

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting:

Full Council

Date:

9th March 2015

Ref:

am.

Copt Hall

Typed:

13th March 2015

PRESENT

Mr. P Dartnell (Chairman), Mr. M Appelbe, Mrs. M Brinsley (Vice Chairman), Mr. G Davies, Mr. B Fitzpatrick, Mrs. A Hastie, Mr. J Hunt, Mr. P Jones, Mrs. J Newman, Dr M Robertson, Mrs. B Weeden, 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 Apologies were received from Cllr Beverley Palmer.
- 1.2 Kent County Councilor Sean Holden addressed the meeting updating the council on two main issues. First he attended a County budget-setting meeting. The County Council is transforming to provide the best value without cutting frontline services. Cuts are still needed and the council tax is to rise by 1.999% just under the figure that would trigger a referendum. He confirmed that 85% of people's council tax goes direct to Kent County Council the remaining going to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Parish Council.
Second was the speedwatch meeting he was due to attend on 12th February, unfortunately he was not able to go as he was summoned to attend the budget meeting instead. Helen Grant MP, who did attend, has briefed him. He summarized that the meeting was positive; the speed watch group and the Parish Council represented Hawkhurst very well. The Police Commissioner gave all groups the chance to be heard and a working party is to be set- up to liaise with the police over the issues raised. He does have some Members funds and is keen to support this issue. A direct result from this meeting is that Hawkhurst is to get the mobile speed van visiting regularly like Sandhurst. He hoped this would stop the general speeding through the village once the police enforce the law better. PD stated that two sites had now been chosen for the mobile van. BF had notice the police recently with speed guns on the outskirts of the village so they already are taking action.
He then mentioned an incident that had happened earlier in the day that involved two employees of the contractors that empty the bins. Due to this incident the bins cannot be collected from the residents until Saturday 14th March
- 1.3 Borough Councilor Nathan Gray addressed the meeting; he attended the speed watch meeting as well, and said that SH has pushed hard to ensue the meeting had been organised, that its outcomes are very productive. He has asked to be part of the working group. He explained he is the point of contact if anyone has any comments regarding the Gatwick Runway project. He is following the Highgate Hill Appeal that is to go to the Planning Inspector and he has requested to be on the Planning Committee should our current representative retire so that Hawkhurst is always represented. He stated that he is happy to be a point of reference for any applications that the Parish Council may vote to call-in. He said that the upgrading of broadband had started to be rolled out in the rural areas following a recent meeting on this and mobile phone coverage. PD had attended the same meeting, four of the largest carriers were present but better mobile phone coverage will not be seen until 2017. He confirmed that the Borough Council had balanced its books this year but unfortunately a lot more cuts are still required
- 1.4 Nigel Pooley from idAmigo gave a presentation on his company's interactive information point that has now been installed in Budgens Supermarket. The idea is that local businesses can pay a monthly fee to advertise on the digital information point and then local non-for-profit organisations can advertise for free. He felt the Parish Council could benefit as we could put our notices, minutes and agendas on there with no cost and reach a wider audience. He asked about the Village Magazine and if it content could be put on the site. MA as editor is the person he should liaise with regarding this. JN asked why this supermarket had been chosen and not the other one in Hawkhurst. He said that he had done

some research and found that a lot of local people do use Budgens as they go in their to use the Post Office even if not to shop and they are more of a community hub as they have a coffee shop where people meet up as well. He went on to say that Tescos had not been receptive to his idea so he could not use their facilities.

- 1.5 Judith Norris the consultant that the Parish Council has employed to object to the Highgate Hill Appeal spoke as a member of the public. This was because the deadline for comments to be submitted is Thursday 12th March. PD had a meeting with her that afternoon. It was decided it would be good to keep the Members and public informed of the progress. A report has been produced it concentrates on the housing numbers. Other areas considered are landscaping and traffic, more work may be required here and this would increase costs. Mark Goddard has been appointed to defend the appeal for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as the planning officers would prefer not to do this as they recommend it should be granted but the Planning Committee turned it down, this is known as an overturn. He is onside to do a good job. PJ commented that after hearing this summary he felt the consultant had done an excellent job and the value was good. SH said that Jane Lynch Head of Tunbridge Wells Planning Department had told him that across the Borough's housing figures are now robust. Judith explained there are several areas where more work could be done to support the report that will be submitted but it was up to the Parish Council to decide if they would want to spend any further funds and if so how much. A landscape and traffic survey could be undertaken to add weight to her report. A traffic survey would cost £2k to £3K but it would help to get a clearer picture of the traffic in Hawkhurst because the ones undertaken recently have been completed by developers to support their case for their planning applications. Her feeling was that the Parish Council has done a very good job preparing and researching information so far. It has gained experience objecting and winning the site 64 Land at Fowlers Park planning appeal that also went to the Planning Inspector. She has requested that the Parish Council should be able to speak at the appeal as they did with the site 64 appeal and a group of local people or the Parish Council could attend taking notes and reporting back rather than employ her to go along each day which could cost approximately another £2k. She is very conscious that the Parish Council does have lots of other areas that it needs to spend its funds, particularly the Neighbourhood Development Plan which is now underway.

2. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Mr. C Williamson.

3. **Declaration of interests:**

In relation to planning application received by the Parish Council (see planning section 10.4 no. 84 15/500728/FULL), MR declared that this is very near to where he lives so will therefore abstain in the vote. MB declared she knows the people with regard to applications (see planning section 10.4 nos. 87 15/500753/FULL & 88 15/500816/FULL).

PD proposed that the planning items concerning the Highgate Hill Appeal and communication with Tunbridge Wells Planning Department regarding the Lillesden Firth application be brought forward as members of the public would not have to wait through the whole meeting before council discussed these. This was unanimously agreed. These items were then discussed please see planning section items 10.1 & 10.2 for comments.

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

Received the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2015. They were approved unanimously. Minutes from F & GP & Land meeting held on 26th January, Community Centre brainstorming meeting held on 16th February and the Building Committee meeting held on 23rd February all were noted. BW proposed and seconded by MB that she would like an additional meeting to discuss the content of the notes taken from the Community Centre meeting. JN said that the NDP process should allow all views to come forward and it would be the view of the village that will be taken forward. BF suggested that the meeting is limited to one and half hours. Vote was 7 for, 3 against and 2 abstained. Then a discussion followed around whether it should be a HCT meeting or Parish Council meeting, if the public should be present or not? PJ proposed and seconded by MA that it should be a Parish Council meeting vote 9 for 1 against and 2 abstained. PJ welcomed MB back

5. Matters arising

5.1 Transport & Highways. NTR.

5.2 Youth Matters. New Streetcruizer service, a letter was delivered today buy hand. PD has advised the lady looking to set up the new service that she should attend the next Parish Council meeting to present her idea, business plan and explain the costs are involved. Members can then see what the new service will offer, and how it would operate.

Following the complaints concerning the dirty state of the Sports Hall is being left in following the Youth Club on a Wednesday evening. Assistant Clerk phoned the Senior Youth Group Leader and then wrote expressing the concerns. The following week the hall was left in immaculate condition.

5.3 Police. JH listed 7 reported crimes in January 2015: 4 shoplifting, 1 affray, 1 assault, and 1 crime damage.

5.4 Local Community Interest.

Speed Watch. A meeting took place on February 12 at Maidstone Police HQ with Police Commissioner Ann Barnes, Parish Chairs, Sean Holden, Helen Grant MP and Speedwatch representatives. PD attended with the Assistant Clerk. It was a good opportunity to express the Parishes views. As mentioned earlier a working group is to be set up. SH looking at funding flashing signs and speed guns. The Speedwatch group has asked if the Parish Council would fund notices in and out of the village saying Please Drive Carefully or Thank You for Driving Carefully. These would cost £500.00 each; they would need four of these. KCC are happy for local councils to fund but they would install. AH asked if there was any evidence if this would reduce speeding. The general view was only enforcement would stop the speeding nothing else. It was decided not to fund the signs, but the mobile van coming to the village should enforce the speed limits.

5.5 Footpath sign – MR gave a detailed update. He has contacted KCC Footpath Officer who has been very helpful and he is organising a meeting with him to discuss further. He explained that alternative locations are Budgens Supermarket where the old sign use to be, on the Dunks Almshouses railings or next to the existing Parish notice boards. The Manager at Budgens was very helpful and has no objections for it to be put where the old one was, the Clerk to the Dunks Trustees has mentioned to the Trustees and we are awaiting their response and further communications with KCC are required if we did decide to put it next to the existing notice boards as the new board would need to be cemented into the pavement.

The next consideration is the frame, we would now need a hardwood frame possibly American Whitewood; initial quotes are between £700.00 and £900.00. Assistant Clerk is to join the Parish Council as a member of Ordinate Survey so that we can down load there maps for free. Laminating costs would be about £200.00. Costs have increased from the original mandate. MR asked should he still go ahead on this basis. PD proposed and seconded by BF that cost up to £900.00 maximum is approved. This was unanimously agreed. BF knows a local carpenter who had done work for the Parish Council before; he will give MR the details so he can obtain a third quote.

It was agreed that MR would continue and report again at the next meeting

5.6 Hawkhurst Community Trust. Whitehead Monckton has been instructed to complete the initial work as agreed at the last meeting to a budget of £500.00

6. Reports of Committee Chairmen

6.1 Buildings. Meeting held on 23rd BF updated members Risk signs have been put up in the Copt Hall & the Sports Hall. CCTV option is being investigated further. He had inspected Sports Hall found it is shabby to improve the situation a monthly window cleaner is to be arranged, a quote to paint inside and out is to be obtained. Broken urinal, strip lights and kitchen door are to be fixed. BF and Assistant Clerk have met with both Caretakers clarified their duties and are in the process of ordering a new hoover for the Sports Hall, to make cleaning more efficient and regular meeting with the Caretakers are to take place so we have an opportunity to discuss any issues that arise. Victoria Hall & benches there is nothing to report. Streetlighting our contractor has nearly finished up grading the lights to Phosco lanterns and the repair of the lamp post knocked down on the corner of Talbot road is underway. PD was concerned about the state of the sign at the Parish Office, as it is rotten. PD proposed that a quote for a new sign is obtained. Assistant Clerk to get a quote. This was unanimously agreed.

6.2 Land. No meeting had taken place, next meeting 23rd March. MA mentioned the rotten climbing pole that had now been made safe. Assistant Clark is chasing contractor who installed it for a report as to when it will be repaired.

6.3 F&GP. PD no meeting has taken place. Asset Register is underway ahead of this year's audit.

6.4 Personnel. Good news it was reported that the Clerk is recovering well after a recent operation and should start back at work for a few hours each week shortly.

6.5 Fete. All costs paid out for the Christmas Festival have been repaid. GD reported that The Christmas

Hawkhurst Parish Council

- 6.6 festival had made a £250.00 profit.
NDP. JN the brainstorming meeting to gather ideas for the Community Centre project has taken place and notes are available for the public to see. First Committee meeting had taken place. The timeline for meetings, workshops and visioning events has been worked out, and are detailed in the minutes from this first meeting, the 26th – 28th May have been chosen for one session so that school children can attend as it's half term. Julia to email Assistant Clerk the minutes for circulation
7. **Matters for further discussion**
- 7.1 Bond maturity - (please see item 8.1). The bond is due to mature later this month with Cambridge & Counties Bank, it is for £60k and the rate of credit interest paid is 1.7%. GD has research the options. We are currently holding £113k in the deposit account for a rainy day. GD proposed and seconded by MB that we add a bit more to it up to £85k for another year at the same rate 1.7%. This was unanimously agreed.
- 7.2 South East in Bloom after a general discussion it was felt it would be best for one person to take ownership of this as a project rather than the land committee but no one came forward. GD suggested a lady may be interested who attended the Community Centre meeting but he didn't know her name. PD to investigate to see if he can find out who she is and ask if she would like to be involved.
- 7.3 Village Speeding Signs (please see matters for further discussion above)
- 7.4 Bowles Lodge site – PD said that an up date from West Kent Housing Association has been received they have put forward the first choice as was requested for the new building to be called Bowles Lodge but they felt Herschel House as the second choice could not be put forward as it could be difficult name to spell and pronounce they have suggested Skies instead. Assistant Clerk has asked to be given the details of the person at TWBC they have been speaking to so that she can explain why we chose Herschel House and that we do not think Skies is suitable.

8: Correspondence

	Date Received	From	Subject	Action
1	19/02/2015	Cambridge & Counties Bank	Maturity Notice Letter	Noted see item 7.1
2	20/02/2015	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	News letter and annual membership due to join from 1/04/15 to 31/3/2016	Renew membership agreed
3	23/02/2015	M A Winn	Estimate to paint public area of the Parish Office	Noted- buildings Committee have agreed work should commence
4	27/02/2015	Audruicq	French invitation to event 21 st to 23 rd March	Assistant Clerk to send Thank You letter

Hawkhurst Parish Council

9: Finance

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FEBRUARY 2015

Accounts for payment	£	8,071.44
Payment received	£	1,889.26
	£	6,182.18

Net Expenditure

Cambridge & Counties Reserve	£	60,000.00
Lloyds Current	£	10,341.00
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	113,341.00
Petty Cash	£	210.35

9.2 Payments were examined and voted for unanimously

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

PJ said for information he has recently come across a local payroll firm should we ever need an alternative he has the details.

10. Planning

10.1 Planning & Highways Information:

PD said that the Parish Council had previously agreed to spend £5k to employ Judith Norris to prepared and submit a report by 12th March. Further work is needed and we need to consider whether a traffic survey would be a good idea? MA mentioned the crossroads should be considered. JN said that the NDP would be looking at traffic as part of its remit. PJ proposed and seconded by MB that in principle a traffic survey should be carried out after the cost had been agreed. This was unanimously agreed. Judith Norris has agreed to obtain quote and forward to the Parish Council for consideration. PD then explained that there are three options available and it was now up to the Members to decide the best way forward and to understand the associated costs involved. The options were as follows;

- o Employ a Barrister estimated costs are £20k
- o Employ Judith Norris to attend the Appeal costs approximately £2k per day.
- o The Parish Council and local people attend the appeal taking notes, and each talking on a topic as they arise and retain Judith Norris so we can ask her advice if required.

After discussing the options above PD proposed and seconded by BW that the Parish Council and residents attend the appeal and speak as appropriate, with the assistance of Judith Norris when required is the way forward rather than employing a barrister or consultant to do this work. Vote eleven for and one abstain.

10.1.2 Communications with Tunbridge Wells Planning Department –

PD has still not received a reply or acknowledgement regarding his letter to Jane Lynch Head of Planning at TWBC concerning the

Hawkhurst Parish Council

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. He felt that the views of the Parish had been ignored, no reply received and no explanation had been received as to why they had approved this application. BW said that she was aware that Ron Weeden had received an apology from TWBC Planning Department saying that unfortunately the case officer had not followed the correct procedure so this is how it got approved. No apology has been received at the Parish Office. PD is to ask the Clerk to take legal advice regarding this matter.

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments
14/503346/FULL PINS reference: APP/M2270/A/ 14/2228680	Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate Proposal: Residential development comprising 62 dwellings, access, parking, garages and car barns, hard and soft landscaping. PLEASE NOTE: This appeal is linked to PINS reference: APP/M2270/A/14/2228680 Comments due by 12 th March	Land To West Of Lorenden Park And The White House Highgate Hill, Hawkhurst, Kent.	It was agreed that the Parish Council's objection letter would be submitted by 12 th March.
	TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION ON THE SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (DPD) MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY TO MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015 - comments due 23rd March		It was agreed that the Parish Council's would submit a response by 23rd March
13/01428/FULL PINS reference: M2270/A/14/2 218174	Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate Demolition of existing buildings associated with disused garage workshop and petrol station; Construction of 8 No. new dwellings PLEASE NOTE - CHANGE OF PROCEDURE. This Appeal will now be dealt with by the Inquiry Procedure. Comments due by 31 March 2015.	Station Garage Gills Green Hawkhurst	It was agreed that the Parish Council's would submit comments for appeal to support this application

10.2 Planning TWBC Approved:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid
14/504010/FULL	Retrospective - Works to listed building and detached garage	Lower Conghurst Oast and Ragstone Barn Conghurst Lane	
14/506255/FULL	Single Storey Side extension for WCs and extended restaurant	The Great House, Wellington Road	
14/505678/FULL	Minor Material Amendment to 13/02764 to increase the width of the northern	Frith Farm, Park Lane	

Hawkhurst Parish Council

	part of the building, add 3 dormer windows, amend windows, provide 2nd floor and basement accommodation		
14/506827/FULL	Proposed two storey side extension to existing house, replacement garage and re cladding of existing porch and annex structures.	Lillesden Frith, Horns Road	Please see comments above item 10.1.2

10.3 Planning TWBC Refused:

Ref. No.	Proposal	Location	Comments/Valid

10.4 Planning Applications

No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
81	15/500666/FULL	1 1/2 -storey side annexe extension to existing chalet bungalow	Location Herons Court, Horns Road	The council has concerns about the size of extension as the proposal is for an increase of 50% more of the original floor area.	Agree	8	4		
82	14/506864/FULL	Change of use from Parish Office, meeting room and chapel maisonette	All Saints Lodge Rye Road	It was noticed that although the application was professionally prepared there were a few mistakes these were it wasn't clear it is a conversion to 1 bed flat not maisonette, the number of new bedrooms is 2 not 1 and the correct number of existing bedrooms is 5.	Agree	10		2	
83	15/500867/FULL	Construction of new detached dwelling	Adjacent Hensil Barn, Talbot Road	The council has concerns about the size of the building and that there is no provision for vehicle turning.	Against	2	8	2	Yes
84	15/500728/FULL	Change of use of land from builders yard to residential parking	Builders Yard behind Lacombe School Terrace		Agree	11		1	
85	15/500780/FULL	Demolition of existing buildings associated with disused garage workshop and petrol station and	Station Garage Gills Green	Good design, no additional green space ruined	Agree	All			

Hawkhurst Parish Council

No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Comments	Decision	Agree	Against	Abstain	Plan Cttee
		construct 6 new dwelling							
86	14/505898/FULL	Single storey extension to south elevation	Cockshot Bran Highgate Hill		Agree	11		1	
87	15/500753/FULL	Retrospective application for the erection of a boundary fence over 1m high adjacent to Water Lane	Pauls Farm, Water Lane	The Council felt that if would be more appropriate if the fence was painted green so it could blend in to the countryside better	Against	1	9	2	
88	15/500816/FULL	Change of use of land from B1 to B2 to allow continuing use of the building and parcel of land for scaffolding storage	Pauls Farm, Water Lane		Agree	7	3	2	
89	15/501235/FULL	Creation of outer lobby to rear and insertion of second floor dormer window to west Elevation	1 Ford Villas Highgate Hill		Agree	All			

10 Burials and Memorial

Interment Date	Deceased	
12/02/2015	Mr. Leon Allen - Eslor	Burial
03/02/2015	Mrs. Sylvia Catherine Rust	Burial

12 Notes and Information

	Date	from	subject
1	13/02/2015	Woodberry of Leamington Spa	2015 Brochure

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 13th April 2015 commencing at 19:45.

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

Peter Dartnell, Chairman of the Parish Council.

