

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting: **Full Council**

Date: 8th July 2014

Ref: nm.

Copt Hall

Typed: 10th July 2014

PRESENT

Mr M Appelbe, Mr B Fitzpatrick, Mr J Hunt, Mr P Jones, Mrs J Newman, 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

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Members voted for John Hunt to Chair the meeting. JH opened the Meeting.

1

Adjournment for public speaking.

- 1.1 County Cllr Sean Holden addressed the meeting. Cllr Holden is seeking to establish if citizens who capture reliable evidence of speeding using accepted devices can put that data forward for prosecution. Unipar of Tunbridge Wells produce a SL700 laser machine, which is approved for prosecution currently, if used by a police officer. Cllr Holden is meeting with the Police Commissioner to discuss. The SL700 costs £2,100 and if its data can be accepted from citizens, he would consider using his Members Fund to purchase one for Hawkhurst Parish Council on a sharing basis with other parish councils. Cllr Holden has also spoken with Cllr Jukes at TWBC and argued that the Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle must not be removed in the budget cuts. He focussed on the Borough Council's targets for CO2 emissions from cars and the unacceptable impact of hour-long return journeys from the villages to the North Farm Refuse Centre that would result. Borough Cllr for Hawkhurst and Sandhurst, Nathan Gray addressed the meeting. He thanked the Parish Council for its guidance relating to the Highgate Hill Planning
- 1.2 application. He also stated that he has established that Parish Councils are currently not required to call a referendum for a rise in excess of 2% in the precept. However this is likely to change next year. He then related his experience of a shift with Speedwatch in Hawkhurst. He said that the problem of speeding in the village is clear and it is the 6th worst place in Kent. Cllr Grey also agreed with Cllr Holden's comments about the Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle, also stating his concern about increased fly tipping and the false economy resulting thereby, all concerns shared by the other rural Borough Councillors.
- 1.3 Penny Ansell of Speedwatch addressed the meeting. She believes that the SL700 machine is already in use in Sussex but not for prosecutions. Guy Rollinson of the Kent Speedwatch organisation is concerned that community people collecting evidence for prosecution could face intimidation, but otherwise Hawkhurst Speedwatch would welcome the initiative. She described the speeding problem in Hawkhurst. During the shifts of the last 12 months, 3,700 speeders have been recorded, which she described as the tip of the iceberg. Early morning rush hour has proven to be the worst time and in 2013 after only 5 months of data, Hawkhurst was the 5th worst location in Kent and this year the village has exceeded the top village of 2013 in absolute numbers. Hawkhurst has very little to prevent speeding in terms of cameras, camera van presence, road engineering or road markings and signage. KCC and Kent Police say the accident record in Hawkhurst is inadequate for cameras, but based on the 6 serious accidents (KSI) in the village in the past 3 years, Speedwatch believes that the village has a strong case for a camera (3 KSIs) or the mobile camera van (1 KSI), which they would prefer, so that it can monitor more than one location. Also the deterrent effect of speed camera signs has been proven and the village would also qualify for those. Recently

the Kent Medway Safety Partnership has agreed to include Speedwatch data in its assessment of suitable locations for speed cameras and mobile camera vans. Speedwatch therefore believes that now is the time to push for this for Hawkhurst and requested Cllr Holden's active support in achieving this and getting Hawkhurst onto the mobile camera van list.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Mr P Dartnell, Mrs M Brinsley, Mr G Davies, Mrs S Fisher, Dr M Robertson

3. **Declaration of interests:**

BW declared an interest in planning application 41 (14/500588/FULL) as the applicant is her GP.

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

Received the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th August 2014. They were approved unanimously.

5. **Matters arising**

5.1 Transport & Highways.

a. MA reported that as requested by HPC, he has submitted a response to the East Sussex County Council consultation, opposing route cuts on a Sunday and Bank Holiday to Hastings, Tunbridge Wells and possibly Maidstone.

b. JH reported from the Chairmen's Meeting at TWBC 2nd Sept 2014 that TWBC has agreed a 20MPH policy past schools, including private ones. However, this does not include main road sites. Hurst Green has a scheme on A21 for arrival and departure times. PW pointed out that the current beacon on the A268 for the primary school could be converted in such a case.

5.2 Youth Matters.

JH reported that Streetcruizer remains out of service. KCC will offer a weekly youth club on Wednesdays 6.30 to 9.00 pm at the Sports Hall, The Moor to the end of September.

Thereafter due to budget cuts, provision would be fortnightly unless HPC were able to make a contribution of £120 per month for weekly provision. BW stated that KCC have a duty for youth provision. JH stated that he was encouraged by the professional proposal received from Mr Walsh at KCC and didn't want to see a reduction or a disruption in provision to the youth of the village. BF believed that the pre-Streetcruizer service was chaotic and HPC should not have to pay more. CW believed that the chaotic service had been out-sourced and this service would be from KCC's own, trained youth workers but was concerned a precedent may be set where HPC was a funding previously provided service. JH, supported by BW proposed *Hawkhurst Parish Council will support this youth service and pay for the second weeks per month at least to April*. This was approved unanimously. JH thanked Cllr Holden for having considered offering funds to HPC for Streetcruizer provision.

5.3 Police. (JH) 12 reported crimes in July 2014: 2 making off without paying, 1 vehicle interference, 1 criminal damage, 7 assaults, 1 child sex image distribution). August records were not available at the meeting.

5.4 Local Community Interest.

Business signage – The Clerk had found an image for a 'more shops this way' sign and obtained a quote of £68 for it 140cm x 50 cm in aluminium. *Members agreed to purchasing this sign subject to consent from KCC and TWBC planners and the owner of the building on which it would be placed.*

Footpath sign – Members discussed providing laminated and framed Ordnance Survey map to replace the KCC one lost in the winter storms but ultimately *agreed to write to The Village Society and seek their support to fund a replacement from KCC.*

5.5 Speed Watch. See Item 1.3.

5.6 Hawkhurst Community Centre.

BW plans to ask Greg Clarke to make an approach to the Chairman of the Charity Commission to explain the difficulty HPC is having in creating its new board of trustees by combining 2 existing charities. Dismay was expressed at the lack of progress over the last 12 months and the view was expressed that if this doesn't work, HPC might need a new approach.

6. Reports of Committee Chairmen

- 6.1 Buildings. BF. The last meeting was 28th July. PW presented the risk assessment for Copt Hall and Sports Hall with action points. The remedial emergency lighting work was carried out on Friday Sept 5th. No more has been heard on the the Copt Hall Zumba noise complaint. A meeting is planned with the streetlighting contractor for quotes for the 2015/16 budget. The next meeting is October 27th.
- 6.2 Land.CW. Land Committee has not met since the last HPC meeting. The next meeting is September 22nd.
- 6.3 F&GP. F&GP Committee has not met since the last HPC meeting. The next meeting is September 15th.
- 6.4 Personnel.BF. Nothing to report.
- 6.5 Fete. CW. The fete made a surplus in the region of £1100, assisted by good bar sales extending into the evening and fair weather. The raffle money will be allocated separately and the donation to British Legion will be paid out soon and costs reimbursed to HPC.
- 6.6 NDP. The feedback from the 2 day public consultation in June revealed similar issues to the last consultation in the village but the balance had shifted. More emphasis on the control of planning was seen and more recognition of farmland classification since less than 3A can be built on and concern was shown about a scarcity of good farmland. JH asked for a report to the Council on these results, which JN agreed to do, particularly as it will form part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan submission document. JN met with Jean Marshall at TWBC to discuss the NDP. Mrs Marshall suggested that Hawkhurst may not be asked to accept a housing allocation in the next round (2026). She therefore suggested that making an NDP and identifying sites the village acceptable for housing might attract an allocation. Next steps are to identify 3 agencies with experience of preparing NDP plans. JN has 2 in the pipeline and will approach local clerks and councils to identify a third.

7. Matters for further discussion

- 7.1 Discretionary services. JH
JH attended the Chairmen's Meeting at TWBC at which the letters to parish councils with costs attached for the future provision of up to 6 key services were discussed.
- 7.2 Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle: JH got the impression that TWBC have no intention of withdrawing this but seek ways to share or pass on the cost. Other Parish Chairs agreed that it was a vital service. TWBC will host a meeting on October 2nd with Chairs on this one issue. BW said if double time is paid on Sundays, perhaps it would be cheaper on Saturdays and perhaps be fortnightly in places that had it weekly.
- 7.3 Xmas lights: JN said that if TWBC are still paying for the Christmas lights in TW town centre, perhaps that cost could be used better.
- 7.4 Parking: BW said that HPC had made no objection in the past to residents in Northgrove Road to pay for parking permits to use the public car park as it was largely used by them. However she believed that Fowlers Park car park was a different matter as parents need to drop their children safely for school there and it should be viewed as part of education provision under KCC. PW said that there were already often police there asking parents to move on to prevent parking on the main road as there weren't enough spaces. JN agreed with both these points and that Fowlers had to be held onto somehow. TWBC are seeking a meeting with HPC to discuss these issues, date to be set on the Chairman's return.
- 7.5 Remembrance Day Street Closures: JH related that TWBC had described an option to train volunteer marshalls to deal with road closures. MA approved of this idea. JN believed that national funding should be available but JH felt that whilst laudable, it could be hard for a

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PC to push such a change 'up the chain'. CW believed that this used to be within police funding but moved to TWBC and is now coming to the PCs. The Bonfire Society only closed the A229 south of Highgate to the Moor, and not the A268. PW reminded Members that in 2013 there was a panic as it was left almost too late to apply for permission. JH proposed that HPC talk to TWBC about dealing with this and the training offered.

- 7.6 CW felt that the Council should write a letter to object generally to this 'Localism' initiative, identifying the 'discretionary services' and also objecting that the 5 Year 'Vision' document was almost exclusively about Tunbridge Wells. BW agreed stating that the Borough is 49% rural, we pay the same rates but get far less services for it.

8. Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	12/07/14	Resident	Complaint about new picnic bench at The Moor. Clerk has sent reply for the Council.	No further action required.
2	23/07/14	CC from Hawkhurst Village Society to Cllr J Soke	Objections to development of Highgate Hill Planning ref 13/02828.	Comments noted.
3	23/07/14	Resident	Plan to cultivate allotment.	No further action required.
4	26/07/14	Resident	Proposal for seasonal market on The Moor for local producers.	Clerk to reply with history of markets.
5	31/07/14	KALC	Request for contribution to economic benefits study of M25 J5 east facing slips.	Members agreed a contribution of £100 under S.137 LGA 1972 powers.
6	07/08/14	TWBC, Kevin Hetherington	Discretionary Services. HPC being asked to consider paying for, totaling £6,310 per year.	Discussed at item 7 (i).
7	06/08/14, 13/08/14, 29/08/14	CC from Resident to David Brazier, KCC	Inadequate Speed signage, road markings and traffic calming on the High Street, Hawkhurst.	Comments noted.
8	12/08/14	Steve Shaw	Support a right for parish and town councils to sell electricity to the national grid.	Members agreed to express their support.
9	27/08/14	Resident	Clay Pigeon Shoot , partly in support of HCT on September 21 st	The acting Chair encouraged all members and residents to attend.

9. Finance

9.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AUGUST 2014

Accounts for payment	£	5,867.53
Payment received	£	1,642.50
Net Expenditure	-£	4,225.03
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 JH confirmed he had checked petty cash and the bank rec.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning & Highways Information:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
14/501345/CO UNTY	Anaerobic digester plant	Conghurst Farm	TWBC make no objection
TWBC	Notification of Appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate re: 2 storey 3 bed dwelling	Former Skeets Yard, Talbot Road	Additional comment to be sent to Bristol by 10 September 2014.
KCC/TW/0208/2014	Anaerobic digester plant	Conghurst Farm	Amended details inc revision of landscape screening from footpath on advice from AONB and landscape units.
KCC/TW/0208/2014	Anaerobic digester plant	Conghurst Farm	Odour Management Plan
TW/13/3828/R7	Resubmission of landscaping details	Bowles Lodge	Now fully aligns with the site plan.
TW/13/3828/RVAR	Submission of external lighting and roof plans	Bowles Lodge	

10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
14/01302/HOUSE	Two storey side and single storey rear extensions	8 Plum Tree Cottages, Horns Road	
14/01300/FULL	Two bed detached bungalow	8 Plum Tree Cottages, Horns Road	
14/500302/FULL	Demolition of existing bay windows and rear conservatory and construction single storey rear extension	Wayside, The Moor	
14/500377/FULL	Minor alterations to Residential Garage	Sisley Farm, Sopers Lane	
14/500324/FULL	Extension to existing detached single bay garage	Slip Mill Cottage, Slip Mill Lane	
14/500452/FULL	Proposed entrance porch	7 Fieldways	

10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
	None		

10.4 Planning Applications

Number	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
41	14/500588/FULL	Construction of a new 2 bay detached single storey garage	Spindlewood, Stream Lane		Agree	7		BW	
42 and 43	14/502654/FULL and 14/502658/LBC	Demolition of existing conservatory and garage, internal alterations and	Church Court, The Moor	*	Against	JH	7		Y

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Number	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
		single storey extension and new boundary fence.							
44	14/501820/ FULL	Demolition of bungalow and garage and erection of 7 dwellings with parking and new vehicular and pedestrian access	Holly Shaw, Queens Road	The modification from 1 to 2 bedroom dwellings is overdevelopment of the site and creates a shortage of adequate parking for the additional occupants.	Against	JH,M A	6		Y

* The proposal is inappropriate and out of character for this listed building within The Moor conservation area and therefore contrary to Policy EN3 and 4.33 and 4.42 of the Core Strategy. The high fence will be very visible and inappropriate adjacent to the front of the Church Yard contrary to Core Policy 4.42. The design compromises the merits of the original building contrary to Core Policy EN3 (1).

11 Burial and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
4-Aug-14	Margaret Joyce Phipps	Burial
22-Aug-14	Richard Raymond Pratt	Burial
1-Sep-14	Susan Appelbe	Burial

12 Notes and Information

	Date	From	Subject
1	01/08/14	KALC	The Parish News Newsletter
2	04/08/14	Dunks & Springetts	2013 Financial Statements
3	05/08/14	Kent County Playing Fields Association	Newsletter
4.	11/08/14	TWBC CSU	Community Safety Unit Newsletter
5.	12/08/14	DWP	Accessible Britain Challenge
6.	29/08/14 , 15/07/14	e-watch Tunbridge Wells	2 crime reports
7.	26/08/14	Kent Police	Fraud isn't just a scam booklet

- 13** **Confidential:**
The acting Chairman proposed and the Members agreed to closing the Meeting to the public and going into private session.
 The clerk explained the current position in relation to KCC LGPS and that legal opinion was being sought.
- 14** **Closure**
 14.1 The meeting closed at 21:35
- 15** **Future Meetings**
 15.1 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at Copt Hall on Monday 13th October 2014 commencing at 19:45.

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

Peter Dartnell, Chairman of the Parish Council.