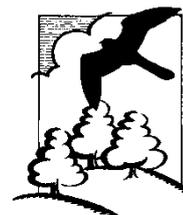


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes – 8th June 2020

Present: Cllr Escombe (Chairman) Cllr Taylor –Smith (Vice Chairman) Cllr Green, Cllr Whittle, Cllr Cory, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Pyne, Cllr Appelbe, Cllr Lusty and Cllr Weeden

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i. Update from Cllr Palmer TWBC Ward Member noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee met – very large agenda – would welcome proposed items in future. Also attended a briefing about Air Quality. Apologized but cannot attend the Red Oak Planning Committee meeting.
- ii. Update from Cllr Thomson TWBC Ward Member noted the powers of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were limited and that he was unable to attend the briefing on air quality but was aware of the situation.
- iii. Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – chase up after COVID 19

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Jones, Cllr Fitzpatrick and Cllr Blake – 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 Escombe – planning application 6

Cllr Green planning application 9

Cllr Weeden and Whittle – planning application 7

Cllr Appelbe – item 7.2

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 4.1 Approval
 - i) Cllr Escombe requested an amendment, that Cllr Lusty was present (but could not vote) and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2020, proposed by Cllr Taylor-Smith and seconded by Cllr Whittle – approved unanimously.
- 4.2 To note other Committees except Community Centre Working Group have been cancelled

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – NA

- i) **White House Judicial Review** – Cllr Escombe clarified that the High Court hearing date is the 28th / 29th July 2020 – maybe at the High Court or virtually.
- ii) **Hartley development** – Although in Cranbrook our comments have been circulated and submitted and now on TWBC website.
- iii) **Park Farm (20/01068/LBC)** – Comments circulated for input, submitted and on TWBC website
- iv) **Ockley / Hartenoak Rd application appeal** – Cllr Escombe has circulated for comments and will be submitted tomorrow
- v) **Speeding** – Cllr Escombe noted that the speeding item at the last meeting had raised numerous emails / comments. Cllr Cory explained that we were lobbying TWBC / KCC / Police and Kent and Medway Camera Partnership for positive change. A resident asked about making Whites Lane access only. Cllr Cory noted the comment and will bring a paper to the next Council meeting.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
5	20/01240/FULL	Application for flexible commercial use of a 20m by 40m area of land that is currently used for agricultural machinery/vehicles to park 5 x Hgv and 1 x large trailer as well as the agricultural machinery and firmed with crushed concrete and road planings.	Tubslake Farm Water Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5AP

Background:

Proposal is to use land to park 5 x HGV & trailer as a nominated operating centre for the vehicles, plus the current agricultural machinery. This would be a change to commercial use. Ground is currently dirt/mud.

Comments and Recommendation:

Hawkhurst Parish Council has serious reservations about this application as it would result in increased use of Water Lane by HGVs. This would also impact on the junction of the A229 and Water Lane. There have been numerous accidents on the A229 north of Hawkhurst and an application which would result in additional HGVs maneuvering in and out of this junction would be detrimental to road safety. The rest of Water Lane is also equally if not more unsuitable for use by HGVs.

This part of Water Lane is the route of the Wealden Cycle Trail. It appears that the PROW runs through the entrance to the proposed lorry park. Currently, there is an emphasis on encouraging walking and cycling. Policies AM3 and AM4 of the NDP are intended to improve countryside access, for both walkers and cyclists. This proposal would make both activities more dangerous and therefore does not comply with the NDP.

It does not seem that any consideration has been given to the impact on the AONB. It is therefore contrary to LP1 and LP2 of the NDP.

Hawkhurst Parish Council **objects** to this application. If TWBC is minded to approve this application, HPC considers it essential that a condition be applied that HGVs can only access this site from the A229.

Vote

Support 0 Object 10 Abstain 0

Decision: Object to the application

6	20/01304/FUL	Material change of use of a section of former agricultural land to provide a garden extension to the residential curtilage of Sherard House (Retrospective)	Paddock Adj Sawyers Horns Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

Retrospective application. Recent application to build a house on this land was refused by TWBC and the decision was upheld at Appeal.

Comments and Recommendation:

Generally, Hawkhurst Parish Council does not support agricultural land being reclassified as residential. As agricultural land grade 3, this is defined as higher quality and "should be retained as agricultural land" (paragraph 7.9, NDP). Therefore, this application does not comply with the NDP.

Furthermore, we are somewhat concerned by the supporting statement's reference to this site forming part of the urban development that extends out along Horns Road. This is a rural location on the outskirts of the village. Indeed, the recent appeal decision relating to this site stated the "site is in the countryside outside the Limits to Built Development" and described it as being "situated in an attractive rural location within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)."

Cllr Taylor-Smith raised the point if this was retrospective is there any point in objecting? Cllr Escombe felt that to be consistent, as this goes against our NDP, we should object. Cllr Whittle felt this was a step in seeking further properties at the site as a previous new house application had been refused and if granted a covenant should be placed to retain the garden with the existing house.

Hawkhurst Parish Council **objects** to this application. If TWBC are minded to approve then a covenant to retain the garden as part of the existing house should be a condition.

Vote

Support 1 (Cllr Hunt) Object 8 Abstain 1 (Cllr Lusty)

Decision: Object to the application

7	20/01315/FULL	Proposed pair of semi-detached houses to replace existing dwelling	Orleigh Copthall Avenue Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 4LR
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Background:

The application is for two 4-bedroom 2.5 storey houses to replace one 3 bed bungalow. Planning consent was granted in 2017 and is due to expire on 11th July 2020. The previous permission was granted prior to the NDP. This application differs only in terms of external materials. The application has only just gone on the planning portal this week and, as yet, there are no comments from residents. The original application had 7 objections from residents.

Comments and Recommendation:

This application complies with the NDP in that it is for one additional dwelling and makes use of previously developed land (HD1a). Copthall Avenue includes a houses and bungalows in a variety of styles and materials; however, these are all detached properties. There is a requirement in the NDP that new dwellings should reference the local context (7.31). We note that the third-floor accommodation is within the roof, but have concerns that these two houses might look overly bulky and impact on nearby properties.

The proposal does not comply with HD2 of the NDP, which identifies a need for starter homes and homes for an ageing population. Indeed, the loss of a 3-bed bungalow to be replaced by two 4-bed houses is completely at odds with this policy. Indeed, HD3 actively

encourages the provision of bungalows. HD3 also requires consideration to be given to the storage of bicycles, as well as waste and recycling bins. This proposal leaves very little room to provide this storage. Within the NDP, there is an expectation that housing designs should promote the efficient use of water, electricity and energy. It is not clear that this has been considered within this design.

The use of traditional materials such as bricks and tiles complies with HD4.

The proposed parking arrangements are inadequate for houses of this size. Copthall Avenue already has significant parking issues. The proposal does not comply with HD4 of the NDP, which requires car parking to be discreet. We also have serious doubts about whether it would actually be physically possible for two cars to manoeuvre into and out of these parking spaces given the narrowness of Copthall Avenue.

We note the proposal to remove three trees. Hawkhurst's policy for Trees and Hedgerows requires three replacement trees for each tree removed. The plans indicate that this would not be possible on this site. Therefore, the HPC requests that alternative arrangements are made for nine trees to be planted within the parish.

Hawkhurst Parish Council **objects** to this application.

Vote

Support 1 (Cllr Hunt) Object 6 Abstain 3 (Cllr Lusty, Cllr Whittle and Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Object to the application

8	20/01328/TDD	Dead and Dangerous Tree Notification: To reduce row of trees/overgrown hedge alongside tennis court to hedge height; BEECH - Reduce some of the heavy branches; OAK - Remove	Sports Pavilion King George V Playing Fields The Moor Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 4QB
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Hawkhurst Parish Council **supports** this application. But can't comment as it is on Council land.

9	20/01172/FULL	Subdivision of Flat 16 on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors to form two new units - internal alterations only, no additional alterations to the external appearance of the building; proposed	Lillesden Park, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook,
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		cycle and bin stores and additional 2 no. parking spaces (Part Retrospective)	TN18 4QG
<p>Background: This will result in an additional 3-bed flat.</p> <p>Comments and Recommendation: Given that there will be no external changes to the building, HPC supports this application. However, this site has had a problematic history with non-compliance with a range of planning conditions. The new buildings were granted permission as an enabling development - to support the restoration of the listed main house and grounds. The supporting documents claim that the restoration work has been completed. However, this is not the case, there remain multiple conditions either not complete, or ignored or incorrectly done. These range from something simple such as the requirement to move the traffic speed signs along Hastings Road, work to the listed parkland and trees, restoration of stone walls etc. We would urge TWBC to properly enforce conditions before approving this change.</p> <p>Vote Support 7 Object 0 Abstain 3 (Cllr Lusty, Cllr Weeden and Cllr Green)</p> <p>Decision: Support this application</p>			

6.2 Planning information – Red Oak planning application going to TWBC planning committee this Wednesday – Cllr Escombe will be speaking on behalf of HPC and Cllr Pyne speaking as a resident.

7. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 Actions and Decisions since 11th May 2020 – The Clerk introduced the report and highlighted that several items would be coming to the next Council meeting plus that the KGV sports pavilion was now being used by the Post Office and Community Hub.

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Cory seconded that the actions and decision be approved – agreed unanimously

7.2 Connecting with resident’s report – The Clerk introduced the report and started by thanking Cllr Appelbe for all his hard work leading, editing, publishing the Village Magazine over the years. However, the Village Magazine has gone into abeyance and as a one off the parish will produce a Parish Newsletter this summer – We have costed two options; 12 pages, 1,100 copies, colour - £273 or 8 pages 1,100 copies colour - £205

It is also an opportunity to review how we as a Council connect with residents.

Cllr Hunt emphasised the role that Cllr Appelbe had played over the years and that any Parish Magazine needed to be interesting (not just Council papers) and well published.

Cllr Escombe explained that this would be an opportunity to put forward many of the projects that we are progressing.

Cllr Taylor-Smith put forward the view that this was not a magazine but a newsletter – We could not have a Parish Assembly this year so this is an opportunity to highlight Council issues.

Cllr Escombe said we would also be highlighting the need for a new community editorial team for the Village Magazine.

Cllr Pyne asked about distribution – The Clerk explained that it would be through the major stores in the village but also on the website and social media.

Cllr Appelbe noted the importance of a community led magazine and continuity if possible.

Cllr Weeden felt a Parish Newsletter was need to keep residents updated.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Weeden seconded that

- we thank Cllr Appleby for all his hard work over the years in leading the Village Magazine
- the Parish Council does not engage in the editorial team of the new Village Magazine and produces an 8-page Parish Summer Newsletter £205 – July 2020
- Cllr Taylor-Smith, Cllr Green and Cllr Pyne to review the Council's Communication Policy and report to the SAP Committee in September 2020 and then on to Council on opportunities to improve connection with residents, business and visitors.

Agreed unanimously

7.3 Donation to War Memorial Fund – The Clerk explained that, following the sad passing of Mr. Westgate, Mrs. Westgate had requested donations should be made to the Hawkhurst War Memorial Fund. A total of £310 has been donated for which we are very grateful.

It is proposed £210 of the donations are spent on a “Silent Sailor” and the remaining £100 be set aside for projects to enhance the Hawkhurst War Memorial Fund. Mrs. Westgate supports this.

Cllr Hunt asked where would the “Silent Sailor” go – the Clerk explained that it could go by the War Memorial for Remembrance Weekend along with other memorials

Cllr Appelbe asked if it could go by the Church.

Cllr Escombe felt that the principle was the donations, we would be to liaise with Mrs. Westgate / Royal British Legion regarding location.

Cllr Pyne proposed and Cllr Cory seconded the following that;

- we accept £310 as income into the War Memorial Fund
- we agree to Mrs. Westgate's request that £210 is set aside for a "silent sailor"
- the remaining £100 of donations are ring fenced for supporting projects to improve Hawkhurst War Memorial Fund

Approved unanimously

7.4 Management of KGV Multi- Use Games Area – The Clerk introduced the report that this has been a long term aspiration of the Council and once the lines are painted we will be there – still chasing a date for the lines but expected before the end of June 2020. The management will focus on informal free use during the day and paid use during the winter evenings as clubs need lights and move off grass areas to practice. The court is cleaned daily and only training shoes are allowed. The proposed fees and charges have been benchmarked and are set out below

Junior local clubs and organisations	£8 per hour
Senior local clubs and organisations	£15 per hour
Junior clubs and organisations	£15 per hour
Senior clubs and organisations	£20 per hour
Hire for half term, day time sports course	£100 per week

Obviously with COVID 19 appropriate signage will be put up regarding use.

Cllr Pyne proposed and Cllr Green seconded the following

To note the report and agree the fees and charges below from 1st September 2020.

Junior local clubs and organisations	£8 per hour
Senior local clubs and organisations	£15 per hour
Junior clubs and organisations	£15 per hour
Senior clubs and organisations	£20 per hour
Hire for half term, day time sports course	£100 per week

Approved unanimously

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

8.1 Community Centre Working Group – Cllr Whittle gave verbal update;

External layout – option to relocate playground – but felt the original proposed location was best plus need to amend car park due to tree roots.

Internal layout focused on kitchen space and increase storage plus an internal second stairs rather than external fire escape.

Also update on professional fees and amend project plan as the process is taking longer due to the COVID 19 situation.

Further work is ongoing, regular meetings agreed and further updates to Council.

9. FINANCE:

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE MAY 2020 for FCM 08.06.2020

Accounts for payment	£	18,704.03	to 09.06.20
Payment received	£	21,862.90	to 29.05.20
Net Expenditure	£	3,158.87	
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 29.05.20
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	207,297.73	to 29.05.20

9.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule – Cllr Escombe questioned Wealden advertiser costs – Deputy Clerk explained that they were outstanding from some time ago. The Clerk requested could we add the Internal Auditors fees of £600 as they only just arrived.

Cllr Taylor- Smith proposed and Cllr Green seconded the payments schedule including the Internal Auditor's fees – approved unanimously

10. CORRESPONDENCE –

10.1 Numerous e-mails on speeding around Hawkhurst

10.2 Response of KMSCP – circulated to Cllrs

11. NOTES & INFORMATION

11.1 Legal papers circulated to Cllrs – item 5.i)

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS - NA

Date	Name	Interment
19.5.2020	Mrs. Wells	Burial

13. CONFIDENTIAL:

13.1 Kino Cinema – was discussed

13.2 Air quality – Air Quality in Hawkhurst was discussed

CLOSURE: 9:00pm

Signed Chairman.....