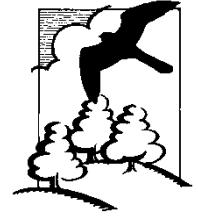


# HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Present:** Cllr Escombe (Chairman) Cllr Taylor-Smith (Vice Chairman) Cllr Weeden, Cllr Green, Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Paish, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Blake, Cllr Ridley Cllr Cory and Cllr Pyne.

Note Cllr Escombe and Taylor-Smith removed themselves from the co-option process and Cllr Green was proposed by Cllr Hunt and Seconded by Cllr Weeden to be elected Chair for this part of the meeting, agreed unanimously

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Weeden seconded that the vote should be by secret ballot – agreed unanimously.

### **Co-option of Members**

Michael Anderson and David Lloyd Owen were co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Lloyd Owen joined the meeting but abstained from voting. Cllr Anderson did not join the meeting.

### **1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

- i) Update from Sean Holden KCC Member regarding “Part 6 powers” regarding enforcing moving traffic offenders” - HGV on rural roads being transferred to KCC. However, powers to clamp illegal lorry parking being removed
- ii) Cllr Palmer, TWBC member stated the Cranbrook Rd / Hearten oak junction should start next month and that the gutter / drain outside Kino has been done – review in heavy rains?
- iii) Cllr Thompson noted the air quality updated – circulated and questioned the “barriers at Caisters” – Clerk explained when he checked they were ok – the shops own a stretch in front their shops and TWBC oversee permission
- iv) Cllr Thomson to clarify Lillesden Speed Signage – Planning condition

### **2. APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE: NA**

(Note Cllr Faulkner is self-isolating and took part via zoom but could not vote – marked as abstaining for every vote.)

### **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*

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*accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.*

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 4.1 Approval
- i) Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded to receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the EGM held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – agreed majority 9 for, 0 against, 3 abstained (Cllr Faulkner, Cory and Lloyd Owen)
  - ii) To note the minutes of the Planning Committee 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- i) **Hawkhurst Broadband - Community Interest Company – (14.12.20/5.7)**  
– awaiting update in Autumn 2021
- ii) **Update on Community and Sports Centre (17.6.21/6.1)** Cllr Taylor-Smith  
– note item below
- iii) **Update on the Copt Hall building survey report actions (17.6.21/6.2)**  
Cllr Cory we have removed the asbestos and obtained the clean air certificate. A programme of works is being pulled together.
- iv) **Update on Asbestos report actions (17.6.2021/6.3)** Cllr Paish noted that we are following the management plans as required. Note the Lych Gate only requires us to inform any contractor.
- v) **Update on KGV boiler (17.6.2021/6.6)** Cllr Paish we have had a meeting with a supplier and better understand the requirements – aim to have quotes for the next FAS.

#### **6. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

##### **6.1 Basic Parish Allowance**

Clerk introduced the report that the 11 “Elected Councillors” following the uncontested May 2021 election are entitled to the Basic Parish Allowance, £330 per year. However, Parish Councillors Taylor-Smith, Hunt, Weeden, Blake, Pyne and Cory decided to forgo their Parish Basic Allowance.

Note Cllr Cory requested that her allowance is donated to top up the Council funding towards the Hawkhurst Golf Club Planning Appeal.

Cllr Pyne proposed and Cllr Cory seconded to pay £330 Parish Basic Allowance to Councillors Escombe, Green, Paish, Faulkner and Ridley

To top up the Council funding towards the Hawkhurst Golf Club Planning Appeal by £330.

Agreed – majority 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Lloyd Owen)

##### **6.2 Verbal update on the Hawkhurst Golf Club planning appeal**

Cllr Escombe updated the Council, the main points being:

Statement of Case has been submitted, over 230 statements from residents have also been submitted and we have support from neighbouring Parishes: Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council, Benenden Parish Council, Lamberhurst Parish Council and Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council, Burwash Save our Fields and Greg Clerk.

DW has attended a Case Conference Management meeting, which went well. There are 5 key areas;

1. Character and appearance - AONB
2. Connectivity and accessibility - sustainability
3. Highways
4. Biodiversity
5. Overall planning balance

Our highways consultant will deal with highways matters. But in order to play a role in the other areas, we need to have a witness. Therefore, Cllr Escombe has stepped up.

Cllr Paish – asked is there anything other Councillors could do to help? – such as review research required as support.

Cllr Hunt asked when is the appeal being heard – week of 6th September 2021.

### **6.3 Revised Community and Sports Centre Terms of Reference**

Cllr Taylor-Smith noted that at the June 2021 Council meeting the following was agreed

#### **B. MEMBERSHIP**

This Committee shall consist of up to six Councillors plus two non-voting representatives for HCT 2018 (initially 5 Councillors as there are 11 Councillors) who shall be elected, and may be re-elected, each year at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

However, to ensure that other Hawkhurst Clubs and Groups can engage actively in the project it is proposed to amend to:

#### **B. MEMBERSHIP**

This Committee shall consist of up to six Councillors plus non-voting representatives of local community groups and clubs. (initially 5 Councillors as there are 11 Councillors) who shall be elected, and may be re-elected, each year at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **Recommendation**

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Pyne seconded that the Community and Sports Centre Committee shall consist of up to six Councillors plus non-voting representatives of local community groups and clubs. (initially 5 Councillors as there are 11 Councillors) who shall be elected, and may be re-elected, each year at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Agreed – majority 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Lloyd Owen)

### **6.4 Internal Audit report.**

The Chairman led the debate the main points being

- RFO confirmed the figures and documents were accurate

- Cllr Green suggested we review how assets are valued next year
- The RFO emphasised that this is the internal audit and the External Auditor may have questions / queries

#### 6.4.1

Councillor Escombe proposed and Councillor Green seconded to receive and note Annual Internal Report AGAR P3 – Agreed by majority for 9, against 1 (Cllr Paish) 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Lloyd Owen)

#### 6.4.2

Councillor Escombe proposed and Councillor Green seconded to approve Annual Governance Statement AGAR P4 – Agreed by majority for 9, against 1 (Cllr Paish) 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Lloyd Owen)

#### 6.4.3

Councillor Escombe proposed and Councillor Taylor-Smith seconded to approve Accounting Statement AGAR P5 – Agreed by majority for 9, against 0, 3 abstained (Cllr Paish, Faulkner and Cllr Lloyd Owen)

### 6.5 Feedback on Review of Parliamentary Boundaries – 2023

Cllr Taylor-Smith and Cllr Pyne reported that they have reviewed the implications and are broadly supportive. It is going full circle back to a cluster of rural areas together rather than being tacked onto Tunbridge Wells - they will circulate their report for comment.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Paish seconded to delegate authority to Cllr Taylor-Smith and Cllr Pyne to submit the consultation feedback on behalf of the Council

Agreed – majority 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Lloyd Owen)

(NOTE legally the Council can only delegate authority to an officer or constituted committee – Therefore the Clerk worked with Cllr Taylor-Smith and Cllr Pyne to submit consultation feedback)

Cllr Escombe updated the Council that the TWBC ward boundaries are being reviewed and then Parish boundaries will be reviewed.

### 6.6 Community Sports Centre – land report

Cllr Green updated Council on a meeting he and the Clerk had held with Cripps Solicitors to:

- i) Bring them up to date
- ii) Clarify a way forward
- iii) Clarify the legal costs

A summary report by Cripps below sets out the issues and fees;

#### **New Building**

Allow £2,000 plus VAT to cover the cost of our investigating title; making enquiries of Land Registry and the Land Charges Department to try to ascertain whether the covenants on the title are valid and, if they are, who has the benefit of them and to

report back to HPC. I should add there is no guarantee we will be able to come up with a definitive answer.

### **Other Points**

1 Even if we find the covenants are of no legal cause of concern you still have objector(s) to deal with.

2 If the old covenants are still valid there is no reason in principle why HPC should not work up a planning application and lodge it. That may encourage someone who has the benefit of the covenants to come forward. If no-one does then you might explore the possibility of obtaining indemnity insurance (and at what cost) against someone with the benefit of the covenants coming forward and impeding your development plans, if planning consent is issued.

3. The existing use outlined is against the terms of the covenant, but we have had no complaints about the use of the facility, so far.

### **FIT**

Allow £1,750 plus VAT in order to negotiate and settle 1, a deed or declaration of trust with FIT, dedicating The Moor as a KGV playing field and 2, deed of release of the part of the existing KGV field to enable the new building to be constructed.

Note we set aside £4,000 for Cripps to act on our behalf for the comprehensive audit and registration of Council land plus regarding the de-registration of a portion of the KGV and the registration of the Moor with Fields in Trust. So far £495 has been spent on the initial comprehensive audit of Council land – a report is going to the next SAP.

Cllr Paish suggested that the report should go to the "land sub-group" of the C&SC Committee. It was felt that the report could be relevant to a range of Committees / subgroups. The consensus was that the report should initially go to Full Council for review and allocated to the most appropriate Committee / subgroup for further action.

#### **Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Escombe seconded:**

- To set aside £2,000 of the £4,000 cover the cost of our investigating title; making enquiries of Land Registry and the Land Charges Department to try to ascertain whether the covenants on the title are valid and, if they are, who has the benefit of them and to report back to HPC.
- To continue hiring the KGV sports hall while we investigate the above

Agreed by majority 9 for, 0 against and 3 abstained. (Cllr Paish, Faulkner and Lloyd Owen)

**6.7 Adjustment of Budget** – deferred to SAP and will report back

### **7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES**

7.1 Facility and Services Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Cllr Cory minutes not circulated yet – nothing except the Confidential item

7.2 Planning Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021– Cllr Escombe, note Red Oak appeal submission

## Finance

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JUNE 2021 for FCM 19.07.21

Accounts for payment	£	10,359.40	to 19.07.21
Payment received	£	1,855.00	to 30.06.21
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>8,504.40</b>	
Cambridge & Counties	£	89,379.55	to 30.04.21
Cambridge Building Society	£	84,635.37	to 31.12.20
Lloyds Current	£	10,301.00	to 30.06.21
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	80,877.17	to 30.06.21

## 8.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule – circulated

The RFO noted several late invoices;  
Extra cleaning / cover hours - £359  
RMB Drainage - £450

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Weeden seconded to approve payment schedule plus additional payments above - Agreed – majority 10 for, 0 against and 2 abstained (Cllr Faulkner and Lloyd Owen)

Agreed to clarify Transports Statement invoice.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

No	From	Issue
1	Local residents	Walled Nursery Premise License application

Note: Cllr Escombe and Pyne agreed to arrange to meet the applicant

## 10. NOTES & INFORMATION - NA

## 11. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS

No	Date	Name	Interment
1	14.7.21	Mr M Martin	Burial

## 12. CONFIDENTIAL:

12.1 Parish Office – Cllr Cory introduced a discussion.

**CLOSURE: 9:45pm**

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....