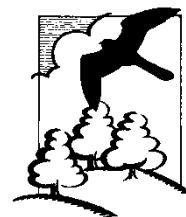


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES – 14th September 2020

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

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. A resident raised concerns about the lack of broadband speed that was undermining local business and residents alike. This especially impacts business in rural Hawkhurst which is currently 30% less than the national average and 20% less than the rural national average. Equally important is the upload speed which is less than 1% of the national target. This is a major issue in Hawkhurst that needs a coordinated approach. – see item 7.2
- b. A resident spoke in favour of Hawthorn Cottages planning application emphasises a number of points; he has lived in the village for a number of years, works in the village, needs the permission due to family concerns, that it is now in-line with the neighbouring properties and in fact improves the visual amenity views. Also concerned the Hawkhurst NDP does not recognise the importance of self-build homes as it is not referred in the NDP. (noted for review)
- c. A resident spoke about concerns about the lack of progress regarding the removal of car parking at Bedgebury – Park Lane. He has lived in the village for 40 years and regular used the Park Lane access for walks and cycling. Bedgebury had stated they would consult with Cranbrook and Hawkhurst Parish Council's but, have not – What is going to happen because this will become a "Fait accompli". (see item 5.ii)
- d. Update from KCC Member Cllr Holden emphasised the need to work on the Bedgebury Road / Park Lane issue and supported the Councils approach to a difficult problem. (see item 5.ii) Also that the KCC budget is under strain due to the COVID 19 pandemic – to the tune of £36million so far this year. KCC leader has raised concerns nationally about the cost to KCC of "unaccompanied children asylum seekers" – currently over 400 so far this year in Kent.
Kent has major concerns about the proposed changes in planning process – the presumption of approval for major developments, revised housing targets for the TWBC area (2016 was 6,000 and now proposed 18,000). It in effect removes the

local democratic input. The planning system is not at fault – over £1million planning approvals not been built. These proposed changes could have a major impact on Hawkhurst.

Update from TWBC Ward Member Cllr Palmer emphasised the need for the Parish to respond to the consultation on planning as may have serious consequences for Hawkhurst.

Also that TWBC meetings are moving back to evenings.

Cllr Cory asked about North Farm opening times and number of visits? Cllr Palmer will clarify and get back to the Clerk.

- i) Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – No update.

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Blake away and Cllr Green personal reasons

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 Weeden – all planning applications

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) To note amendment 5 iii) “write to Chief Executive not the Leader” Cllr Lusty then proposed and Cllr Fitzpatrick seconded – approved by majority of 10 – 0 as Cllr Jones abstained as not present.
- ii) The minutes of the Facilities and Services Committee 24th August 2020 and Strategy, Administration and projects Committee 17th August 2020 were noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i) **White House Judicial Review** (8.6.2020/5.1) – Cllr Escombe noted that still waiting for decision, but KCC and TWBC are referring to it in other planning application comments.
- ii) **Park Lane / Bedgebury** (13.7.2020/1.1) – The Clerk explained that discussions have taken place with Bedgebury, but not about consultation. It is suggested that we seek a Zoom meeting with:
Bedgebury, KCC officers and Cllr Holden, officers and a Cllr from TWBC, officers and Cllrs from Cranbrook and Hawkhurst. If we are proactive we may find a negotiated way forward. Cllr Appelbe volunteered to be the Hawkhurst Parish Council representative.
- iii) **Air Quality** (13.7.2020/7.6) – Cllr Escombe has circulated the letter to TWBC Chief Executive and is waiting a reply – will chase up AQMA consultation
- iv) **Walking and Cycling strategy** – (13.7.2020/7.8) – Cllr Cory updated the Council that accidents / KSI information from the Police FOI seemed to be different from other information. We need to be clear on the correct information. Also chase up speed awareness stickers with Community Speed Watch.

- v) **Business Recovery Plan** (13.7.2020/7.7) – Cllr Taylor-Smith noted the actions so far – Broadband see item 7.2, Hawkhurst Business Partnership have a draft constitution and aiming for a meeting in the near future to formalize group, Christmas obtaining HPC Christmas trees and HBP putting up lights aiming for launch on 5th December 2020 and aiming to promote in November 2020. Also considering bidding for CCTV – Cllr Holden felt TWBC should support with purchase of CCTV.
- vi) **VAT registration** (10.8.2020/7.2) – Started on 1st September – RFO to update to SAP
- vii) **Community Right to Bid** – (13.7.2020/7.9) - Clerk updated Council that a 4 submissions have been acknowledged by TWBC and a decision due in November 2020.
- viii) **Hawkhurst Sept Clean** (13.7.2020/ 7.10) – Cllr Pyne update the Council that the litter pick was a great success and about forty people including five children joined in with gusto to help clear the roads of a variety of rubbish. Cans to carpets to bottles bar b q's and much more. It's amazing what comes back in the bags. These await collection by TWBC.A big thank you to all who attended who did such a sterling job sadly too many to mention. It was also a social occasion and friendships were made. It's surprising who you can meet over a dustbin bag.
- ix) **Finance** – (13.7.2020/7.1) Online banking, Council credit card on track with Cllrs needing to activate – update to SAP
Additional bank account – Cllr Escombe led the debate on the proposal from the RFO
Cllr Appelbe asked about interest rates? Cllr Escombe emphasised the need for the extra bank account with access and some interest but could further research once new account opened.

Proposal

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded that:

1. Transfer £9k from Lloyds account to Cambridge Building Society
2. Transfer £50k in to another bank account with a different institution once our precept is received in September
3. To open a Yorkshire Building Society/Clydesdale Bank account

Approved unanimously

- i) **Heartenoak Recreation Ground** (10.8.2020/7.4) – Clerk explained the Cripps are acting on our behalf, have opened a client account, that a local surveyor is acting on our behalf to check the works / risk assessment etc and that Millwood Homes are covering all costs up front. – will email Councillors updates.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
20	20/02076/FULL	Erection of a pair of two bedroom semi-detached houses	Land Adjacent To No. 4 All Saints Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent

Background:

The site was previously had planning permission for 2 x 3-bed houses in 2013. This has lapsed. Comments from neighbours indicate that the approval was actually given for a larger site as land was incorrectly included in the application. There is also a suggestion that some of the land included in this application is not actually within the ownership of the applicant. This application is for 2 x 2-bed semi-detached. Three comments from neighbours: one objecting and two raising concerns.

Comments and Recommendation:

This site is within the LBD and within walking distance of facilities, therefore, despite not being PDL, it broadly complies with HD1(a) of the NDP. Being two-bedroomed, these properties are of the size required by HD2.

However, there is nothing to suggest that the applicant has considered the requirements of the NDP in terms of HD3 or HD4. HD3 requires the effective storage of waste and recycling bins as well as bicycles, none of which appears to have been considered, and may well prove challenging given the plot size. Within both HD3 and HD4, there is a requirement for local construction materials to be used. Furthermore, neither dwelling has a working chimney as required by the NDP (HD4). This proposal also does not appear to have addressed the requirement for efficient use of water, electricity and energy (HD3 & HD4).

Parking provision is a particular concern. Not only does the proposal fail to comply with the NDP in terms of car parking being discreet, but one space for each house is inadequate to meet the day-to-day needs of residents in Hawkhurst. There are limited employment opportunities within the village and limited public transport means that residents are reliant on private cars. Not only will this development result in additional parking on All Saints Road, but it will result in the loss of two on-street parking spaces, as vehicles currently park along the frontage of this plot.

HPC also shares the concerns raised by residents about the drainage, both in respect of foul drainage and the run-off of surface water, and access arrangements.

This application is problematic for HPC. On the one hand, it is for two reasonably small houses, within the LBD and in walking distance of facilities. It would, therefore, with appropriate attention to the design requirements of the NDP, make an appropriate addition to housing stock within the village.

However, we also have real concerns about the impact of this development on neighbouring

properties, particularly in terms of the water run-off.

We are also extremely concerned about the impact on the traffic through the crossroads. We appreciate that as a development of two houses it would be inappropriate to expect the applicant to have undertaken a transport assessment. However, HPC's view is that it is the cumulative impact on the crossroads that needs to be considered. This month alone, we have applications for six new dwellings within the village. KCC Highways response on this and other applications is that it does not warrant their involvement. Whilst this may well be the case for each application separately, it ignores the cumulative impact of each additional house. KCC Highways has already indicated that an additional 22 trips through the junction at peak times would amount to the residual cumulative impact on the road network being severe. However, this is not necessarily the threshold at which the impact would be considered to be severe. Therefore, we would request that TWBC satisfies itself that KCC Highways has properly considered the cumulative impact of each additional property.

On balance, HPC would **support** this application, with appropriate revisions to comply with HD3 and HD4, with the following provisos:

- the development results in no additional increase in surface water run-off
- there should be a condition attached that there should be no access to the site through Smugglers and that future residents cannot park in Smugglers
- KCC Highways confirm that their model of the Hawkhurst crossroads junction demonstrates that this development (together with any other current application where approval is recommended) does not result in a residual cumulative impact on the junction that would be considered severe.

Cllr Whittle was concerned about the lack of car parking.

Vote: Support 9, Against 1 (Cllr Whittle) Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Support

21	20/01984/FULL	Demolition of redundant buildings; provision of significant landscaping and ecological enhancements; conversion of buildings from a flexible commercial use falling within Class B8 (storage and distribution) to a single residential dwelling and detached garage	Hawkhurst Place Farm Rye Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

The proposal is to convert an existing barn to a 6-bed house. The plot is currently considered a commercial site rather than agricultural. The current agricultural use of the surrounding land is not reliant on the application site. There are no comments from neighbours, one of whom is the landowner.

Comments and Recommendation:

This is a small-scale development, one house, on a previously developed site. Whilst it is outside the LBD, it is within walking distance of facilities and, importantly, this is a level walk. The use of existing farm buildings suggests that this house will be effectively integrated within the existing settlement patterns. Therefore, this application complies with HD1(a) of the NDP.

HPC does have a number of reservations about this application. This proposal is for a 6-bed house and, therefore, does not address local housing needs as identified in HD2. There is no indication that any thought has been given to accessibility or how the property could be adapted to suit the future needs of occupants (HD3).

However, we note that this is re-using the structure of the existing barn and that the application indicates that the design will be energy efficient and as well as using some energy from renewable/low carbon sources. It was not clear to us what the extent of renewables would be, but we would encourage TWBC and the applicant to ensure that this is maximised. Designs to optimise the efficient use of water and conserve water (HD3 & HD4) should also be considered.

Our concerns about the impact on the Hawkhurst Place, which is listed, have been somewhat eased by the absence of comments from neighbours and the statement that the removal of other redundant buildings on the site would result in a reduction in built form of over 60%, whilst soft landscaping being used to improve the outlook for nearby residential properties.

We appreciate the effort that has been put into the work with Kent Wildlife Trust to enhance biodiversity, both in terms of the provision for wildlife and the attention to the landscaping through the provision of wildflower meadows, orchard etc. We would like reassurances that any external lighting used will meet the recommendations from the Bat Conservation Trust referenced in the Bat Survey.

HPC remains extremely concerned about the impact on the traffic through the crossroads. We appreciate that as a development of a single dwelling, it would be inappropriate to expect the applicant to have undertaken a transport assessment. However, HPC's view is that it is the cumulative impact on the crossroads that needs to be considered. This month alone, we have applications for six new dwellings within the village. KCC Highways response on this and other applications is that it does not warrant their involvement. Whilst

this may well be the case for each application separately, it ignores the cumulative impact of each additional house. KCC Highways has already indicated that an additional 22 trips through the junction at peak times would amount to the residual cumulative impact on the road network being severe. However, this is not necessarily the threshold at which the impact would be considered to be severe. Therefore, we would request that TWBC satisfies itself that KCC Highways has properly considered the cumulative impact of each additional property.

HPC **supports** this application on the proviso that KCC Highways confirm that their model of the Hawkhurst crossroads junction demonstrates that this development (together with any other current application where approval is recommended) does not result in a residual cumulative impact on the junction that would be considered severe.

Vote: Support 10, Against 0 Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Support

22	20/02070/FULL	Proposed new house; landscape enhancements; associated works	Land East Of Water Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

A previous application in Sept 2017 was supported by HPC, but refused by TWBC on the grounds that it was not considered to be of exceptional quality of sufficiently innovative to overcome the unsustainable location or the identified harm. The applicants have revised the design and taken it to a Design Review Panel who have determined that the proposals meet paragraph 79e of the NPPF. No comments from residents.

Comments and Recommendation:

This is an application for a large isolated house on a greenfield site, well outside the LBD and beyond walking distance of facilities. Therefore, it does not comply with either HD1 or HD2 of the NDP. However, the application relies on paragraph 79e of the NDP in that the design is of exceptional quality being truly outstanding or innovative (in this case both), reflecting the highest standards in architecture, and helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas.

It is evident that the applicants have given careful consideration to the landscape setting within the AONB and has taken onboard the policies of the NDP. The environmental

credentials of the design are impressive. The inclusion of a guest suite on the ground floor means that property will be able to meet the future needs of residents in line with HD3.

HD4 allows for careful innovation in design. The use of traditional materials in an innovative design is welcomed by the Parish Council.

HPC does have reservations about the use of such a big greenfield site for one house. However, the location of the house within the site has been carefully considered to have minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. We welcome the reinstatement of the field boundary and the creation of seasonally-grazed wildflower meadows, together with the other landscape and biodiversity enhancements.

It seems clear that the landowners value the landscape setting of this site. However, we this can be guaranteed with changes of ownership in the future. Therefore, HPC would like to see a condition that requires the land to be managed appropriately in perpetuity and prevents any further development of this site. Similarly, the unique design is a key factor in the application. Therefore, we request a condition that removes any permitted development rights.

HPC remains extremely concerned about the impact on the traffic through the crossroads. We appreciate that as a development of a single dwelling, it would be inappropriate to expect the applicant to have undertaken a transport assessment. However, HPC's view is that it is the cumulative impact on the crossroads that needs to be considered. This month alone, we have applications for six new dwellings within the village. KCC Highways response on these smaller applications is that it does not warrant their involvement. Whilst this may well be the case for each application separately, it ignores the cumulative impact of each additional house. KCC Highways has already indicated that an additional 22 trips through the junction at peak times would amount to the residual cumulative impact on the road network being severe. However, this is not necessarily the threshold at which the impact would be considered to be severe. Therefore, we would request that TWBC satisfies itself that KCC Highways has properly considered the cumulative impact of each additional property.

HPC **supports** this application on the following provisos:

- KCC Highways confirm that their model of the Hawkhurst crossroads junction demonstrates that this development (together with any other current application where approval is recommended) does not result in a residual cumulative impact on the junction that would be considered severe.

- A condition is included to prevent any alterations to the house and garden without consent from TWBC planning to ensure that it remains a design of exceptional quality.
- An appropriate condition or legal agreement is included to ensure that the site as a whole is managed appropriately in perpetuity. We request that TWBC applies whichever option gives the strongest level of protection to the landscape.

Vote: Support 9, Against 1 (Cllr Fitzpatrick) Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Support

23	20/02168/OUT	Outline (Access, Layout and Scale Not Reserved) - Demolition of existing garage; erection of new detached dwelling within garden of Hawthorn Cottage	Hawthorn Cottage Ockley Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 4DW
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Background:

This is a revised application for the one that was submitted recently that we objected to on the grounds of the impact on the AONB given the sensitive location adjacent to a historic routeway, the scale of the house, access and parking arrangements. KCC Highways also had concerns in relation to the access arrangements. Nothing has changed in terms of the scale or proposed location of the house.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC retains its position that the scale of the proposed house is inappropriate for this location and does not comply with HD2 of the NDP, being a 4-bedroom house, where the demand is for starter homes and small-sized houses rather than more family-sized properties.

This application does not successfully demonstrate that it will not have an adverse visual impact on the landscape as required by LP1 of the NDP. The Design and Access statement indicates that the NDP does not show the area around Ockley Lane as being one of the noted list of principal views to be protected by LP1. However, page 52 of the NDP makes it clear that the diagram is indicative only. Moreover, Ockley Lane is an historic routeway, the importance of which for the landscape context is indicated on page 18. There is an expectation that development in Hawkhurst should conserve and enhance the High Weald AONB and comply with the AONB Units Management Plan. Objective R1 indicates that historic routeways should be recognised as non-designated heritage assets in the planning process as well as discouraging new access points that damage the character of sunken routeways. We do not feel that adequate consideration has been given to the impact of these proposals on Ockley Lane and the views across the AONB, both at the site of the

proposed development and further away.

We note that the access designs have been changed to avoid the conflict with the existing parking arrangements. However, this appears to require the extension of the existing access and when comparing the photographs and the site plan, it looks as if the access would be from the byway rather than the road.

HPC remains extremely concerned about the impact on the traffic through the crossroads. We appreciate that as a development of a single dwelling, it would be inappropriate to expect the applicant to have undertaken a transport assessment. However, HPC's view is that it is the cumulative impact on the crossroads that needs to be considered. This month alone, we have applications for six new dwellings within the village. KCC Highways response on this and other applications is that it does not warrant their involvement. Whilst this may well be the case for each application separately, it ignores the cumulative impact of each additional house. KCC Highways has already indicated that an additional 22 trips through the junction at peak times would amount to the residual cumulative impact on the road network being severe. However, this is not necessarily the threshold at which the impact would be considered to be severe. Therefore, we would request that TWBC satisfies itself that KCC Highways has properly considered the cumulative impact of each additional property.

A number of Cllrs mentioned the eloquent presentation by Mr lee and that he raised a number of valid points.

Cllr Taylor-Smith felt that the practical pragmatic way forward was to approve

HPC **objects** to this application.

Vote: Support 3, (Cllrs Taylor-Smith, Appelbe and Hunt) Against 7 Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Object

24	20/02078/FULL	Addition of a new gate, new bin store, new external lights, new garage, and changing the drive to gravel	Conghurst Cottages Conghurst Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4RJ
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Background:

Garage is to be set well to the rear of the house and is unlikely to impact on others. No comments from residents.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC has no objections to this application. The choice of traditional materials complies with the NDP. The proposals do not seem overbearing and are unlikely to impact on neighbouring properties. The garden appears to be well screened to the rear and therefore the garage is unlikely to have a major impact on the AONB. The gate will be set back from Conghurst Lane, allowing cars to pull off the road.

From the plans submitted, it appears that a tree will need to be removed to construct the garage. Therefore, HPC requests that three additional trees are planted to replace this in line with Hawkhurst's Tree and Hedgerow Policy.

Given the rural location, we would request that the lighting is the minimum required to allow safe movement between the garage and the house, ideally sensor-operated and solar powered.

Hawkhurst Parish Council **supports** this application.

Vote: Support 10, Against 0 Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Support

25	20/02289/FULL	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission 18/01376/FULL - Changes to reduce the bulk of the 2 storey side extension by omitting the double gable and substituting it with a single gable. Front and rear first floor windows changed to Velux type windows; reductions to the rear single storey extensions.	Saintfield High Street Cranbrook Kent TN18 4JP
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Background:

This application is a request to change the agreed plans from a previously approved application. As outlined in the description, the changes will reduce the bulk of the extension. HPC supported the current application. No comments from residents.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC **supports** this application as it reduces the bulk of the extension and does not appear to impact negatively on the street scene or neighbours.

Vote: Support 10, Against 0 Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)

Decision: Support

26	20/02078/LBC	Listed building consent - Addition of new gate, new bin store, new external lights, new garage, and changing the drive to gravel	Conghurst Cottages Conghurst Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 4RJ
<p>See 24.</p> <p>Vote: Support 10, Against 0 Abstain 0 (not voting Cllr Weeden)</p> <p>Decision: Support</p>			

6.2 Planning information on file

7. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 Revised Budget 2020.21

The Clerk introduction the report that the COVID 19 crisis has had an impact on society in numerous ways. From a Council budget point view this has led to the need to review income and expenditure plus the opportunity to reallocate budgets in 2020/21 to ensure we are in a positive position financially.

The draft revised budget is attached in **appendix A** of this report.

Apart from the adjustments because of COVID 19 we have included staff recharges – previously all in Administration - to illustrate the total cost of a service and made other adjustments.

An example of an adjustment is transferring savings in Parish Basic Allowance (Councillor expenses) to support the Hawkhurst community;

- support business by not charging them for watering the flower displays
- providing a budgeting for Hawkhurst Community Support Group costs.

In **appendix A**

- the income adjustments are in yellow,
- the expenditure adjustments are in amber
- the staff recharges are in green – with one off amendment in red in administration

The Clerk highlighted several points

- Victoria Hall – revised rent – 1st payment received and revised rent reduced to £7,265.
- Hawkhurst Football Club – FAS recommend a credit from last year so adjusted income to £300 – this needs confirming this evening but have included

- Reduction in Copt Hall hire income £3,750
- Copt Hall £10,000 business rate relief shown as income
- Reduction in KGV sports hall £3,750
- Funding from C 19 Job Retention Scheme in Administration, estimated at £2,000
- Office rate relief £10,000 shown in Administration
- Saving from Parish Councillor Allowances reallocated to cover Business charges for watering flower displays plus supporting HCSG in COVID 19 support
- Increased Capital Items in Administration Code to cover IT equipment for remote working
- Enabling grant of £2,765 shown in COVID 19 support
- Grants for KGV - the £10,000 business rate relief and £1,000 grant from KPFA (just received) have not been allocated in budget 2020/21 but have been paid into reserves towards the cost of MUGA at KGV
- Expenditure – reduced expenditure for facilities by 25%
- Removed Youth budget as now covered by increased S137 Community Grants

Noted that the RFO needs to make amendments to HCT / Copt Hall budget codes and review allocation of furlough funding - but these will not change the bottom line.

One final point – in September 2020 we are opening up the facilities more to community groups, but we are restricting use to a maximum of two groups per day. To ensure we are “COVID Secure” we will be doing more cleaning – in effect twice per day rather than the budgeted once per day. In addition, we are purchasing extra cleaning equipment, PPE dispensers etc.

Our Internal Caretaker is doing the morning cleaning and our External Caretaker is doing the afternoon cleaning. How long this lasts will depend on COVID 19 and adjusting to the appropriate guidelines. FAS felt we should retain the agreed fees and absorb any extra cleaning costs.

In summary, the approach is a prudent one, in-line with the risk adverse policy of the Council.

We have been proactive in obtaining Government Grants to support the 2020/21 budget, this is currently at totaling £24,765 and we will continue to seek others.

Without being able to draw down this Government support we would have been required to make significant cut backs.

Obviously this is still an estimate and maybe further compromised by COVID 19, a summary table is set out below

	Original	Revised
Income	£32,688	£ 41,160
Precept	£189,966	£ 189,966
Expenditure	£222,634	£ 219,589
Estimated transfer to reserves at end of year	£0	£ 11,537
<p>Proposal</p> <p>Cllr Pyne proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded that the Council agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the revised budget 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 of this report. • that the budget codes are adjusted accordingly • That a six monthly actual v budget report is presented to the October 2020 SAP meeting then onto Council. <p>Agreed unanimously</p>		

7.2 Formation of Community Interest Group – umbrella organisation for broadband in Hawkhurst.

Cllr Taylor-Smith explained that it is frustrating that we cannot get the information we need to progress this as we would want. Open reach is working on the “commercial areas” in the next 6 months (March 2021) and hopefully be on line in 2021.

Until we know the gaps – where the commercial area does not cover - the best we can do is set up an umbrella Hawkhurst Community Interest Group so that we can facilitate the residents and businesses to come together in the “community Voucher”. A brief summary leaflet is attached in **appendix 2**.

Proposal

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded that we set up a Community Interest Group for Hawkhurst to support resident’s groups to access broadband.

7.3 Tunbridge Wells Agreement

Cllr Escombe clarified the issue regarding the Tunbridge Wells Agreement sets out a collaborative approach to decision-making between the Borough Council and the Parish and Town Councils.

Frustrations with the planning process have been raised at the Parish Chairmen's meetings, particularly when:

- TWBC planning officers make a decision that does not accord with the recommendation from the Parish Council
- planning officers agree major changes to a planning application without any notice or reference back to the parish
- take no enforcement action on what the Parish Council considers to be a serious breach.

In order to address these concerns, a number of amendments are suggested to the planning section of the TW Agreement - see draft in **Appendix 3**. A summary of some of the key proposals is outlined below:

It is proposed that TWBC will:

- notify Parish Councils when its views on an application do not align with those of the Parish Council. This will allow a period of three working days for the PC to respond to TWBC before a final decision is made and the applicant notified of the decision. This would apply to any applications that the PC had highlighted as being of particular importance.
- organise an annual planning workshop to ensure that Local Councils are kept updated on planning matters.
- If TWBC decides not to take enforcement action on a breach identified by the PC, they will discuss this with the PC before informing the site owner/develop/operator.

It is proposed that Parish Councils will:

- ensure that councillors are trained to ensure realistic and relevant recommendations
- discuss applications and submit comments within the 21-day consultation period
- identify applications that are considered to be of particular importance.

If the amendments are approved by the Local Councils, this will be considered by TWBC with the intention of implementing the proposed changes by the end of the year.

The debate discussed the timing of an extra meeting; either Council meeting just to discuss planning matters or an extra Planning Advisory Group meeting with all Cllrs invited. It was agreed that if the revised Tunbridge Wells Agreement was adopted the Clerk and Chairman would clarify the best way forward.

Proposal

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded that the Council approve the revisions to the Tunbridge Wells Agreement, appendix 3. – Approved unanimously

7. 4 Response to Government consultation on Changes to current Planning

Cllr Escombe stated there are major concerns raised over the proposed change in national planning system, most notably;

Methodology – leads to increase of 32% in housing in TWBC

The move to grant in principle major planning applications – ignoring local issues such as AONB or traffic – this makes no sense

Increased threshold to 50 units for affordable housing – hardly any affordable housing

Affordable home split – similar to TWBC proposed

As well as points in questionnaire will also raise other concerns, which will be put in letter. Anyone else have any points?

Cllr Weeden asked to include community infrastructure i.e. sewage – agreed.

Proposal

Cllr Lusty proposed and Cllr Fitzpatrick seconded to delegate authority to the Clerk and Cllr Escombe to revise response and submit plus circulate to Cllrs.

Agreed unanimously

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

8.1 Facility and Services Committee – 24th August 2020

Cllr Fitzpatrick updated the Council on this meeting, he highlighted the restrictions on use of the Moor while Cllr Cory highlighted that the new Allotment agreement was the first time we had requested that allotment holders sign the allotment agreement. The Clerk explained that if we are successful with a grant application to Cllr Holden we will be able to fund planting 2 x large Silver Birches to replace the Fir trees, whose roots were damaging the graves and enhance Hedgerow planting.

Also that it is suggested to introduce a reduced School time, off peak rate for the MUGA £5 per hour

Proposal

Cllr Fitzpatrick proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded the following.

- to offer Hawkhurst Football Club a one off credit of £600 and invoice them £300 this year
- to introduce a reduced off peak school term MUGA fee of £5 per session
- to note the new allotment agreement
- Enhance the trees and hedgerow in Cemetery – awaiting outcome of grant application.

Agreed unanimously

8.2 Strategy, Administration and Projects Committee – 17th August 2020

Cllr Taylor –Smith – Update the Council on Remembrance Sunday (8th November 2020) that due to COVID 19 restrictions an alternative parade and wreath laying will take place. Also that the selling of poppies will be challenging. It was agreed to clarify the position with the RBL and Father Rodney and help promote the event and poppy selling in Hawkhurst. Cllr Appelbe offered to liaise with the Church.

Cllr Taylor-Smith recommend that those who had not seen the Board Intelligence demo should, as it was very impressive – awaiting info back from Mod Gov and alternative option.

All actions on track – hoping to bring report on IT to next meeting also need to review tendering arrangements (Financial Regs) for January 2021 when left EU.

Proposal

8.2 Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded that Cllr Taylor-Smith and Cllr Appelbe liaise regarding the Remembrance Sunday events.

Agreed unanimously

8.3 Note Community Centre Working Group – The Clerk explained that 7th August 2020 was cancelled, but we need a new tree survey. Clerk will forward information and agreed to delegate

Proposal

8.3 Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Whittle seconded that the decision to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Escombe and Cllr Whittle.

Agreed unanimously

8.4 Personnel Committee – see confidential item.

9. FINANCE:

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AUGUST 2020 for FCM 10.08.2020

Accounts for payment	£	13,250.45	to 14.09.20
Payment received	£	11,911.56	to 31.08.20
Net Expenditure	-£	1,338.89	
Cambridge & Counties	£	88,291.16	to 30.04.20
Cambridge Building Society	£	75,527.15	to 31.12.19
Lloyds Current	£	10,600.00	to 31.08.20
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	91,529.22	to 31.08.20

9.2 Payments

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the payments schedule – agreed unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No	Date	From	Issue
1	various	Residents	Complaints about disruption associated with Millwood Homes development
2	7.9.2020	Millwood Homes	Regarding complaints

11. NOTES & INFORMATION

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS - NA

13. CONFIDENTIAL:

13.1 Personnel Committee minutes 24th August 2020 – were discussed

CLOSURE: 9:45pm

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....