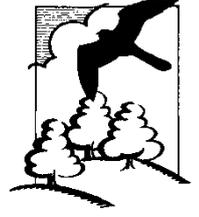


# HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



## EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

### MINUTES – 3rd June 2021

**Present:** Cllr Escombe (Chairman), Cllr Taylor-Smith (Vice Chairman) Cllr Pyne, Cllr Paish, Cllr Cory, Cllr Green, Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Weeden  
Mr Warman – special witness

#### 1. Welcome

#### 2. Adjournment of meeting for public speaking

Several residents spoke eloquently about the potential impact of the Golf Course development on the village – loss of open space, trees, impact of traffic, air quality and a general lack of infrastructure to cope with such a large development.

#### 3. Apologies and reason for absence: Cllr David Blake away, Cllr Ridley away (note Cllr Hunt joined via zoom but was not entitled to vote as not physically present at the meeting)

#### 4. Declaration of Interest: *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. - NA*

#### 5. Consideration of Hawkhurst Golf Club planning appeal

Mr Warman led the discussion and explained the complexities of a planning appeal and answered questions, main points were;

Council can work with partners and resident's groups

Concern the Highways issues will be turned into "a positive" for the developer as KCC have not objected, if "we" do not argue the case about the negative impact of the traffic on the village and area no one will.

Timing is an issue – need to submit by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Resident group has pledged an estimated £10,000

The Councillors questions focused on;

This is the biggest issue in the village – should be a priority

Not budgeted for, therefore need to consider prioritising funding

Due to COVID 19 we have a lack of income and are starting to use the General Reserves.

If agreed this will delay current projects particularly the new community and sports centre

Concern that KCC are supporting application on highway grounds – we will be arguing against the expert advice.

If they are successful with the appeal it could open the floodgates to other appeals / applications

Seek support from neighbouring Local Authorities as the traffic impacts upon the whole area.

Seek support from CPRE, ACRE etc

Promote to all residents to “respond to the planning inspector by the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021” to emphasis the local communities’ concerns

Planning application had 400 negative comments, we have to give it our best shot.

Can the Council afford not to do anything?

Cllr Hunt on zoom emphasised that he would have voted to support the £30,000 option and delay the Community and Sports Centre if required.

The RFO stated would could make savings elsewhere – NDP phased? funding earmarked for an election, portion of Village Fund etc

Clerk stated we can prioritise but will have to stop doing something to fund this action.

A number of options were discussed

- Do nothing (not acceptable)
  - Make a written representation and to make an oral presentation at the enquiry
  - Apply for Rule 6 status
- I. Engage Barrister, Landscape Consultant – to address AONB issues, Highways Consultant – to address highways impacts, Planning Consultant – to address wider planning issues (£100,000 plus)
  - II. Engage a barrister and a highways consultant. (estimated cost £30,000 plus VAT)
  - III. Engage a highways consultant and using our local planning solicitor as advocate (Estimated cost £15,000 plus VAT)

**Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded to:**

- Apply for Rule 6 status as a joint party with the Campaign to Protect Hawkhurst Village group

- Jointly instruct David Warman (local planning solicitor) on a pro-bono basis to engage a barrister and highways consultant with HPC agreeing to contribute up to a maximum of £30,000 plus VAT
- Receive the pledged monies and make payments on behalf of the Rule 6 party.

Agreed by majority 6 v 2

For - Cllr Escombe Cllr Pyne, Cllr Paish, Cllr Cory, Cllr Green, Cllr Faulkner

Against - Cllr Taylor-Smith and Cllr Weeden

## 6. Comments on TWBC Pre-Submission Local Plan

Cllr Escombe thanked the Councillors who had sent comments and summarised the attached in **Appendix A** as the Parish Councils feedback.

**Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Faulkner seconded to submit comments as per Appendix A**

## 7. CLOSURE: 9:15

Signed.....

Chairman.....