received the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014. They were approved with 5 in favour and with abstentions from MB, PD, GD and MR.
5. **Matters arising**
  - 5.1 Transport & Highways.  
MA confirmed that a consultation had been returned by the Transport Accessibility Meeting to East Sussex Council objecting to the planned loss of Sunday and Bank Holiday buses to Hastings and Tunbridge Wells.
  - 5.2 Youth Matters.  
PD confirmed in the absence of JH that the Wednesday KCC Youth Club meetings were carrying on every Wednesday evening. There had been some concern at some possible antisocial behavior after the first session but no incidents since.
  - 5.3 Police. PD in behalf of JH listed 14 reported crimes in September 2014: 1 making off without paying, 1 criminal damage, 4 assaults, 1 threat to kill, 1 burglary of a dwelling, 2 thefts, 1 theft from a vehicle, 3 possession of controlled drugs.
  - 5.4 Local Community Interest.  
Business signage – MA will ask the owner of the building for approval of the design before HPC apply for planning permission for it for £55.

Footpath sign – The Village Society has no funds to pay for the map and suggested seeking sponsorship from local businesses. KCC can provide a new bespoke one for £530 laminated but not framed. PD praised the Goudhurst footpaths map on the public loos wall and will take a photo to circulate. KCC are to send a template and examples for Members to consider.

5.5 Speed Watch. Nothing to report.

5.6 Hawkhurst Community Centre.

Members agreed to hold a meeting of Hawkhurst Community Trust on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.

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

6.1 Buildings. PW. The next meeting is on 20<sup>th</sup> October, when the Buildings Committee budget for 2015/16 will be considered .

6.2 Land.MA. Land Committee met on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Rospa inspections have been done on the two play areas at KGV Field and Hearten oak Field and are being actioned. The dead horse chestnut at KGV has been taken down. The Scouts and KHWP (Kent High Weald Project) were due to meet up on 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss a maintenance project in Fowlers Wood [delayed]. The Allotments rent was raised to £20 per full plot. Apparently it is £40 in Tunbridge Wells. PW has been asked to carry out risk assessments on HPC's land assets and a review of the weekly playground check documentation.PW and the Clerk will meet to review this.

6.3 F&GP. PD. The latest meeting was September 15<sup>th</sup>. The current financial performance was reported and considered to be satisfactory. The Risk Assessment has yet to be reviewed but will be done so by JN and MB on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>. The HPC Development strategy was reviewed and amended for Full Council approval (see item 7.(iii)) and the draft budget for 2015/16 was examined. The draft budget will go twice to the Land and Buildings Committees before presentation to Full Council in January.

6.4 Personnel. PD and MB. There was a meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, which was later reported in Confidential at Items 13 (i,ii,iii).

6.5 Fete. GD. The Committee is meeting regularly and plans for the Christmas Festival are well underway with orders for stalls coming into the Parish Office. The financial results of the Summer Fete will be available imminently.

6.6 NDP. JN. There has been no new meeting. JN is putting together a list of NDP consultants to choose from. The Clerk is to ask local Clerks who they used, their experience of them and their cost. Both JN and PW agreed that the original Village Appraisal and the emerging NDP are demonstrating a strong local preference for brownfield sites.

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

7.1 Discretionary Services update. PD

Car Parks: PD, JH, BW and the Clerk attended a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September with 3 staff from TWBC about Northgrove Road and Fowlers Park car parks in Hawkhurst. TWBC are seeking to pass a rates bill of £1600 to HPC for Northgrove Road car park. The Members told TWBC that HPC is not interested in owning or renting Northgrove Road car park and didn't feel able to put that amount on the village precept when it is heavily used by local residents in the absence of street parking. Alternative revenue solutions were discussed including season tickets (reserved spaces but high cost) and parking permits (permit holders only, not reserved spaces but lower cost) which could be made available to residents and businesses. Some spaces may be retained for short-stay village parking. PJ said that only about 5 residents' cars remain in the car park during daytime with most space taken by local workers/business vehicles. In the evenings the car park is very full mostly with residents' cars. This pattern may suit the use of permits better than reserved spaces. TWBC resident parking permits are £60 per annum with books of 10 visitor tickets available at £15. Season tickets are substantially more. TWBC would be responsible for enforcing the scheme. TWBC will take these ideas away and consider them. JN said that she wouldn't

like to see residents having to pay for overnight parking. MR asked who would qualify to apply and the Clerk stated that the suggestion had been for residents to have priority over businesses. Fowlers Park car park is currently leased to TWBC by KCC for £2,050 per annum plus £1,200 per annum in maintenance. TWBC seek to pass this whole cost to HPC. HPC's position is that since the car park is heavily used by parents dropping off and collecting for the primary school and the nursery morning, noon and afternoon, KCC should be prepared to accept the cost of that provision under education as the village is denied long periods of general use each day due to this. HPC stated that they do not seek to take on the payment of this lease. The lease expires in September of 2015. TWBC will consider their options in advance of renewal and come back to HPC on this.

Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle: PD and the Clerk attended a meeting of Parish Chairmen at the Town Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. PD reported that the CARV service came in in 1979. None of the waste it collects is recycled, all goes to landfill in Essex at a cost of £180,000. Running the service costs £38,000 and HPC are being asked to pay £1,800 towards it. Some trades people who should buy waste contracts abuse it. HPC stated that Hawkhurst cannot rely on North Farm, it must have a facility of some sort. PJ raised the concern of increased fly tipping if the CARV service were withdrawn. PW stated that Ashford District now collect everything for recycling. There was some discussion about whether Members would support part-payment of the service with no clear outcome. HPC awaits TWBC's further consideration of the matter.

- 7.2 KALC Community Awards Scheme: PJ described the aim of the scheme to recognise people contributing to the community. There is no cost to take part in the Scheme. The deadline for nominations is 30<sup>th</sup> January to give time for the process to conclude in an award-giving at the Parish Assembly. The suggestion would be that in the first year, Members make nominations via the Clerk of deserving groups and individuals within Hawkhurst, a list of which would be reported at the December Full Council Meeting. PJ, seconded by JN, proposed that *Hawkhurst Parish Council support and join the KALC Community Awards Scheme*. This was unanimously carried.
- 7.3 Hawkhurst Parish Council Development Strategy: PD. The Members had received this document a week earlier for consideration. PW, seconded by BW proposed to *Accept the Development Strategy as revised by the Finance and General Purposes Committee*. This was carried unanimously.
- 7.4 Allocations DPD update. PD. HPC wishes to voice its objections to the greenfield sites put forward by TWBC for the Allocations DPD document, favouring the 3 brownfield sites of Station garage, Woodham Hall and Springfield. HPC has registered to speak on November 10<sup>th</sup> when the TWBC Transport and Planning Advisory Board consider the Draft Allocations DPD and on December 4<sup>th</sup> when TWBC Cabinet consider the adoption of the Draft Allocations DPD document.
- 7.5 Council Tax Support Grant. The arrival of the second tranche of the precept from TWBC has highlighted that in addition HPC has received £5,486.33 in CTSG, which is not precepted. Members discussed how this may be put to good use. It was felt that adequate provision has been made for NDP with £10K this year, £10K in the 2015/16 draft budget and £7K due from TWBC. All agreed to provide a *second picnic bench at Heartenoak Field*. It was agreed to hold off on a decision about a second one at The Moor, partly to see what use the old Spar shop would be put to. It was agreed to get quotes for a large screen for the outer office to look at planning documents with the advent of paperless planning. It was also agreed to get quotes to upgrade some of the computer equipment in the office. Other suggestions were to improve the blinds in the front office. PW can provide the Clerk with info on a repairs pack. MA suggested considering a grant towards a skate park. No conclusion was reached on this suggestion.

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### 8. Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	11/09/14	KCPFA	Invitation to Annual Council Meeting 17.10.14 12.30 Maidstone	PJ to reconfirm if he can attend.
2.	11/09/14	Cllr Sally Fisher	Resignation	MA to put co-option notice in Village Mag.
3.	11/09/14	Resident	CC of letter to TWBC Head of Planning	Noted
4.	12/09/14	Hawkhurst Village Society	Request for permission to place plaque on The Moor re: cricket in Hawkhurst from 1727 and county matches from 1825.	PJ, seconded by PW proposed that <i>Permission be granted for the plaque to be placed on the Hawkhurst sign.</i> Carried with 8 in favour and BW against.
5.	15/09/14	Ch. Insp. Dave Pate	Restructuring and rural policing	Clerk to invite Ross Shearing to talk at one of the next 3 HPC meetings.
6.	21/09/14	Mr D Cheeseman	Donation £300 to Hawkhurst Community Trust	Clerk to send letter of thanks.
7.	21/09/14	Howdens	Donation £500 to Hawkhurst Community Trust	Clerk to send letter of thanks.
8.	29/09/14	KCC	Consultation on Community Wardens	MA to submit a response on behalf of HPC.
9.	01/10/14	KALC	Proposal for Local Councils to be consultees in applications for Vehicle Operator Licence Applications and Renewals	MB, seconded by BW proposed <i>HPC support the Proposal for Local Councils to be consultees in applications for Vehicle Operator Licence Applications and Renewals.</i> Carried unanimously.
10	02/10/14	Mayor, TWBC	Invitation to Remembrance Sunday in Tunbridge Wells.	PD will be in Hawkhurst at our Remembrance Day.

### 9. Finance

#### 9.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AUGUST 2014

Accounts for payment	£	5,867.53
Payment received	£	1,642.50
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>4,225.03</b>
Cambridge & Counties Reserve	£	60,000.00
Lloyds Current	£	10,000.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	85,670.47
Petty Cash	£	83.65

9.2 Payments were examined and voted for unanimously.

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

9.4 PJ asked GD for sight of the Fete accounts.

### 10. Planning

#### 10.1 Planning & Highways Information:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
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TPO 007/2014	Tree at front boundary to be protected	Pinners, Ockley Rd	The Order has been confirmed by TWBC.
ENF/14/50043 0/OPDEV	Investigation re: siting of a Caravan	Rear of Oak & Ivy public house	
ENF/14/50043	Investigation re: siting of a Caravan	Risden Lane	

### 10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
14/01526	Conversion and extension to outbuilding to link to main dwelling	2 Gills Green Cottages	External materials and finishes same as existing building
14/01223/LBC	Listed Building Consent: Conversion of church to a tower house, 4 maisonettes and 2 flats plus parking	All Saints Church, Rye Road	
14/01537	Proposed dwelling at rear of existing garden	Ashmount, Rye Road	Measures to protect existing trees
14/500621	Build a timber framed garage/outbuilding at rear end of garden.	9 Highgate Hill	
14/500564	*	The Rockery, Talbot Road	
14/500920	Proposal Conversion of existing outbuilding to temporary dwelling for a period no longer than 3 years.	Santers Yard, Gills Green	Limited to 18 months
TW/14/501345	Proposal Installation of agricultural anaerobic digestion plant and associated infrastructure	Conghurst Farm, Conghurst Lane	No construction Sat pm, Sundays or bank hols. Only feedstock from Piper farms to be processed to limit traffic volumes.

\*Erection of single storey rear extension, reduction, alteration of scullery, alteration and refurbishment of rear outbuilding, alteration to rear hard landscaping, removal of walls to cellar, replacement of window with French doors to playroom, alteration of dressing room into ensuite, insertion of 3 rooflights to rear elevation.

### 10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
14/502490	Non material Amendment for minor adjustment to roof trusses to make less complex and insertion of 2 dormer windows	East Lynn, Slip Mill Lane	Constitutes material amendment to TW/11/01877
14/500588	Construction of a new 2 bay detached single storey garage	Spindlewood, Stream Lane	Devpt in open part of site and add to clutter of Devpt on the plot, so harmful to AONB.

### 10.4 Planning Applications

Number	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
45	14/502459/TCA	Eucalyptus tree in conservation area	East Elford, Hastings	The Council are willing to follow the advice of the	Agree	All			

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Number	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
		- reduce some of limbs by 50%	Rd	Tree Officer.					
46	14/503346/FULL	Residential Devtpt of 62 dwellings, access, parking, garages and car barns, hard and soft landscaping	Land to West of Lorenden Park and The White House, Highgate Hill	*	Against	All			
47	14/501684	Single Storey Side extension	12 The Beeches, Horns Road		Agree	8	BW		
48	14/503171	construction of a bungalow	Heartenook Farm, Heartenook Rd	**	Against	GD,MA	5	JN,MR	

\* This is an AONB greenfield site that is not within the LBD and is adjacent to a conservation area. The fact it is in a draft allocation document does not carry sufficient weight to negate these factors when said document still requires public consultation and Planning Inspector approval. The Parish Council believes this site should be removed from the draft, particularly in the light of many other available brownfield sites, which should be prioritised, the ridge-top and visible location of this AONB site and the damage such a large development would have on the character of Hawkhurst, factors endorsed by the Planning Inspector when considering APP/M2270/A/13/2198919 Fowlers Park. None of this supports any justification for a departure application or any compelling public interest argument to rescind the presumption in favour of the protection of AONB land, per Policy EN26 of the Local Plan, paragraphs 116 and 115 of the NPPF and Core Policy 4 of the Core Policy. Government Policy is to prioritise brownfield sites and the emerging Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Development Plan has also demonstrated a strong desire in the community to prioritise 3 clear brownfield sites and not to use greenfield sites until these are exhausted. The scale of the development is inappropriate all in one place for the character of Hawkhurst, is urbanising, lacks a sense of place and would create an unacceptable impact on traffic at its entrance on a primary distributor route (A229). Further, the scale of additional traffic volume through the troubled Highgate Hill crossroads and its impact on current congestion there is also unacceptable, contrary to Policy TP4 of the Local Plan and Core Policy 1 of the Core Strategy. The design itself does not adequately address provision for alternative means of transport so fails to satisfy the principles of sustainable development, contrary to Core Policy 3 of the Core Strategy and Paras 17, 29, 32 and 34 of the NPPF.

\*\*The Members felt the design was good but are against the application because of its situation outside the LBD and within the High Weald AONB, contrary to Core Policy 4 of the Core Strategy, Policy EN26 of the Local Plan and Paras 115 and 116 of the NPPF.

### **11. Burial and Memorial**

Interment Date	Deceased	
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2014	Marion Wingfield	Interment of ashes

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12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2014	Eric John Warren	Interment
12 <sup>th</sup> sept 2014	Audrey Lois Warren	Interment of ashes

**12. Notes and Information**

	Date	From	Subject
1	10/09/14	KALC	The Parish News Newsletter
2	10/09/14	Healthwatch Kent	Annual Report
3	11/09/14	Came& Co.	Council Matters
4.	23/09/14	Oast to Coast	Action with Communities in Rural Kent magazine

- 13. Confidential:**  
*The Chairman proposed and the Members agreed to closing the Meeting to the public and going into private session.*
- 13.1 PD gave an update on the status of the Hop Pickers Line Project.
- 13.2 The Clerk was requested to leave the room.  
 The Members discussed the Clerk's hours and PD, seconded by MA proposed to *Take on an Assistant Clerk to work 13 hours per week, both Clerks combined not to exceed 37 hours per week.* Those in favour were 8 with BW against.
- 13.3 PJ, seconded by BW proposed to *Take on a temporary assistant clerk on a 2 month fixed term contract* whilst the permanent post is advertised. Those in favour were 8 with JN against.
- 13.4 Members discussed and unanimously approved a pay review for the Clerk.
- 14. Closure**
- 14.1 The meeting closed at 22.20
- 15. Future Meetings**
- 15.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 commencing at 19:45.

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