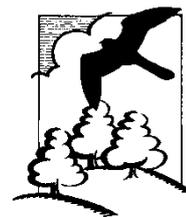


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES – 8th February 2021

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

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i) A resident raised concerns about planning application 63, these fell into several areas – inaccuracies in the planning application, setting a precedent in the in the area, limited parking and impact on residents.
- ii) A resident raised concerns about the changes to the Land south of Copt Hall planning application considered by the Council at a previous meeting. The change in the pedestrian access to Field ways – which has no spare car parking and is very tranquil may lead to increased Anti-Social Behaviour in the area. The ecological report raised concerns about Dormouse and the proposed change would remove a section of their habitat. If TWBC are minded to approve the resident requested that entrance gates are installed to restrict bike / moped access which is already a problem in the area
- iii) Update from Sean Holden, KCC Member raised concerns about the issue of insecticides which kill Bees and other pollinator plus he is continuing to lobby about 48-ton HGV's. The Government have paid KCC a payment to cover the cost of over 900 unaccompanied children asylum seekers and are lobbying for other authorities to take their share. In Maidstone over 8,000 test were done in 3 days – 1% infection rate. It has now an established process if required in future. Further business support grant aid will be made available. The KCC portion of the Council tax is likely to go up by 5% - 3% ring fenced for social care and 2% general fund.
- iv) Update from Patrick Thomson TWBC Ward Member focused on the proposals by SGN for major road works from the High Street towards Flimwell and the diversions through side roads such as Delmonden RD. Cllr Thomson is liaising with Cllr Holden to try and change this.
- v) Update from Cllr Bland TWBC Ward Member was that the TWBC Cabinet had approved the Pre-Submission Local Plan for consultation. The hope is that it will go through to the inspector before Christmas 2021. Also that TWBC expects to have a 5-year housing supply by April 2021.

- vi) Cllr Palmer supported the previous comments
- vii) Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – waiting for outcome of tender

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: NA

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.*

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 11th January 2021 and 25th January 2021 – agreed by majority of 11 / 0 and 2 abstained (Cllr Fitzpatrick and Weeden)
- ii) The minutes of the Facilities and Services Committee 25th January 2021 and Community Centre Working Group Meeting 18th January 2021 and 1st February 2021 were noted

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i) **Park Lane / Bedgebury** (13.7.2020/1.1) – the Clerk has circulated the link of the survey results, awaiting date for follow up meeting to clarify way forward.
- ii) **Air Quality** (13.7.2020/7.6) – Clerk will chase up
- iii) **Walking and Cycling strategy** – (13.7.2020/7.8) – update Cllr Cory
- iv) **Heartenoak Recreation Ground** - (10.8.2020/7.4) – Clerk updated the group that reassurances obtained and just waiting for final draft for Chairman to sign.
- v) **Hawkhurst Broadband - Community Interest Company** – (14.12.20/5.7) – Cllr Taylor-Smith updated Council following 5th February 2021 meeting with KCC
The map of the Ockley Road exchange and the Parish shows over 995 coverage – a few on the margins not covered. The Open reach survey should be completed by April 2021 – this will show areas open reach can install FTTP and “Non spots” areas where we will need to work with the residents to access the voucher scheme. The voucher scheme 2021/22 is about to be launched. Next key date is an April meeting.
Clerk to circulate notes form meeting and map.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
62	20/03719/FULL	Conversion of an existing brick built garage and addition of a new build single storey extension to the rear of the property	Hurstwood Cottage Delmonden Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4XB

Background:

A previous bigger two-storey application (which HPC supported) was refused in 2008. The applicant has sought pre-app advice, which was supportive. No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

This site is fairly well-screened. The proposal is to convert the existing garage using materials to match existing, plus the addition of a glazed extension. Consequently, we do not think that this will have a significant impact on the AONB. It will not impact on neighbouring properties.

In our opinion this complies with HD4 of the NDP in that the conversion of the garage will be sympathetic to the host house, and the use of glazing means that the extension will not appear overly dominant.

We note the provision for bats in terms of a bat box, but we would like a proper bat survey undertaken before works starts to the garage, so that it can be ensured that the appropriate provision is made.

HPC **supports** this application.

Vote:

Support 0 Object 12 Abstain 1 (Cllr Fitzpatrick)

Decision: Object

63	21/00047/FULL	Convert a brick and weather boarded stable into a 'micro' home; installation of new septic tank	Land Adjacent To 1 Laundry Cottages Water Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5DL
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Background:

No comments from neighbours on the TWBC planning portal.

Comments and Recommendation:

We are aware of neighbours concerns regarding inaccuracies in the planning application, parking, setting a precedent and impact on residents. We have advised them to put their points on the TWBC planning portal.

The site is outside of the LBD and well beyond walking distance of facilities. Consequently, it does not comply with HD1 of the NDP.

We are concerned that the proposed dwelling is too small and does not provide sufficient amenity space for future residents. Therefore, HPC **objects** to this application.

Vote:

Support 0 Object 12 Abstain 1 (Cllr Weeden as she had declared an interest)

Decision: Object

64	20/03743/FULL	Proposal to install New Modular Extension, Armco barrier, Bollards, Door & removal of 3-parking bays	Tesco Rye Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 4HG
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Background:

*There is very little information provided considering that this is within the conservation area.
No comments from neighbours.*

Comments and Recommendation:

The proposed extension is relatively small and is towards the back of the building. Therefore, it does not appear to be overly prominent.

We would have expected to see more consideration given to the impact on the conservation area. However, given the size and the location of the extension, we are prepared to **support** this application.

Vote:

Support 13 Object 0 Abstain 0

Decision: Object

65	21/00117/FULL	Extension of hard surfacing (Part-Retrospective)	St Ronans School Water Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5DJ
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Background:

No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

We are disappointed to note that this is a retrospective application, especially given that if planning permission had been sought prior to the work being undertaken, it is likely the

damage to the trees could have been avoided. However, HPC **supports** this application. It was suggesting that we write to St Rowen’s School and other persistent “retrospective applicants” that if an application gets turned down by TWBC it will be at their risk.

Vote:

Support 12 Object 12 Abstain 1 (Cllr Jones – on the grounds that it was retrospective)

Decision Support

7.2 Planning information; Amended application “land south of Copt Hall” Cllr Hunt emphasised that we should continue to oppose.

Cllr Lusty proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded that Cllr Escombe responds on behalf of the Parish Council – agreed unanimously

7. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 Allocation of Council Reserves – RFO reported that she had checked the general reserves and the proposed £45,000 covered the amount required.

Item	Dec 2020	Proposed Jan 2021
Community and Sports Centre project	£83,071	£84,000
War Memorial Fund	£3,282	£3,375
General Reserves	£65,971	£45,000
Total Reserves	£152,324	£132,375

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded the above table as the Allocation of Reserves = agreed unanimously

7.2 **Year to date budget report and 2020/21 out turn** – RFO reported that we are on track for a small amount to carry forward and the we have been successful with two government grants. Noted

7.3 **Update on TWBC Local Plan proposal to locate Doctors surgery at KGV playing Field** – Cllr Escombe informed Council that the meeting with TWBC planning and a representative with the GP’s confirmed that the preferred site was at Fowlers Park. TWBC Local Plan Reg 19 has been amended accordingly by TWBC, Fowlers Park for a Medical Centre only, without housing. Note that the KGV is allocated for a community centre and wellbeing. Noted

7.4 **Revised Council and Committee meeting report** – Cllr Escombe introduced the item as we require reports in advance this would allow for financial reports, monthly or

quarterly updates to be done in the first week, circulated in the second week and considered at Council in the third week

Planning Council followed by CSCWG – 1st Monday of the month

FAS / SAP alternate 2nd Monday of the month

Full Council – 3rd Monday of the month

February 2021

SAP 15th

March 2021

Council planning - only if required – 1st, followed by CSCWG

CSCWG 1st and 29th – so no meeting in April due to Easter

SAP NA

FAS 8th

Full Council 15th

April 2021

Council planning - only if required – Tuesday 6th following the Bank Holiday

CSCWG Na

SAP 12th

FAS Na

Full Council 19th

May

Council planning only if required – Tuesday 4th following the Bank Holiday

Parish Election 6th May 2021

AGM – 17th New council – reset meeting dates for 2021/22 – followed by Full Council

NOTE: If the Parish Election is delayed it is suggested that we have an AGM as we did not have one last year.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded the above changes in meetings dates – agreed unanimously

Clerk to circulate and amend website – done.

7.5 Community Heroes Award – noted that the closing date has past

7.6 Kent Community Awards Scheme nominations – several people were nominated and it was unanimously agreed to nominate Ellen Neville for setting up and managing the Community Fridge / Food Bank which has been such a success in the village.

Cllr Blake proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded Ellen Neville for a Kent Community Award

Cllr Taylor-Smith raised a letter he had received about a lady who was celebrating her 100th birthday and has lived and worked her whole life in the village. Following a discussion, it was felt that the Parish Council should contact the Palace to inform them of the 100th birthday, the Parish Council to bring forward a certificate to be an Honorary Freewomen of the Parish and purchase a card and flowers.

Also that it would wonderful if we could do a “Talking history of Hawkhurst” with Mrs. Long.

Cllr Blake proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded to award Mrs. Long the Honorary Freewomen of the Parish of Hawkhurst contact the Palace to inform them of the 100th birthday, the Parish Council to bring forward a certificate to be an Honorary Freewomen of the Parish and purchase a card and flowers – agreed unanimously

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

8.1 Facility and Services Committee – 25th January 2021

Cllr Whittle to update Council as Cllr Fitzpatrick was absent and raised a number of points such as the allotment sand the cemetery works.

The RFO raised concerns that we only had one quote for tree work and the Financial Regulations requires three. Cllr Whittle pointed out that we had sort three and will chase up another tow but sometimes it is difficult to get quotes for small jobs.

Cllr Whittle also raised the point of the KGV gates – we think with a previous Cllr, will keep chasing

8.2 Note Community Centre Working Group – 18th January and 1st February 2021

As TWBC have relocated the Doctors surgery to Fowlers and the Doctors recognise that it is at their risk because Fowlers is a contentious site. It was agreed to withdraw the CCWG recommendation to;

“Hold project for a 3-month abeyance until April 2021, to organise meetings with TWBC / CCG Health representatives to clarify the Doctors Surgery issue and a way forward”

Cllr Whittle noted that we had a highly professional presentation of the operational business plan and a positive meeting with Fields In Trust. We do need to press on with VAT questions and the other areas of the Questions and Actions.

8.3 Strategy Administration and Projects – next meeting 15th February 2021

9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure January 2021 8.2.2021

Accounts for payment	£	27,064.41	to 08.02.21
Payment received	£	16,976.25	to 29.01.21
Net Expenditure	-£	10,088.16	
Cambridge & Counties	£	88,291.16	to 30.04.20
Cambridge Building Society	£	84,527.75	to 30.11.20
Lloyds Current	£	10,001.00	to 29.01.21
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	46,319.88	to 29.01.21

9.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule

The RFO raised two points firstly that the contract cleaner had their January 2021 invoice in the office (@£200) which she had not been able to get to and suggested that we add it to the payment schedule.

Secondly that CCWG had not check that the Project Manager and Architect had completed the work that they had invoiced for (@90% of their final costs)

Cllr Escombe suggested that we pay for the Project Manager for the element that he had ordered to support the Bat Survey work (agreed)

Cllr Whittle proposed and Cllr Weeden seconded to approve the payments schedule plus the contract cleaner cost but defer the Architect fees and Project Manager Fees subject to CCWG approving them

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No	Date	From	Issue
1	29.1.21	Mr Hills	Request to HPC to mend broken stile in Little Switzerland as KCC have not done so
2	Late Jan	Various residents	Concern over GP surgery at KGV
3	1.2.21	Resident	Concern over GP Surgery going back to Fowlers Park

Note

Cllr Hunt has a project number from KCC for the repair of the stile and will forward to the Clerk to chase, Cllr Cory also has a project number from KCC and will forward as well.

Clerk to write to residents about GP Surgery at Fowlers, Council shares their concerns.

11. NOTES & INFORMATION

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS – NA

No	Date	Name	Interment
1	1.2.2021	Mrs. Chamberlain	Burial

13. CONFIDENTIAL:

13.1 Community Centre Working Group – the Council discussed the way forward.

CLOSURE:

Date.....

Chairman, Clerk to the Parish Council.....