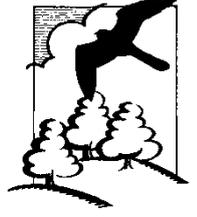


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 19th April 2021



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

The Council held a one minute's silence in remembrance of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i) A resident spoke in support of planning application 88 and 89 as it is mostly internal and fits in with the style of the existing building
- ii) Update from KCC Member Sean Holden stated that he was continuing with his campaign regarding HGV's and also hoping to expand the "clamping" of illegally parked HGV. He was concerned about Fly Tipping and asking everyone to be vigilant and if removing rubbish ensure the contractor has a license.
- iii) Cllr Palmer, TWBC Ward Member, note that all three TWBC Cllrs have called in the decision that TWBC should sell a parcel of land to "Dandara" – at the very least there should be consultation with local residents and stakeholders
- iv) Cllr Thomson, TWBC Ward member, supported this and suggested that any funding TWBC receives should be transferred to the Community Sports Centre
- v) Cllr Bland, TWBC Ward member, felt that the Overview and Scrutiny would leave the decision to the Planning Committee
- vi) Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – awaiting tender process
- vii) Re-opening of Hawkhurst Library – Cllr Holden will update the Clerk who will then circulate

2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Pyne ill, Cllr Fitzpatrick ill and Cllr Appelbe – no reason.

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 Whittle the Dandara issue and item 7.7
Cllr Weeden planning 90

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) Cllr Whittle proposed and Cllr Lusty seconded the approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th March 2021
- ii) Council noted the minutes of the Strategy, Administration and projects Committee 12th April 2021 and the Community Centre Working Group 29th March 2021

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i) **Park Lane / Bedgebury** (13.7.2020/1.1) – Cllr Holden updated the meeting that the consultation results are being implemented; 12 new car parking spaces, bunding along the verges to stop inappropriate parking and helps stop local residents of Park Lane being blocked in.
- ii) **Hawkhurst Broadband - Community Interest Company** – (14.12.20/5.7) – Cllr Taylor-Smith a new voucher scheme being launched for the “not spots” also the option of 5G.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning applications to be considered to follow

No	Application No	Proposal	Location
86	21/00857/FULL	Demolition of existing single garage and attached garden sheds; replacement with a double garage with attached garden store and office Planning Application	Springhill Conghurst Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent TN18 5DX

Background:

No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

The application aligns with HD4 in as far as the materials and the design are sympathetic to the host house and an improvement on the current arrangement. We note that the proposed garage, store and office will be larger than the garage and sheds being demolished. However, the location of the garage with the office etc behind it will have minimal impact on the street scene and we defer to TWBC's judgement on whether it complies with H11.

We have some reservations about the front of the garage being positioned forward of the building line of the house. However, Springhill is set well back from the road and the neighbouring house is closer to the road, with the garage in front of the line of the house.

Given the size of the grounds and the spacing between houses, we do not believe this will impact on neighbours.

Therefore, we **support** this application.

Vote:

Support 9, Object 0 abstain 0 Decision support

87	21/00892/FULL	Area of hardstanding to provide parking and turning (Retrospective)	Tarly Pit Potters Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

We note that the hardstanding material is porous and will allow grass and shrubs to grow back. Whilst HPC is always concerned by retrospective applications, in these circumstances, we **support** this application.

Vote:

Support 9, Object 0 abstain 0 Decision support

88	21/00574/LBC	Internal alterations to Grade 2 listed house. Removal of modern conservatory & replacement with traditional orangery. Minor alterations to coach house, including reinstatement of missing external doors and replacement of existing asbestos lean-to roof with new standing seam roof.	Hensill House Hensil Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4QH
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Background:

No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

The documents associated with this application are comprehensive and detailed. It appears that considerable effort has been taken to ensure that the alterations are sympathetic to the host house and to minimise the impact on the historic fabric of the house. Therefore, HPC **supports** this application assuming that TWBC's Conservation Officer is supportive.

Vote:

Support 9, Object 0 abstain 0 Decision support

89	21/00573/FULL	Internal alterations to Grade 2 listed house. Removal of modern conservatory & replacement with traditional orangery. Minor alterations to coach house, including reinstatement of missing external doors and replacement of existing asbestos lean-to roof with new standing seam roof.	Hensill House Hensil Lane Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4QH
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Background:

No comments from neighbours.

Comments and Recommendation:

The majority of the proposed works are internal. The external works are felt to improve the house and its setting. In particular, the replacement of the modern conservatory with a traditional orangery appears to be much more in keeping with the property. The choice of materials and design all accords with the NDP. The proposals will not impact on neighbours.

Therefore, HPC **supports** this application.

Vote:

Support 9, Object 0 abstain 0 Decision support

90	21/00779/FULL	Development of a two storey addition to the existing almshouses containing 3 self-contained dwellings and a shared area; removal of summerhouse; new gate; associated parking and landscaping	Springetts Almshouses Horns Road Hawkhurst Cranbrook Kent
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Background:

No comments from neighbours on the planning portal, although there have been comments on Facebook.

Comments and Recommendation:

This proposal would provide of 3 x 1 bed affordable dwellings which would be a welcome addition to Hawkhurst's housing stock and accords with HD2 of the NDP, particularly in terms of providing for an ageing population. Paragraph 7.23 recognises the importance of development in supporting social cohesion and the addition of a common area to enable occupants of the almshouses to socialise indoors would clearly provide social benefits.

As a rule, the Parish Council does not support the development of additional dwellings within

gardens. In this instance, we feel that this application could be viewed more as an extension of the existing almshouses rather than a new build in its own right. When considered in terms of HD1, this is a small site within the limits of built development, but it is not within walking distance of a variety of facilities and services and residents. There is a bus stop outside of the almshouses. However, it is still likely that this development will result in increased traffic. Therefore, we request that TWBC satisfies itself that KCC Highways has properly considered the residual cumulative impact of each additional property.

HD3 encourages accessible homes for the elderly and disabled, which this application provides. However, it is not evident that it meets the requirements of the NDP in terms of the efficient use of water, energy and resources.

Overall, this proposal is well designed and would integrate well with the existing almshouses and also with nearby buildings such as the Old Laundry. Nevertheless, we have some reservations about the size of the proposal, as it extends in front of and behind the line of the existing almshouses. However, we note that it does not extend forward of the building line of the neighbouring Plum Tree Cottages.

HPC cannot support the loss of the garden for the proposed parking. This will have a negative impact on the street scene and is not in line with HD4 of the NDP which requires car parking to be discreet.

HPC **supports** this application other than the proposed parking area to the front of the almshouses.

Vote:

Support 5, Object 1 (Cllr Hunt) abstain 1 (Cllr Weeden)

2 (support with parking Cllrs Lusty and Taylor-Smith)

Decision support other than parking area in front of the almshouses

91	21/00432/ADV	Advertisement: Hoarding with 2 stack boards and flags Planning Application	The White House Highgate Hill Hawkhurst Cranbrook TN18 4LB
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Background:

No comments from neighbours. The hoarding so 2.4m high by 130m long, with two section of higher boards and flags. Asking for permission for 5 years.

Comments and Recommendation:

HPC **objects** to this application, which it believes to be excessive and completely out of keeping with the location in the AONB and the proximity to the conservation area and listed buildings. This is a busy section of road, with queuing traffic and several junctions close to each other. This level of advertising will be distracting. Moreover, the duration for advertising is excessive and should be limited to the one year following completion.

If TWBC are minded to approve the application, it should be limited to one year of completion of the development.

Vote:

Support 0, Object 7 abstain 2 Decision support

6.2 Planning information

Cllr Escombe suggested that the White House hoarding planning application is called in if the decision is different from HPC consultation feedback – agreed

Cllr Escombe noted that the Hawkhurst Golf Club application has been called in for Non-Determination.

Cllr Escombe noted that the Turnden application in Cranbrook had been called in by the Secretary of State – the decision will have an impact on Hawkhurst.

Cllr Escombe noted that 1 -10 Highgate was going to appeal felt no further comments required

Cllr Escombe highlighted an amendment to the Dandara planning application – extra layby on Highgate – agreed unanimously to submit comments.

7. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7.1 Revised Financial Regulations – Cllr Taylor-Smith

The SAP Committee on the 12th April 2021 considered the revised Financial Regulations following input from the Internal Auditor a further amendment was put forward by Cllr Escombe to retain the original 6.11 and add into 6.19 “It must only be used to pay for items approved by the Council or that fall within the discretion provided to the Clerk or RFO for sums up to £500”.

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Escombe seconded the revised Financial Regulations. – agreed unanimously

7.2 Update on supporting local groups

The Clerk outlined ongoing support to local community groups;

1. Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr Whittle seconded to waive the outstanding fee for Hawkhurst FC in 2020/21 as the club was unable to play matches to raise the funding – agreed unanimously
2. Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Blake seconded to Invoice the Kino the reduce rent this quarter as they ease back into use – agreed unanimously

7.3 Unaudited End of 2020/21 year out turn – RFO

This is the end of 2020/21 financial figures – **prior to an audit** – main comment being expected to be in the region of a £3,000 surplus to carry forward

Noted

7.4 Scribe Cemetery package – Cllr Cory

Cllr Cory and Cllr Green attended a presentation by Scribe on a Cemetery Package that will great support the management of the cemetery; improving mapping, record keeping and invoicing. It will support the enhancement of the Woodland Cemetery.

The cost is a one off set up cost of £200 and a monthly fee of £39 (£468 per year) it is proposed to subscribe to the Scribe cemetery package.

Cllr Cory proposed and Cllr Green seconded to subscribe to the Scribe Cemetery package – agreed unanimously

7.5 Decision making – verbal Cllr Escombe

Cllr Escombe raised the point that at this moment – decision making has to be in person from the 7th May 2021. However, when we know the outcome of the High Court hearing we will clarify.

7.6 Consultation on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council pre-submission Local Plan consultation

TWBC pre-submission consultation opened on the 29th March 2021 and closes on the 4th June 2021 it is proposed that the Planning Advisory Group to consider and report back to the Council before the 4th June 2021. Cllrs are welcome to make their individual comments on line.

7.7 Honorary Freeman

As you are aware Phil Jones sadly passed away recently. In recognition of his long and distinguished service (24 years) to the residents of Hawkhurst and Hawkhurst Parish Council it is suggested that he is honored with an Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Hawkhurst. In

addition, the Council makes £100 donation to his chosen charity

It is suggested that we need criteria that we use regarding Freeman / Freewomen of the Parish of Hawkhurst.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded that Phil Jones is made Freeman of the Parish of Hawkhurst and a £100 donation is made to his chosen charity – agreed unanimously.

Note Cllr Escombe thanked Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Whittle, Lusty and Appelbe for their service to the Parish Council. This was echoed by all.

7.8 Proposal by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to sell off the area of land in Fieldways to Dandara

We understand that the TWBC ward Cllrs have asked for this to be called in and Cllr Escombe asked for comments to be forwarded to support their call in.

7.9 Verbal update on Parish Election – verbal Clerk

The Clerk updated Council on the following

- Eleven residents stood for the Parish Council, therefore it is an un-contested election and all eleven are “elected councillors” as of 10th May 2021
- We can advertise the Co-option process for two vacancies from 11th May 2021 – 35 days – closing date 15th June 2021. Then seek people to submit letters and consider at July 2021 meeting.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

8.1 Community Centre Working Group – 29th March 2021 Cllr Whittle updated the Council that the Question and Answer sessions were going well, that a draft risk register is about to be circulated and further updates will be within confidential section of the agenda.

8.2 Strategy Administration and Projects Committee – 12th April 2021 Cllr Taylor-Smith to update that the Financial Regulations were the major point and that actions are on track.

8.3 Facility and Services Committee

a) Approval of Mr Westgate’s Headstone – agreed to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Whittle

b) Proposed street Party Friday 25th June 2021- now not happening

9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Income and expenditure March 2021

Accounts for payment	£	20,266.05	to 19.04.21
Payment received	£	461.22	to 31.03.21
Net Expenditure	-£	19,804.83	
Cambridge & Counties	£	88,291.16	to 30.04.20
Cambridge Building Society	£	84,635.37	to 31.12.20
Lloyds Current	£	10,315.83	to 31.03.21
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	22,807.02	to 31.03.21

9.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule – circulated

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Whittle seconded to approve the payments schedule – agreed unanimously

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No	Date	From	Issue
1	Various	Various residents	Council Precept increase – information on website
2	5.4.21	Mrs. Long	Thanking the Council for Honorary Freewoman and happy to do a talking history
3	8.4.2021	Concern about unauthorized extension	Referred to TWBC planning

11. NOTES & INFORMATION - NA

12. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS

No	Date	Name	Interment
1	13.4.21	Phil Jones	Burial

13. CONFIDENTIAL:

13.1 **Personnel Committee report** – Cllr Green introduced the report and the Council discussed it

13.2 **Appointment of building surveyors, asbestos consultant and CCWG drainage consultants** – Cllr Escombe introduced the report and the Council discussed it

CLOSURE: 9:45pm

Signed Chairman

Date.....