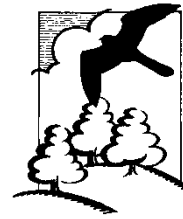


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES – 11th January 2021

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

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i) A resident asked about Parish liaising with TWBC regarding CCTV – agreed that the clerk would contact and update the resident following the meeting
- ii) Update from KCC Member Sean Holden started by congratulating the Council and the community on their hard work in reducing housing number allocation for Hawkhurst in TWBC draft Local Plan. In addition, KCC Highways appears to be listening regarding traffic issues. Well done.
Word of caution regarding Low Traffic Neighbourhood as they have caused problems elsewhere.
Cllr Holden emphasised that the Cllrs are against the increase in lorry weights to 48 tons as it will not be a trial but an introduction.
With regards the KCC budget, KCC are looking at an increase of 3% for Social Services and 2% general budget. COVID 19 / Brexit etc has put pressure on KCC budget.
- iii) Update from TWBC ward member Beverley Palmer focused on the lobbying to get the vaccine roll out to Hawkhurst rather than asking elderly people to travel to Headcorn / Ticehurst. She is lobbying the Local member for support
- iv) Update from TWBC Ward Member Patrick Thomson echoed Cllr Holden concerns about lorries being increased to 48 tones and the added concern about impact on air quality in Hawkhurst. In addition, TWBC are tendering for an Air Quality contractor.
Cllr Thomson is also following a flooding issue caused by inappropriate development – Cllr Taylor-Smith asked if could enquire about flooding in Herschel Place caused by the clearance of the White House site.
Cllr Thomson asked if there is anything we can do about speeding in the village. Cllr Escombe explained that the Parish has been lobbying for this for some time and KCC can not to any works to A Roads to reduce speeds. Cllr Holden emphasised that this was the biggest issue County Cllrs hear about in

their inbox. The reality is that “Police enforcement” is required and KCC lobbying Police Commissioners to raise speeding in Police priorities.

- v) Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – awaiting information on tender

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Fitzpatrick ill

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 Taylor-Smith – planning application 55
Cllr Blake – planning application 55
Cllr Weeden – planning application 52 and 53
Cllr Jones – planning application 54

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2020 – need to amend 8.2 from £2,650 to £2,750.
Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the approval of the amended minutes – agreed unanimously
- ii) Noted that the Facilities and Services Committee was cancelled as not enough Councillors present to be quorate.
Noted the minutes of the Strategy, Administration and Projects Committee 21st December 2020

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i) **Park Lane / Bedgebury** (13.7.2020/1.1) – awaiting date for follow up meeting on survey results
- ii) **Air Quality** (13.7.2020/7.6) – awaiting date of the Quality Action Plan consultation and seeking to clarify location of the new diffusion tubes on the High Street.
- iii) **Walking and Cycling strategy** – (13.7.2020/7.8) – nothing to update
- iv) **Heartenoak Recreation Ground** - (10.8.2020/7.4) – Although far from ideal – we need reassurance from UKPN that their plan is correct and that the installation met appropriate standards so that it can be an attachment of the Wayleave and protect the Council in the future.

- v) **Hawkhurst Broadband - Community Interest Company** – (14.12.20/5.7) – Cllr Taylor-Smith asked for Cllrs to come forward to act as directors so we are placed to support the community / residents groups – Cllr Taylor Smith and Cllr Green have volunteered – we need several more ideally 5 in total. Please contact the Clerk directly by end of January 2021.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
50	20/02792/FULL	Conversion of incidental stable outbuilding into annexe accommodation; kitchen alterations to the main dwelling	Collingwood Old Barn Collingwood Farm Hastings Road Hawkhurst Kent TN18 4RR

Background:

Externally, the changes appear to be minimal. No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

The proposed conversion appears to be sympathetic to the host house and seems unlikely to impact on neighbouring properties.

HPC **supports** this application but requests that a condition is imposed to tie the annexe to the host house.

Vote

Support 11 Object 0 Abstain 1 Cllr Weeden

Decision Support

51	20/03526/FULL	Demolition of existing building and erection of 3-bedroom dwelling with parking Planning Application	8 Colonnade Rye Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4ES
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Background:

This is a similar, but more detailed application, to one which was submitted previously and subsequently withdrawn. At that time, HPC objected to the application due to the limited information provided, together with concerns about the lack of a garden, issues with access and only one parking space for a 3-bed house. No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

It is evident that the applicant has worked with TWBC to refine this application, which is now supported the Conservation Officer. Nevertheless, HPC still has a number of concerns: one parking space is inadequate for a 3-bed house; the access road is currently used for parking and we have reservations as to its suitability not only for future residents, but also for construction traffic to undertake the demolition/building. We remain concerned about the lack of a garden/amenity space, particularly given that Highgate lacks accessible green

space.

However, we recognise that this application site is previously developed land and, therefore, is in line with HD1a of the NDP. The design and use of traditional materials is consistent with HD4.

HPC is prepared to **support** this application on the proviso that TWBC planning officers can reassure us that the concerns outlined above can be satisfactorily addressed.

Vote

Support 10 Object 1 Cllr Jones Abstain 1 Cllr Weeden

Decision Support

52	20/03527/LBC	Demolition of existing building and erection of 3-bedroom dwelling with parking Planning Application	8 Colonnade Rye Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4ES
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As above.

53	20/03521/FULL	Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission 19/01273/FULL - To secure an amendment to window detailing and a small extension to facilitate internal movement within the building	St Bridget House Rye Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5DA
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These are very minor alterations and highly unlikely to impact on neighbouring properties. Therefore, HPC **supports** this application.

Vote

Support 10 Object 1 Cllr Jones Abstain 1 Cllr Weeden

Decision Support

54	20/03472/FULL	Siting of 3 x 9x9 metres single storey temporary marquees, for 5 years during the months of September to December inclusive, and parking (Retrospective)	Rhokett Limited Unit 10 Hawkhurst Station Business Park Gills Green Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5BD
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Background:

This is yet another retrospective application. The three marquees are required to store pallets during the run up to Christmas. They have been removed for this year. Several

comments from neighbours regarding drainage conditions not been met from previous planning applications.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC **supports** this temporary application on the basis that previous planning conditions have been met as we understand that drainage may be an issue.

Vote

Support 10 Object 1 Cllr Weeden ,Abstain 1 Cllr Jones

Decision Support

55	20/03663/TPO	Trees: COMMON OAK (T10) - Reduce entire crown by 4m in all dimensions, leaving a short squat tree; CRACK WILLOW (T21) - Reduce crown height by 2m and reduce East side to match into new top; COMMON OAK (T39) - Remove dead tree; COMMON OAK (T46) - Heavy reduction 'veteranisation' of lateral limb weight and height by up to 6 meters	Herschel Place Highgate Hill Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

A number of residents have raised concerns about the extent of the works proposed.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC shares residents' concerns about the extent of the proposed works, particularly to T10. A short squat tree hardly seems synonymous with an oak tree.

HPC is prepared to **support** any works deemed necessary by the Tree Officer, but requests that the work should be kept to the minimum necessary and that T39 is replaced after removal.

Vote

Support 10 Object 0 Abstain 2 Cllrs Taylor-Smith and Blake

Decision Support

6.2 Cllr Escombe noted that the Birchwood application was not in breach of previous planning conditions

7 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 **Council budget 2020/21 report** – RFO apologized for not sending a report. Cllr Escombe explained that nothing has changed since the December 2020 Council meeting.

- **Council Budget 2021/22 – as previously agreed**

https://hawkhurst-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HPC-Budget-21_22.pdf

- **Precept – as agreed on 11th December 2020 below**

Hawkhurst	2020/21	2021/22		Variance		
Enter Parish Precept (£)	189,966	232,475	Enter your budget			
Tax base	2,081.90	2,033.40	Tax base to be approved by TWBC on 3/12/20	-	48.50	
	Annual	Annual	Bands	Percentage Increase on Bills	Annual increase	Monthly Increase
Band D Equivalent	91.25	114.33		25.3	£ 23.08	£ 1.92
Band A	60.83	76.22	(6/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 15.39	£ 1.28
Band B	70.97	88.92	(7/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 17.95	£ 1.50
Band C	81.11	101.63	(8/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 20.52	£ 1.71
Band D	91.25	114.33		25.3	£ 23.08	£ 1.92
Band E	111.53	139.74	(11/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 28.21	£ 2.35
Band F	131.81	165.14	(13/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 33.33	£ 2.78
Band G	152.08	190.55	(15/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 38.47	£ 3.21
Band H	182.50	228.66	(18/9ths of Band D)	25.3	£ 46.16	£ 3.85

Cllr Hunt stated that to increase the precept by 25% was morally wrong and any increase should be in the region of 5%

Cllr Taylor-Smith raised the point that a percentage increase of a small amount was relatively small in monetary terms and that we would still be in the bottom 10 of neighbouring Parish Councils regards precept.

Cllr Jones asked if we would get more rent from the Kino as they have obtained a grant, Cllr Escombe felt that they needed the grant to survive and it may be some time before they are operating as normal.

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Green seconded the precept at £232,475 – agreed by majority 8 – 4 (Cllrs Escombe, Cory, Hunt and Jones)

- **Allocation of Reserves –**

Cllr Weeden felt that we could not vote without seeing the papers.

Cllr Green and Cllr Taylor-Smith were sure that the follow up work had been done and had been emailed out to Cllrs (Note the email only went to some Cllrs) therefore it was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

RFO to report back to Council meeting February 2021

7.2 **Year to date budget and projected 2020/21 outturn** – Cllr Escombe noted the information and that we need to be prudent over the next few months

7.3 **Community Right to Bid** – Cllr Green updated the Council to the fact that the site had been changed and the importance of gaining support from the community with specific detail on how they used the site – attend U3A classes, lunches. Cllr Escombe suggested adding in that the Hawkhurst NDP included desire for more open space near Highgate – agreed. Also that if the site is subject to a planning application it cannot be submitted? Agreed to check on planning issue.

When submitted need to promote locally to seek residents support

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded, that subject to planning issue, to amend Community Right to Bid and submit Community Right to Bid – agreed unanimously

7.4 **Metal Detecting Policy** – Clerk noted that the local resident who had applied was a member of the National Council Metal Detecting and had had appropriate insurance.

Cllr Jones felt even so it would still involve digging up areas and supported the draft policy.

Cllr Whittle proposed and Cllr Appelbe seconded to adopt the Metal Detecting Policy – agreed unanimously

7.5 **TWBC Local Plan and Hawkhurst NDP** – Cllr Escombe gave a verbal update on the situation summarised below

- Significant reduction in allocated housing numbers down from 681 – 731 to 161 – 170, note nearly all these have already been allocated, except for “Land South of Copt Hall”
- Employment sites reduced from 3 to 2 in Gills Green area
- Main reasons for changes are ANOB, Traffic Congestion and Air Quality – this will impact on proposed developments in neighbouring Parishes Cranbrook and Sandhurst
- Seeking to improve cycling and walking infrastructure – not sure how. Options for cycling route to Sissinghurst, Low Traffic Neighborhoods etc
- the contributions from developments in Sandhurst are for the Conghurst Lane football pitches.
- TWBC have recognised that there might be a need to expand the infrastructure in Hawkhurst, potential to expand waste water infrastructure
- We will need to review our NDP – especially as three policies in particular do not match the draft Local Plan
- However, the Doctors Surgery has been allocated to be located at the KGV – this was unknown to all of us.

There was general support for the changes but concern about the Doctors Surgery being “dropped on us” and that we need to urgently meet TWBC / health representatives to clarify what is happening.

7.6 **Copt Hall – review of building health and safety and heating** – Clerk gave a verbal updated to Council that HCT had requested review of the building safety – Cllr Whittle who has a Health and Safety Qualification volunteered to work with the Clerk and report back

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Jones seconded that Cllr Whittle work with the Clerk on a review of building health and safety and heating then report back to Council – agreed unanimously

7.7 **Tunbridge Wells Agreement – Final document for agreement** – Cllr Escombe wanted to ensure that we had ratified the final document rather than agree amendments

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded to ratify the attached Tunbridge Wells Document – agreed unanimously

7.8 **Heartenoak Playground equipment repairs** – Clerk has sought four quotes for the repairs – Proludic and Kompan declined as the equipment is not theirs and Wicksteed did not respond. (they have gone bust) The revised quote from Sovereign

is £1,384.41 for KGV and £1,694.82 Heartenoak – does not include safety surfacing as we use bark chipping or VAT. The playground equipment budget can cover the cost.

Cllr Cory asked does that include the removal of the damaged equipment at Heartenoak
- yes

Cllr Appelbe proposed and Cllr Hunt seconded to appoint Sovereign to repair play equipment - £1,384.41 for KGV and £1,694.82 for Heartenoak

7.9 **Motion:** Cllr Escombe proposes and Cllr Cory seconds to approve changes in “officers in Hawkhurst Community Support Group”

Cllr Escombe noted that the HCSG constitution requires changes in the officers to be approved by the Parish Council. That a member of the officers group has moved and it is proposed that Ruth Saunders and Jane Cooper are the operations managers

The new officer group of HCSG is

Cllr Escombe Chairman Adrian Cory Vice Chairman Sue Vangucci Treasurer, Ruth Saunders and Jane Cooper operations managers

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Cory seconded the changes to the officers of HCSG – agreed unanimously

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

8.1 Facility and Services Committee – 22nd December 2020 - Cancelled

8.2 Strategy, Administration and Projects Committee – 21st December 2020 asked Cllrs to note the approved minutes.

8.3 Community Centre Working Group – next meeting 18th January 2021 – Cllr Whittle emphasised it was open to all Councillors.

9. FINANCE:

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure December 2020 as of 11.1.21

Accounts for payment	£	14,597.86	to 11.01.21
Payment received	£	2,970.59	to 31.12.20
Net Expenditure	-£	11,627.27	
Cambridge & Counties	£	88,291.16	to 30.04.20
Cambridge Building Society	£	84,527.75	to 30.11.20
Lloyds Current	£	10,000.00	to 31.12.20
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	34,946.56	to 31.12.20

9.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule

Cllr Whittle proposed and Cllr Cory seconded to approve the above – agreed unanimously

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No	Date	From	Issue
1	17.12.20	A Resident	Complaint that name on website – removed immediately and from written documents
2	4.1.21	A resident requested support with housing	Phoned and offered support including Citizens Advice
3	4.1.21	A resident requested support with poor development impacting on their property – flooding issues	Phoned and discussed, TWBC Cllr Thomson is following up

11. NOTES & INFORMATION

Cllr Hunt asked the Chairman to write to a resident to thank them for clear the footpath along the Rye Rd. – Agreed

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS

Name	Date	
Mr D Hammond	21.12.2020	Burial

13. CONFIDENTIAL: None

CLOSURE:

Richard Griffiths, Clerk to the Parish Council

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.