

## Hawkhurst Parish Council

**Hawkhurst Parish Council**

Meeting: **Full Council**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Ref: NG.

Typed: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Copt Hall**

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### PRESENT

Mrs. J Newman (Chairman), Mr. M Appelbe, Mr. D Blackman, Ms. C Escombe, Mr. J Hunt, Dr. M Robertson, Mr. S Spanswick, 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 Two residents presented a letter to the Chairman and spoke requesting the Parish Council consider this year to refurbish the war memorial and add names of people that they had identified had given service to the country in times of war and lost their lives thereby. They believe that the memorial used to be white in colour and that it is now in a poor state such that some letters cannot be seen. Grants are available for cleaning, they had obtained 2 quotations and planning permission will need to be obtained. Cllr BP supports the initiative and SH agreed to offer financial Members support if funds are short. JN agreed that this is the right year to do this.

1.2 A resident presented her 'impassioned plea' that an inducement is not accepted to unlock AONB land. She referred to her letter in which she expressed concern that a new village hall may be proposed on the site of the existing one by developers as part of a new development on fields accessed from a house on Highgate Hill. She encouraged re-examination of the original decision to grant a lease to Kino in Victoria Hall as being of commercial benefit. If it were found not to be, the making of a new hall premises may not be warranted. She argued that Kino may create parking issues and may not commercially benefit Hawkhurst and that the AONB may be more valuable than commercial considerations in any case. The Parish Council fought to save Circus Field on Highgate Hill, so why not fight to save the land behind Westfield? She argues that there are enough lovely buildings in Hawkhurst to choose from and also that the Copt Hall has not been well preserved. Furthermore in times of austerity, more money should not be spent on a new hall, but the Victoria Hall should be reclaimed. JN proposed to respond to the residents letter and new points raised in writing and may take legal advice with regard to any potential libel. PW pointed out that a full survey was undertaken of Copt Hall a number of years ago showing that if windows were replaced, the walls would collapse, one corner is collapsing, it is 80 years old and now beyond its useful life. The resident believed that the hall was being offered as a sacrificial lamb. BW pointed out that a lot of money had been spent recently to preserve the hall. JN pointed out that a planning application has yet to be received on Westfield and it has most certainly not been decided over in advance.

1.3 KCC Councillor SH addressed the meeting. He has sent a letter to Matthew Balfour (since replaced by Mike Whiting) about the narrow and dangerous pavement at Highgate Hill and also the desperate need for a zebra crossing from Tesco to All Saints. He described it as ludicrous bureaucracy if it costs £12,000 to get a survey done before the work can be done. He will take it up with Mike Whiting. He described the confusion in relation to KCC Highways statement being withdrawn as the definition of severe had been deemed to related to injury statistics and a lack of safety and a negative impact on commerce neither of which were felt to apply in Hawkhurst. All applications will therefore now be considered on their merits as previously with emphasis placed on offering mitigation through enhanced public transport. JN stated that the statement ignore the current severity. SH observed that it accepted that the junction was over capacity. JN stated that the hilly and ridge-to topography which discouraged walking and cycling was also not taken into account. JN will be writing to KCC about this. SH also reminded those present of his work aimed at banning HGVs on Kent's rural lanes. He agreed with a resident who spoke of the numerous deaths related to poor air quality. He described how KCC had decided to go to public consultation over a proposal to reduce the £5.7m spent subsidising buses by 4.5m. Only 3% of Kent bus services are subsidized, including a bus from Hawkhurst to Tenterden, which is said to cost £18.50 for every journey made on it. SH believes that taxi firms and smaller bus companies should be approached for rural transport solutions. The consultation runs to March but budgets will be set in February. Lessons can be learnt from Oxfordshire and Lancashire where bus companies have been finding service solutions. The Government Revenue Support Grant has been unfairly set at a lower rate in the shires than in London and council tax capped now at 3% with a further 2% allocated to social care. BW asked about progress for the 11 Hawkhurst children who were no longer permitted to claim for free school transport. SH has exhausted the internal appeals procedure and is now raising it as discrimination against Hawkhurst children with Paul Carter. School transport is a discretionary service and not a

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statutory obligation on County Councils.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

2. Apologies were received from, Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mrs. A Hastie and Mr. P Jones. TWBC Councillors B Palmer  
2.1 and G Bland also sent their apologies.

### **Declaration of interests:**

- 3.1 MR declared a personal interest in Planning Item 11.4.87 as he knows the owner of the property.  
BW, PW, MR and SS declared a personal interest in Planning Item 11.4.83 as they know the owner of the property.

### **Approval and Noting of minutes of previous meetings**

- 4.1 The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 were received.  
The minutes of the Buildings Committee 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and Land Committee 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were noted.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- 4.2 HCT 2016 submission to Charity Commission (4.2.1) A draft CIO application form has been corrected for VWV to  
4.2.1 re-issue. A meeting of the trustees will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> January for the purpose of electing a Chairman. JN  
1 explained that VWV had identified that if a parish councillor was sitting as a trustee on occasion there could in  
theory be a conflict between the two roles. JN, supported by MR proposed as follows in relation to Hawkhurst  
Community Trust 2016 and Nominated Trustees: *The Parish Council nominates up to 4 trustees for Hawkhurst  
Community Trust 2016 and instructs them as follows: As Parish Councillors and Nominated Trustees of the  
Hawkhurst Community Trust 2016 it is possible that a potential conflict of interest may arise between your role as a  
Councillor and your role as a Trustee. In such circumstances the Parish Council instructs you to abstain from  
voting to enable the Trust to take an independent decision.* This was unanimously supported and the Clerk will  
instruct VWV as such. Furthermore, a quote had been received from VWV in relation to *work required to bring  
together HCT and a freehold trust created at conveyance to HCT of the WI Hall into one body.* This is a separate  
4.2.2 task from the creation of the CIO. JN, supported by BW proposed that *VWV be given agreement to commence this  
2 work up to an initial cost limit of £2,000.* This was unanimously agreed.

- 4.2.3 Narrow footpath on east side Highgate Hill up to Rye Road. Greg Clark was updated by the Clerk on the 2007  
3 planning decision that had made widening here a condition of the permission, demonstrating KCC's acceptance of  
the need. He had since received a letter from Matthew Balfour at KCC agreeing to place the issue on a list for  
consideration of funds at KCC.

### **Standing reports**

- 5.1 Transport. MA welcomed SH's support for the zebra crossing.  
5.2 Police. JH NTR As he had received no crime stats from the new PCSO.
- 5.3 Local community.
- Speedwatch – SS There had been no activity due to Xmas, illness and road works. He welcomed the support of C.I. Richard Smeed, new head at Kent Police of Road Safety Schemes, for the use of speedwatch data in decision making.
  - Footpaths – MR reported that he is discussing Walkfest with the walking groups for 2018. It will be better advertised following the success of the inaugural 2017 event. He has quotes to get laminated maps made and now has details of a graphics person to help.
  - Car Parking. JH – NTR. SS stated that the shopkeepers are concerned about contractor parking in Fowlers for the 2 Rye Road development sites. The Clerk will contact the relevant managers. SS suggested considering a 4-hour stay restriction at Fowlers once HPC has taken up the lease. Shopkeepers have been taking up private arrangements with residents for staff parking.
  - New community hall – PW reported that 266 returns on the surveys had been received, which was higher than any previous survey. The survey closed on 31.12.2017. The first results were that 92% were in favour of a new community centre and that the biggest issue is parking.

### **Reports of Committee Chairmen**

- 6.1 Buildings – BW reported that the repairs to the office front window will happen when the weather is warmer. A meeting is planned with AH to see what has been looked at so far in relation to the Sports Hall and meet with the architect who had given some opinions thus far. A decision will then be brought back to Full Council . The next

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meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

- 6.2 Land – MR reported that orders were placed for certain pieces of new play equipment and repairs before Xmas. The first of these repairs have been done. The cheapest quote for the additional inspections of play equipment had been tied in for 5 years and a new quote for 12 months has been requested. Sadly the old roundabout could not be rescued and will be removed and replaced when the seesaw is removed.
- 6.3 F&GP – JN reported that ta forecasting meeting was planned at the end of January for the year-end out-turn.
- 6.4 Personnel – NTR JN advised that the committee must meet and elect a new Chair since the resignation of MB. Planning advisory Committee must also elect a Chair.
- 6.5 Fete – JH.
- 6.6 NDP – JN stated that an NDP committee meeting is scheduled for January 10th.

### **Matters for further discussion**

7. Budget 2018/19. JH asked what percentage rise there was in the budget this year. JN replied 8.9% due to certain exceptional items like provision for a DPO due to the new GDPR regs, a new large screen for viewing planning applications online and the second tranche of LED streetlight installations. This adds 40p per annum to a typical Band D Council Tax bill in Hawkhurst. JN, supported by PW, proposed that *Members accept Budget 2018/19 version dated 11.12.2017, post F&GP on 05.12.17*. This was unanimously agreed.
- 7.1
- 7.2 Nominees for KALC Community Award. These are: Liz Hatcher, former Head of Hawkhurst Primary School, Colin Williamson and John & Diana Hunt. Votes will be taken and the winner announced on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- 7.3 Zebra crossing feasibility study quotes. Three companies have been sourced and approached by he Clerk for quotations. One company declined to quote. A second charged £795 to prepare a quotation to quote. After discussion with the Clerk they agreed to waive the fee. The third company pursued KCC at length to obtain a brief for the feasibility study. This they have quoted against at £10-12,000 plus VAT and disbursements. The second company was given the KCC brief but failed to return with a quotation. JN had made enquiries with other Chairs who had said that the cost of a feasibility study was often as much as the installation work itself. JN, supported by PW proposed that *Hawkhurst Parish Council accepts this quote unless the second quote comes in below it by the end of January*. 8 voted in favour with one abstension from JH.
- 7.4 Members had seen the 3 applications for S137 funds on file. JN supported by BW proposed that *Hawkhurst Parish Council agree a grant of £100 for the Scouts from S137 funds but that the other 2 applications be considered at the new May date for S137 applications under the new grants procedure*. This was unanimously agreed.

### **Correspondence**

8.	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
	18.12.17	Kent Tree and Pond Partnership	Request for donation of £25 or £50 and offer of training courses.	Grant application form link to be sent for consideration in May.
	20.12.17	KALC	Local Government Finance Settlement	Noted
	21.12.17	KALC	Lord Lieutenant of Kent's invitation to Kent Civic Service 20 March 2018 at Canterbury Cathedral	MR to attend.
	07.01.18	A resident	Concerns about the potential for a community centre on the Westfield site, Highgate Hill.	Noted. JN to reply by letter.
	08.01.18	A resident	Request to clean and add names to the War Memorial	Noted. Clerk to obtain quotations.

### **Finance**

#### **9. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DECEMBER 2017**

Accounts for payment	£	8,725.73
Payment received	£	936.53
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>7,789.20</b>
Cambridge & Counties	£	76,141.95
Cambridge Building Society	£	75,088.42

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Lloyds Current	£ 10,000.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£ 70,668.74
Petty Cash	£ 13.41

9.1 Payments were examined and voted for unanimously.

9.2 The Chair informed Members that she had checked the bank rec. and the petty cash.

### Planning

10. 10.1. Planning & Highways Information:  
 JN addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> item below and described the issues she plans to raise in a response to KCC from Hawkhurst Parish Council. She observed that we already have severe overcapacity conditions and the cumulative effect of traffic from additional development is the overriding issue for those who live here, despite the fact 87% of journeys are through journeys according to KCC. Impacts on education and healthcare infrastructure are poorly considered. She considers 5.2 % of journeys being HGV as surprisingly low and this will be compared to HPC's own study in 2015. She questions whether Hawkhurst does 'thrive' on the crossroads, if the north/south corridor is 'obvious' and if 'little can be done'. As for sustainable mitigation, the topography of 3 ridges makes walking and cycling across the village less attractive and why make a business case for buses if most journeys travel through and out of the village? She is not comfortable that buses may be placed at the top of the S106 list when the Council has its own list that does not prioritise buses. An estimate has been made of achieving £800K over 4 years, but if our allocation were 500 and 200 are already supplied, 300 further dwellings at £1000 contribution each will not reach close to £800K . All agreed that JN should respond to KCC.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
NDP	Referendum	Hawkhurst Parish	Timetable leading up to Polling Day Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018.
NDP	Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation	Lamberhurst	Decision of TWBC
Phone box	British Telecom	Junction of Heartenoak Road and Cranbrook Road	Request fro clearance of glass. Box due to be removed.
KCC	Mineral Sites Plan	Kent County	Consultation closes 29.03.2018
Tree Preservation Order	Protect 13 Oaks and all native trees.	Stream Hill Farm, Stream Lane	Hungershole Wood and land adjacent Conghurst Lane
KCC Highways	Position Concerning growth in Hawkhurst	A229/A268 junction	Impact on this junction of growth in Hawkhurst and business case for retention/enhancement of bus services.
South East Water	New Water Main installation	102 metres High Street between fork junctions with Slip Mill Lane	From Monday 8 January for 6 weeks
Ticehurst NDP	Regulation 14 consultation	Ticehurst	Consultation from Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Feb 14 <sup>th</sup> 2018
08.01.2018	A21 closure	Lamberhurst bypass	08 Jan – 20 Jan 8om to 6am, diversion via Goudhurst and Hawkhurst.

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### 10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
17/03349/FULL	Demolition of garage and erection of replacement garage and new entrance gates	Random Acres, Slip Mill Lane	Landscape scheme including hawthorn, field maple and holly to be submitted prior to start of works.
17/04013/TCA	Tree in Conservation Area – fell one fir	Padmore Stream Lane	
17/03543/FULL	Retention of woodland cabin	St Ronans School, Water Lane	
17/03430/FULL	2 storey side extension and loft conversion with rear roof extension	3 Bokes Farm Cottages, Horns Hill	
17/03841/FULL	Construction of brick built workshop and land levelling	Beacon House, Foxhole Lane	Workshop only ancillary use to main house to prevent future sub-division of the site

### 10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
17/03660/FULL	Replacement dwelling	Green Lawns, Stream Lane	The proposed development by reason of its size and design would appear significantly more obtrusive in the landscape than the existing dwelling and would be out of character in the locality and harmful to the character and appearance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
17/03652/FULL	Variation of mitigation strategy and relocation of parking, increased footprint of cookery school and seminar rooms	The Walled Garden, Hall House, Moor Hill	Not demonstrated that alternative reptile site is suitable.

### 10.4 Planning Applications

Number	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Ctee
80	17/04116/FULL	Change of use and conversion of Highgate Hall from residential institution to create 8 self contained flats	Highgate Hall, Rye Rd	Whilst the Members felt this to be a good scheme, the amount of parking at 9 spaces seems inadequate for 8 flats. Since parking is yet to be agreed, Members suggest that the flat area to the east of the plot could ideally be used to provide up to twice as many spaces.	Agree	8	0	SS	N
81	17/04195/TPO	Fell 2 silver birches	17 Oakfield	Members would accept the view of Dan Docker.				All	N
82	17/04234/	Non-material	Hawkhu	Members also look forward	Agree	8	0	SS	N

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	NMAD	amendment to 13/02636/FULMJ erection of 90 bed care home (C2) with amended entrance from higher level service area.	rst House, Cranbrook Road	to seeing the completion of the agreed road layout, which is so necessary for safety reasons.						
83	17/04186/ FULL	Variation of condition 6 TW/87.1426/FUL (barn conversion to granny annexe) to allow house to be occupied as an independent dwelling house	Yew Tree Oast, Slip Mill Lane	Members felt that the annexe should remain as a granny annexe as the original permission does not permit sub-division of the plot, which could be a consequence of the requested change of use.	Against	JH, MA	5	SS, DB	N	
84	17/04197/ FULL	Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey extension with rooflights, bay window to front and decking to rear	13 Basden Cottages	The design is contrary to Hawkhurst NDP which does not encourage flat roofs and the design is felt to be out of sympathy with the rest of the building.	Against	PW, CE, JH	4	SS, MA	N	
85	17/04123/ FULL	Single storey side extension	Fothersby Cottage, Rye Rd		Agree	8	0	SS	N	
86	17/04140/ FULL	Two storey side extension	5 Hammonds, Queens Road		Agree	8	0	SS	N	
87	17/04241/ FULL	Barn conversion to provide change of use to Bed and Breakfast accommodation	Sawyers, Horns Hill	Whilst this is a useful opportunity to revive an old and attractive building, the plans do not appear to have been adjusted to accommodate the structural and building recommendations of the bat survey. Furthermore the Members would wish to see a restriction against sub-division of the plot in the future.	Against	JH	5	MA, MR, SS	N	

### 11. Burials and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
24 Nov 2017	None	Interment of ashes

### 12. Notes and Information

	Date	from	subject
1.	02.01.18	DPO TWBC	EU GDPR 2016

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| <b>13.</b><br>13.1 | <b><u>Confidential</u></b><br>None   |
| <b>14.</b><br>14.1 | <b><u>Closure</u></b><br>The meeting closed at 21.45   |
| <b>15.</b><br>15.1 | <b><u>Future Meetings</u></b><br>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 commencing at 19:45. |

Signed.....Date.....  
Julia Newman, Chairman of the Parish Council.