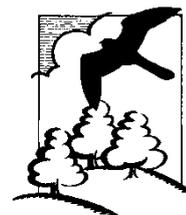


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES – 14th April 2020

**Tuesday 14th April 2020 commencing at 19:45pm
ZOOM**

Present: Cllr Escombe, Cllr Taylor-Smith, Cllr Green, Cllr Whittle, Cllr Cory, Cllr Weeden, Cllr Pyne and Cllr Blake (Cllr Appleby joined later)

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i) Update from KCC Member Sean Holden noted the work of KCC support communities and service – recent order for PPE for care homes for instance. Also, noted that the draft work on doing some robust traffic modeling was progressing but still had concerns that it would consider cumulative impacts and how robust it would be. Cllr Taylor Smith felt this should be led by Cllr Holden as Portfolio Holder and has an impact on air quality, which is criminal law. Cllr Holden explained he is Chairman of the Highways Committee that scrutinises reports and makes recommendations to Cabinet – Cllr Paine was the KCC portfolio holder
- ii) Update from TWBC Member Beverly Palmer glad to see food waste collected this week as there have been problems in the past, fly tipping has not increased and would chase up air quality monitoring.
- iii) Cranbrook Rd / Hearten oak junction – Cllr Holden noted that an agreement on the works had been reached just prior to lockdown – will follow up after lockdown when will be actioned.

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Jones, Cllr Fitzpatrick, Cllr Lusty and Cllr Hunt due to technical issues.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: *To receive notice of personal interests, whether of a prejudicial nature or otherwise, in respect of items on this agenda, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.*

Cllr Whittle – planning application 98

Cllr Weeden – planning application 98

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Green seconded the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2020 – agreed unanimously.

4.2 Note other committees have been cancelled

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NA

- i) **Fowlers Car Park** – Cllr Taylor-Smith noted that the hedge had been cut and area needs a litter pick but no other progress – will chase up in due course.
- ii) **Winchester House Streetlight** – Clerk to chase up with Cllr Fitzpatrick.
- iii) **Update on the Hawkhurst NDP** – Cllr Escombe noted that the revised Hawkhurst NDP is recommended for approval at TWBC Cabinet meeting this Thursday.

Cllr Taylor-Smith noted the Cabinet meeting is being live streamed

Cllr Palmer will lobby for approval.

- iv) **Red Oak planning application** – Cllr Escombe noted the residents and Council concern about the developer removing trees without detailed planning approval and awaits the planning committee.
- v) **Update on Hawkhurst Parish Council Judicial Review of White House planning application** – Cllr Escombe updated the Council that on the 17th March 2020 the Court agreed that there was a significant case to answer and that the case should proceed to High Court. Note that 75% of case get turned down and do not go to High Court. We await a date for the High Court hearing.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
94	20/00434/TPO	Trees: HORSE CHESTNUT (T1) - Raise lower canopy to a height of 2.5m over pavement and up to 5m over the road, trim branches encroaching T2 by 1.5m, remove any deadwood; YEW (T2) - Cut ivy at base and partly remove, light trim of 20%, maximum reduction on any given branch will be less than 50cm; HORSE CHESTNUT (T3) - Raise lower canopy by 2.5m around the tree and up to 5m over the road, remove any deadwood; YEW (T4) - Raise lower canopy to 2.5m over pavement and 5m over road; HORSE CHESTNUT (T5) - Raise lower canopy to 2.5m and where it overhangs road to 5m, cut upper branches back by approximately 2m; YEW (T6) - Raise lower canopy to 2.5m, tree cut to a height of 2.5m and roadway to 5m; YEW	Rioja Talbot Road Hawkhurst Kent TN18 4NL

		(T7) - Raise lower canopy to 2.5m and 2.5m over pathway and over roadway to a height of 5m; YEW (T8) - Raise lower canopy and trimming of side branches, shortening back by approximately 50cm, leaf reduction of approximately 20%	
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Background:

These trees do overhang the pavement/road and works is recommended by a tree surgeon.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC **supports** this application.

Vote: Supports unanimously Objects 0 abstain 0

Decision: Supports application

95	20/00821/FULL	Use and laying out as a car park with a new access to Limes Grove; surfacing, landscaping, security low level lighting and CCTV, and pedestrian access to the Business Park along its existing emergency/service access drive to Limes Grove.	Limes Grove Oast Limes Grove Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5AE
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Background:

Parking for 94 cars. Propose surface is a cellular confinement system with stone. At present, it appears from Google Maps that grass has reclaimed this land and it looks to all intents and purposes like a field. Will be adding lighting. The existing farm gate will be retained as a pedestrian access. New access for vehicles - no details on barrier - will it look too industrial? Staff will be required to access from Limes Grove off Cranbrook Road. New access will require removal of some of the hedge/trees - no tree survey or information on this. Propose to plant a new native hedge to northern boundary to screen as this is currently open. No ecology surveys. One objection from a resident who noted that a previous application for parking on this land was refused in 2012 (this was for far fewer cars - 25 and was only for overflow use). The appraisal in 2012 indicated that this land had reverted to a greener, more natural appearance, and that the character and appearance of the AONB would be affected if it were used for overflow parking. Refusal was recommended due to detrimental impact on the AONB, the site being outside the LBD, a detrimental impact on the rural nature of the lane and on adjoining residential amenities. None of this has changed and the current proposal would have considerably more impact. March's Field is allocated within the draft local plan as a site to be safeguarded for employment use, meaning it could be released at the five-year review if it proved necessary. Given that the land to the south of Hawkhurst business park is allocated in the draft local plan and could therefore be used to accommodate parking as part of the expansion of the business park, it seems unnecessary to develop March's Field at this time.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC recognises the importance of supporting local business and this is line with CM4 of the NDP, which supports the development of an employment hub at Gills Green. However, this proposal will result in what is effectively a field being turned into a car park, which risks having a significant impact on the AONB. Indeed, this was the conclusion of TWBC planning officers in 2012 when a previous application for overflow parking was refused. The 2012 application was for fewer spaces and did not require a new entrance. In addition, we have concerns about the amount and speed of traffic in the area and that the speed sign may need relocating if application is approved.

HPC welcomes the proposal to plant native hedgerow to screen the field to the north. However, we have concerns over the addition of lighting and the impact it will have on wildlife. In particular, we note that the current lighting proposals exceed TWBC recommendations.

In the absence of tree and ecological surveys, and a more considered assessment of the impact on the AONB, HPC **objects** to this application.

Vote: Supports 0 Objects unanimously abstain 0

Decision: Objects to application

96	20/00929/ENVSCR	EIA Screening Opinion - Use and laying out as a car park with a new access to Limes Grove; surfacing, landscaping, security low level lighting and CCTV, and pedestrian access to the Business Park along its existing emergency/service access drive to Limes Grove	Limes Grove Oast Limes Grove Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 5AE
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As above.

Vote: Supports 0 Objects unanimously abstain 0

Decision: Objects to application

97	20/00909/FULL	Redevelopment of existing stable block to create annexe accommodation	Skelcrosse Horns Hill Hawkhurst Kent TN18 4XD
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Background:

We looked at an application for this back in October and objected because we felt that it was too big to be a modest addition to the host house. It was withdrawn by the applicant. This application fits within the existing footprint of the stable block and includes a garden store rather than just an annexe. This is one bedroom, with a kitchen/dining/living area.

Comments and Recommendation:

This revised application is a more modest addition to the host house. The annexe should remain part of the house and not a separate dwelling. HPC **supports** this application.

Vote: Supports unanimously Objects 0 abstain 0

Decision: Supports application

98	20/00856/ENVSCR	EIA Screening Opinion - Development of approximately 73 dwellings, including car and cycle parking, sustainable drainage, internal road network and a new access	OS Plot 3100 Fieldways Hawkhurst Kent
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Decision made that EIA screening not required.

Decision: not required

99	20/00811/SUB	Submission of Details in Relation to Conditions 4 (Manufacturers Details for Glazed Screens and Doors) of 19/03394/LBC	Beals Green Farm Heartenoak Road Hawkhurst Kent TN18 5EU
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Supported by conservation officer.

Vote: Supports unanimously Objects 0 abstain 0

Decision: Supports application

100	20/00784/SUB	Submission of Details in Relation to Condition 25 (Footpath Details) of 18/02165/FULL	Land to The East of Heartenoak Road Hawkhurst Kent
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No objections.

Vote: Supports unanimously Objects 0 abstain 0

Decision: Supports application

101	20/00623/PNPA	Prior Notification for a proposed change of use from light industrial (Class B1©) to eight dwelling houses (Class C). For its prior approval to: Transport and highways impacts The sustainability of storage, distribution or industrial services in the area. Contamination risk Flooding risks	Delmonden Farm, Horns Hill, Hawkhurst TN18 4XD
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Background:

This is a Notification for Prior Approval, not a planning application and there is no statutory requirement to consult HPC. Any development would still require planning permission. However, it has been brought to our attention by local residents. Development is not permitted by Class PA if the building is a listed building or is within the curtilage of a listed building Delmonden Farm House is a listed building. The heritage statement argues that the farm buildings aren't within the curtilage of the Delmonden Farm House. This argument is questionable. The only relevant factors in this case are the four points outlined above. There are 10 objections from residents mainly raising concerns about highway safety, but also AONB etc. There is also one comment neither objecting or supporting, but requesting that Highways considers this application. At present the Highways response is that this application does not warrant Highways involvement.

Comments and Recommendation:

Transport & Highways - we disagree with the argument that the proposed residential use would be likely to result in a reduction in vehicle movements at the site. It is evident from the statements that these units are used a few days a week at best. Therefore, an additional eight houses in a location where it is essential to drive to reach any facilities will result in increased traffic movements at this junction. It is also misleading to suggest that the current use of the site results in regular trips by HGVs. The exit from Horns Hill onto Delmonden Lane is right beside the busy junction of Delmonden Lane and the A229. This is a blind corner. The absence of pavements on the north of Horns Road means that this corner is the only place pedestrians can cross to get to the post box and also to access the PROW which runs along Horns Hill and through the application site. It is impossible for pedestrians to cross at a point with good visibility, when crossing from Horns Road to Delmonden Lane/Horns Hill. This must be considered when making any decision relating to highways safety. This is not a sustainable location - any future residents will have no choice but to drive to access facilities (as noted by the Inspector who determined the Sherards appeal, which is significantly closer to the village centre than this site). There is no consideration of the cumulative impact on the Hawkhurst crossroads. The view of HPC is that prior approval should be required on Transport and Highways grounds. At the very least, KCC Highways should be asked to consider this application.

HPC has serious concerns regarding the access and increase in traffic in the area, the bend is a blind bend and dangerous already without increased traffic.

HPC believe that this application should follow proper process and that KCC Highways must comment – **Supported unanimously**

6.2 Planning information on file – The comments on Springfield appeal are attached.

7 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 Remote meeting protocol – Councillor Taylor-Smith introduced the report that is based on National Association Local Council guidance and links into the Parish standing orders – same dates / times etc. He also noted that this an evolution and is a learning process and further updates may be required as we progress.

Cllr Appleby commented that the remote meeting was well organised.

Cllr Taylor Smith proposed and Cllr Green seconded that the remote meeting protocol be adopted – approved unanimously

7.2 HCSG update report – Cllr Escombe introduced the report and gave a further update on HCSG and how impressed we all are with the volunteer’s skills, professionalism and drive, special mention to Adrian Cory and Richard Tyrie who were key in the setting up of the procedures and online portal. Now a network of 190 volunteers doing mix of roles and supporting 130 residents. Local businesses have made great efforts with flexibility and to support with donations of local apples, Easter Eggs, transport and PPE.

This shows that Hawkhurst is a thriving community supporting each other.

The Challenges are the payments - as some are reluctant to use or unable to use modern technology and some vulnerable people are not heeding government advice.

Cllr Blake – recognised the great work being done but was aware some people are concerned about the payments

The report was noted and our thanks to all volunteers it was agreed that we need to do more to emphasise the payment options and promote the scheme to the vulnerable.

7.3 Actions and Decisions since 18th March 2020 – Clerk explained that this was a list of actions and decisions taken under Delegated Powers in Consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Note Cllr Taylor Smith is researching remote working as a way forward.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Green seconded to approve the actions and decisions in the report. – Approved unanimously

7.4 TWBC – Parish Fund – Cllr Escombe explained that TWBC has £35,000 to be divided between 16 parishes and that over the years a number of schemes have been proposed but no agreement reached. TWBC are proposing that this funding is used as a hardship fund and this requires 2/3 of Parishes to agree.

It would mean £2,765 to Hawkhurst.

Cllr Weeden agreed that we should access the funding for those in need in Hawkhurst rather than leaving it sitting in TWBC coffers.

Cllr Appleby agreed.

Cllr Weeden proposed and Cllr Appleby seconded that we agree to using the TWBC Parish Fund as a hardship fund – approved unanimously.

7.5 Move 18th May 2020 Council meeting back to 11th May 2020 and dates of future meetings - Clerk explained that the May Council meeting date was changed due to the Parish Elections – however as these were deferred for a year the following Council meeting dates are proposed

Monday 11th May 2020 – 7:45pm

Monday 8th June 2020 – 7:45pm

Monday 13th July 2020 – 7:45pm

As limited activity is happening, also proposed that Committees remain cancelled and matters are reported to Council

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded the above – approved unanimously

8 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES – NA

9. FINANCE:

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure, noted

Accounts for payment	£	10,345.13	to 31.03.20
Payment received	£	6,411.32	to 28.02.20
Net Expenditure	-£	3,933.81	
Cambridge & Counties	£	86,786.66	to 30.04.19
Cambridge Building Society	£	75,527.15	to 31.12.19
Lloyds Current	£	10,000.00	to 31.03.20
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	120,299.31	to 31.03.20

9.2 Agreement to pay payments schedules

March 2020

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the payments schedule for March 2020 – agreed unanimously

April 2020

Cllr Escombe noted that the grant funding for VE Day should be held back as the event had been cancelled

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the payments schedule for 1st April – 14th April 2020 with the above amendment – agreed unanimously

10. CORRESPONDENCE – see file

No	Date	From	Issue

11. NOTES & INFORMATION – see file

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS

Date	Name	Interment
11.3.2020	Mr. Goodwin	Burial

13. CONFIDENTIAL: NA

CLOSURE: meeting closed at 20:51

Signed Chairman of the Council.....