

Hawkhurst Parish Council

Meeting: Full Council

Date 20th December 2018

Copt Hall

Ref: RG/06/18

Present: Mrs. J Newman (Chairman), Ms. C Escombe (Vice Chairman), Mr. J Hunt, Mr. M Appelbe, Mr P Whittle, Mr. P Jones, Mrs. J Pyne, Mr. M Taylor Smith and Mrs. B Weeden.

Additional circulation

Mr. S Holden, Mrs. B Palmer, Mr. P Thomson and Mr. G Bland.

Agenda item 1. Adjournment for public speaking

Agenda Item 2. Apologise for Absence

- 2.1 Cllrs Robertson, Blackman and Fitzpatrick all had prior engagements that could not be changed.

Agenda item 3. Declaration of interest

- 3.1. Cllr Newman asked Cllr Weeden if she should have declared a pecuniary interest regarding the planning consultant's report.
- 3.2 Cllr Weeden responded that she did not need to declare an interest as she did not know what was going to be in the Planning consultant's report.

AGENDA ITEM 4 APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING CONSULTANTS

- 4.1 Cllr Newman explained that TWBC planning had met with the Neighbourhood Development Group back in August 2018, however the meeting did not complete the whole of the agenda and they had not arranged a follow up workshop as promised. So it was felt that some independent professional advice was required to support Hawkhurst.
- 4.2 Cllr Newman explained that the Clerk had been seeking 3 quotes from planning consultants, initially we had one estimate and one quote. Then TWBC asked for another meeting, which was originally arranged for 19th January 2019 but this was then changed to the 3rd January 2019.
- 4.3 Cllr Newman stated that this had been mentioned at the Finance and General Purposes meeting 19th November 2018, however confirmation of the quotes did not happen until the 4th December 2018 so Full Council was informed on 10th December 2018.

- 4.4 Cllr Newman explained that the two quotes were: £5,000 plus costs and GIS mapping costs and another for £3,400 plus costs.
- 4.5 Cllr Newman explained that due to time pressures caused by the change in meeting dates the work need to start immediately. It was decided in discussion with the Clerk that we could appoint up to delegated authority £500, to get the work started, and seek approval from Finance and General Purposes and ratification from Full Council, hence the meeting this evening.
- 4.6 Cllr Weeden asked why Council had not been informed before as the work had started in early November 2018.
- 4.7 Cllr Newman replied that Finance and General Purposes had been kept informed.
- 4.8 Cllr Weeden felt that Finance and General Purposes need to be reconstructed, Cllr Newman asked if Cllr Weeden would like to expand on this. Cllr Weeden felt that Finance and General Purposes were telling the Council what to do.
- 4.9 Cllr Newman explained that Finance and General Purposes could not make decisions only recommendations to Council.
- 4.10 Cllr Taylor-Smith asked how the specification had been drawn together. The Clerk explained it was initially based on one from Cranbrook but with added elements for Hawkhurst, such as emphasis on the Hawkhurst NDP.
- 4.11 Cllr Escombe emphasised that we clearly need the advice even if some people do not like the process of how we got here.
- 4.12 Cllr Taylor-Smith asked about the input / attendance of the Hawkhurst borough councillors at the meeting in January 2019? The Clerk explained that it was for the TWBC planning service to invite them, we had asked and would ask again.
- 4.13 Cllr Taylor –Smith felt the brief specification was at a high level review, could we see the draft report before the meeting with TWBC in January 2019. The Clerk explained that was the hope, but timescales were very tight.
- 4.14 Cllr Hunt asked who was attending from Hawkhurst Parish Council. Cllr Newman explained it was the same as August 2018, the Neighbourhood Development Group: Cllr Newman, Escombe, Chris and Joy Austen and the Clerk. However, Cllr Robertson was unavailable.
- 4.15 Cllr Hunt asked if he could join the group as it felt that Hawkhurst Parish Council was under represented. This was agreed and the Clerk would meet Cllr Hunt to brief him on the background.
- 4.16 Cllr Newman proposed and Cllr Escombe seconded that “Full Council support the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommendation to retrospectively appoint Kember Lowden and Williams for £3,400 plus costs as planning consultants to complete the works by 2nd January 2019.”

This was approved 7 for and 2 abstentions (Cllrs Weeden and Taylor Smith)

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

Agenda Notes for Members:

Item 3 on the Agenda, Declaration of Interests. If a Member has a prejudicial interest, this should be declared at the start of the meeting. Personal interests may be declared at this point or alternatively can be declared at the time when the specific item is being discussed, if a Member wishes to speak on an item in which s/he has a personal interest. Members in doubt about such a declaration are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer before the date of the meeting. This may also be used by Members to advise the Council of any relevant changes that may have occurred since they first completed the register of interests.

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

Julia Newman, Chairman of the Parish Council.