

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting:

Full Council

Date:

14th Sept 2015

Ref:

nm.

Copt Hall

Typed:

22nd Sept 2015

PRESENT

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

ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION

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

1 Adjournment for public speaking.

1.1 Cllr Palmer offered to take questions from the members of the Public and Members relating to TWBC business. None were asked.

1.2 KCC Community Warden Rob Perfitt and supervisor Siobhan McKay addressed the meeting to explain their role and activity in Hawkhurst. SM explained that following public consultation, Community Wardens had been reduced in Kent to 70 from 100. They have a broad remit to promote safer and stronger communities but the role is evolving into emergency planning and deployments (eg: Operation Stack) and trading standards and scam activity. They work closely with partner agencies including the police, TW CSU and TW housing department. RP explained that he was born in Sussex and has worked 11 years for KCC following engineering and security careers, and has been based most recently in Ashford. He now covers Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Goudhurst. Part of his work in the community is to visit individuals and groups giving advice to residents on scams. He can be contacted on 07773396708 and rob.perfitt@kent.gov.uk.

2. Apologies for Absence:

2.1 Apologies were received from Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mrs. J Newman and Mrs. A Hastie.

3. Declaration of interests:

3.1 CW declared a personal interest in planning application no.56 as he knows the owner through the Fete Committee.

All Councillors declared a personal interest in planning application no. 52 as the applicant is Hawkhurst Parish Council.

MR declared he did not have a personal interest in planning application no.57 as despite having worked at Marlborough House, he no longer had professional or social associations with it.

4. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

4.1 BW, supported by PJ proposed acceptance of the Minutes of 03rd August 2015. This was accepted with 1 abstention. PW.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Transport. MA reported that the Transport Accessibility Group had contacted TWBC, requesting them to improve the route and service information at local bus stops as it was unclear and confusing. PD reported that the Traffic Survey commissioned by HPC had been submitted to the Highgate Hill Inquiry. It showed that the sheer number of vehicles passing through the A229/A268 junction at Highgate Hill had increased by 16% since 2004, but only 3% at peak times, suggesting that it has been at capacity for a number of years. Over 15,000 vehicles pass through the junction on a typical weekday, including 969 HGVs, which are seen in largest numbers in the morning.

5.2 Youth. The Community Warden service has not yet engaged with the Streetcruizer service in Hawkhurst but that is planned. PCSO Rob Spicer had reported incidents of smoking and concerning behavior at the Streetcruizer bus, which had been passed to Eddie Walsh of KCC for investigation. Members continued to be concerned about the low numbers attending the Streetcruizer, seen to be 10 or so versus 20-30 last summer. Members agreed a meeting should be held with EW to determine if tis was the best use of HPC's funds for local youth.

5.3 Police. Crime statistics were 18 reports for August: 6 burglaries other than a dwellings, 4 thefts, 6 assaults, 2 criminal damage. PCSO R Spicer noted an increase in thefts from sheds and advises residents ensure that shed and outbuilding security is checked and made good.

5.4 Local Community – Speedwatch – A meeting was held at Helen Grant MP's office on Sept 11th, with

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KCC and police representation, to discuss rural speeding problems, attended by Penny Ansell of Speedwatch. The police do not want to try to enforce the results of hand-held speed cameras, preferring the use of static devices. The possibility of parish councils buying fixed cameras was raised and sending results to the police for action. KCC was against this but Cllr Holden was in favour. PD would also be in favour. A trial will be held near Maidstone and could be widened.

Footpath Map – MR noted the feedback from Members on the 80% proof of the new map. He praised Kate Chitham and JH for their work and photos for it. All Members agreed to give MR power to take the final decisions in finishing the map, taking the feedback on board as he felt best. The Wealden Advertiser will print and laminate a copy for £30 versus the £240 quoted elsewhere. MR will then appoint the carpenter to make the cabinet for it. MR explained he had held a meeting with local app developer George Hammerton to explore potential for digital use of the map. An app could cost £5,000 to develop and £1,000 to update annually, and was felt to be too expensive, but a website with JavaScript could be written to give the feel of an app, moving 'page by page' for approx. £1,000. It was agreed to give a reference on the map to HPC's website to allow for this to be hosted in the future should the Members choose to do so. Members considered printing paper copies of individual routes, to be budgeted for under Footpaths. It was considered advantageous to keep control of the map within HPC.

HCT –An HCT meeting is to be held on September 25th to clarify the choice of structure of a new Trust with a solicitor from Whitehead Monckton on hand to advise.

Reports of Committee Chairmen

Buildings –. PW reported that the interior of the Sports Hall has been repainted and is looking very good. A meeting is to be held on 28th September

Land – CW reported that the fence at Fowlers Wood has been repaired. The fence at HeartenOak Field has had to be repaired a second time, the gate at Hensill allotments has been repaired and the equipment repair at HeartenOak playground is still outstanding due to the demise of the play equipment company. A meeting was held with Tates to install a swing barrier at KGV. This was following concern about the possibility of traveler groups attempting to occupy space on KGV field, following a recent incursion at Cranbrook. Other quotes had been obtained giving a similar price to Tates. *JH, supported by MB, proposed HPC books Tates to install the barrier and request for it to be done within 4 weeks.* All unanimously agreed, Clerk to contact Tates. CW feels a second barrier is required in front of the garages on KGV to protect grass where people have been parking. This may be made by him to save on cost. BW, supported by MR proposed *CW should pursue a quote for the rear barrier for the Land Committee to take a decision over.* All agreed. PD wished to register the Council's thanks to caretaker Phil Hazell who had put in special effort to ensure the KGV field could not be accessed each evening during the period of concern. The Clerk will write to PH on behalf of HPC to thank him. The next meeting is due on October 26th.

F&GP – No meeting since last FCM. Next meeting 21st September.

Personnel – Caretaker appraisals have been booked for October 21st. Nothing else to report.

Fete – CW reported that a wrap-up meeting was held on the summer fete and that 12th December has been set for the Winter Festival.

NDP – PD read a statement from JN: The next committee meeting will be on September 17th. A drop-in consultation is take place from noon 17th to 8pm and 9am to noon on 18th September when the results of the NDP Summer Survey will be given. A good relationship has been established with TWBC Planning Policy group and useful feedback on the Interim Report was received from them. Meetings have taken place in relation to a site for a new medical centre. Many other communities have been in contact for advice on NDP work.

Matters for further discussion

Chairmens Meeting 1st September 2015. PD reported that the Goudhurst Chair and others expressed unhappiness at modern extensions being permitted onto traditional buildings. The conservation officer had attended. TWBC will hold a workshop to explain the issues involved and parishes can then ask the conservation officer to come and talk to them if they still have issues.

The incursion at Cranbrook, Paddock Wood etc was also discussed. TWBC have a protocol for dealing with it if travelers land on parish council - held land. The travelers have now moved to Crawley.

The Civic Amenity Vehicle is to cost HPC £814.00 per year from April 1st 2016. The fortnightly service will accept green waste one session and bulky domestic waste the next.

Finally ragwort was raised as a particular problem this year and it should be reported to KCC.

Flix N Pix. MA reminded Members that HPC has no representative on the committee for this and it was felt this should be remedied. No volunteer came forward so this was deferred to October's FCM.

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8: Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	14.07.2015	Highgate Hawkhurst WI	Thanks for donation towards planting at All Saints/Rye Road	Noted
2	21.07.2015	KALC	Confirmation that fund-raising target for east facing slips study at M25 J5 has been met.	Noted
3	27.08.2015	Clerk at Dunks	Accounts Dunks year ending 31.12.14	Noted

9: Finance

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AUGUST 2015

Accounts for payment	£ 14,647.93
Payment received	£ 5897.37
Net Expenditure	-£ 8,750.56
Cambridge & Counties Reserve	£ 86,147.60
Lloyds Current	£ 10,000.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£ 86,955.66
Petty Cash	£ 139.36

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

PD reported on the Highgate Hill Planning Inquiry which opened on September 8th and closed on 15th. He thanked the 4 Members and Cllr G Bland who presented statements to the Inquiry and noted that HPC had been requested to present a statement on the principle of prematurity in this case last Thursday. PD had been invited to accompany the Inspector on a tour of the site on Tuesday 15th and HPC had submitted additional views from footpath WC160 to be considered on the tour. The outcome was likely to be due in approximately 6 weeks.

10.1. Planning & Highways Information:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
15/506048/AGRIC	New general storage building and machinery store	Park Farm, Water Lane	Prior Notification
15/506822	Submission of Landscape ecological/biodiversity Plan	Birchfield, Rye Road	
15/507052	Detached two bay single storey garage	Spindlewood, Stream Lane	Resubmission of application 15/505325 due to admin error – scheme unchanged.

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10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
15/504067/FULL	Demolition of outbuildings to replace with store and garage	Little Bokes, Horns Hill	
15/504929/FULL	Vary location of one of rooflights on north and 1 st floor eaves window, insertion of 2 small rooflights on south and on north, ensuite to 1 st floor and small rooflight on north roof with small glazed panel on gable end.	Cockshot Barn, Highgate Hill	
15/503613/FULL	Change of use from unused shop to residential use and a single dwelling	Old Moor Post Office, The Moor	
15/504601/FULL	Single storey side extension	20 Park Cottages	
15/503650/LBC	To paint sections of exterior window in white	Church Court, The Moor	Work completed 15/6/14
15/504512/LBC	To repair and/or replace guttering, downpipes, fascias and soffit boards	The Old Bakehouse, The Moor	
15/506290/AGRIC	Extension of steel portal framed barn	Lower Ellenden Farm, Water Lane	Prior Approval not required
15/501921/FULL	Change of use of land for stationing of 1 mobile home and 1 touring caravan for gypsy/traveler family only with hard and soft landscaping	OS PLOT 6535 Heartenoak Road	Part retrospective
TW/14/501345/RB	Minor adjustment to site layout	Conghurst Farm, Conghurst Lane	Moving plant 3m to East within application boundary
15/505421/FULL	Change of use from office and conversion of 14 th floor to 1x 2 bed flat and 2x 1 bed flats	Abacus House, Cranbrook Road	
TW/15/500309/R	Non-material amendment to approved cable route to avoid disturbance to tree and hedgerow roots	Conghurst Farm, Conghurst Lane	
15/506689/FULL	Details of condition 11.7m high screen to SW boundary	The Hollies Talbot Rd	
15/505864/FULL	Erection of timber fence	2 Four Throws Cottages, Conghurst Lane	Retrospective

10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
15/503777/FULL	Proposed first floor extension and loft conversion	3 Ockley Cottages, Ockley Lane	significant adverse impact on the living conditions of a neighbouring property through its overbearing presence and loss of outlook, combined with increased overshadowing
15/502743/NMAND	Non-material amendment to increase width of window at rear	1 Ford Villas, Highgate Hill	Amendment not non-material so new application required.

10.4 Planning Applications

No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee

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No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
48	15/506042/ FULL	Proposed first floor extension and loft conversion	3 Ockley Cottages, Ockley Lane		Agree	5	3	CW, GD	N
49	15/506029/ FULL	Demolition of single garage and flat roof addition; proposed erection of 2 storey side extension and alterations	6 Plum Tree Cottages, Horns Road	The extension is felt to be over-large for the site and the Members also felt the lack of a design and access statement to justify it should have been supplied.	Against	JH	8	MR	N
50	15/506260/ LBC	LBC to facilitate development works on unlisted neighbouring building by external alteration to Old Chestnuts	Old Chestnuts, Talbot Road	The Parish Council accepts the judgement of the Conservation Officer	Agree	All			N
51	15/506676/ TPO	Crown reduction of copper beech of 1.5-2 m, remove deadwood.	Queens Inn, Rye Road	The Parish Council accepts the judgement of Dan Docker	Agree	All			N
52	15/506550/ LBC	LBC for fitting of defibrillator to outside wall	Royal Oak Hotel, Rye Road		Agree	All			N
53	15/505908/ FULL	Creation of sand school	1 Springfield Cottages, Sopers Lane		Agree	9	BW		N
54	15/506854/ FULL	part conversion of garage to home office and changes to fenestration	Merrymeade, Water Lane		Agree	8	MB, BW		N
55	14/505434/ FULL	New vehicular access and parking	Lillesden Park, Hastings Road		Agree	All			N
56	15/505395/ FULL	Retrospective application for change of use of 3 industrial units and outside area to dog care and training	Units 5 and 7 Springfield industrial estate	HPC would like to see a condition obliging clinical disposal of dog waste at and in the vicinity of the facility	Agree	9	PJ		N
57	15/506881/ FULL	New building for storage of equipment and machinery; WC, workshop, office.	Marlborough House School, High Street		Agree	9		MB	N

10 Burials and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
22-Jul-2015	Thomas Edward Sibree	Interment of Ashes
28-Aug-2015	Sheila Pearl Medhurst	Interment of Ashes
3-Aug-2015	Lilian Thirtle-Melton	Interment of Ashes

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12 Notes and Information

PJ wished to acknowledge the success of Danny Lawrence in winning a TWBC Triangle Award and all agreed that HPC should send a letter to congratulate him.

	Date	from	subject
1	03.08.15	KCPFA	Playing Fields Newsletter
2	17.08.15	Fete Committee	Minutes 11.08.15
3	01.09.15	KALC	The Parish News

13 Confidential

13.1 PD gave an update on the status of the village GP's search for a new medical centre site.

14 Closure

14.1 The meeting closed at 22.01.

15 Future Meetings

15.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 12th October 2015 commencing at 19:45.

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

Peter Dartnell, Chairman of the Parish Council.