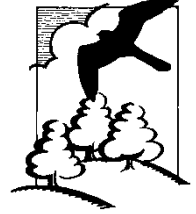


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES

Monday 18th October 2021 at Copt Hall 19:45.

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

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- i) Update from Sean Holden, KCC Member stated that KCC are applying Part 6 Powers regarding heavy vehicles, that the Environment Conference is being held on the 3rd November 2021 and that Plan Bee Conference is being held on 23rd November 2021.
- ii) Cranbrook Rd / Heartenoak junction – Cllr Holden stated that we are now awaiting TWBC legal team to chase up the developer. Liaising with TWBC Cllr Palmer.
- iii) Lillesden Speed Signage – Planning condition - Cllr Thompson update next meeting

APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE:

Note Cllr Faulkner attended via zoom as a member of the public

2. 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 Ridley item 6.2 and 7.4

3. MINUTES:

4.1 Approval

- i) Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Ridley seconded to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th September 2021 – agreed unanimously

4.2 Note

- i) The minutes of the Planning Committee 30th September 2021, Community and Sports Centre Committee 4th October 2021 and Strategy, Administration and Projects Committee 11th October 2021 were noted.

The Facilities and Services Committee 13th September 2021 and 12th October 2021 minutes will come to the next Council meeting.

4. OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i) **Hawkhurst Broadband - Community Interest Company** – (14.12.20/5.7) – Clerk is arranging a meeting with KCC and Openreach – will invite all Cllrs.

- ii) **Update on KGV boiler (17.6.2021/6.6)** Cllr Paish awaiting final quote.
- iii) **Verbal update on the Hawkhurst Golf Club planning appeal (19.7.21/6.2)** – Cllr Escombe updated the Council on the final day s106 discussions;
- Land of £719 per bedroom for Community facilities, playgrounds and football pitch improvements – clarifying if serving Hawkhurst or in Hawkhurst plus when payments are made
 - Potential public open space land to Council and 20 year's grounds maintenance costs for £1 or a management company to managed the open space that will be monitored by TWBC
 - Health care offer of land or financial donation – the financial donation could potentially be used to for refurbishment/improvement works to Old School Surgery and Orchard End surgery in Cranbrook as well as the Weald Medical Practice. Alternatively, it could also be used for new GP premises in the area, which includes those for North Ridge/Wish Valley, but is not restricted to this.”
 - £41,000 for upgrade of footpath WC172
 - Clarifying route of construction traffic and drainage requirements
 - Planning Inspector to consider and report back in November 2021

The Council formally thanked all the residents for all their hard work and contributions.

The Council formerly thanked Cllr Escombe for all her hard work and effort in representing the Parish Council as the witness.

- iv) **Update on Chairman's Group meeting (16.8.21/6.2)** – Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Committee Terms of Reference – Clerk updated Council that the next meeting is the 21st October 2021.
- v) **Remembrance Sunday (20.9.21/6.8)** – the Clerk raised concerns that the road closure contractor has dropped out and we are waiting for a new contractor quote. Secondly the RBL in hawkhurst does not have the standard, or standard bearer or Parade Marshall in place. Following a discussion;

Cllr Lloyd-Owen proposed and Cllr Paish seconded to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to spend up to £2,000 on road closures

Agreed majority 6 For 5 against and 1 Abstain.

- vi) **Community litter Pick (20.9.21/6.9)** – Arranged 30th October 2021, 9:30am gather at Fowlers Car Park
- vii) **Councillor training (20.9.21/6.10)** update Clerk
Cllr GDPR training Thursday 4th November 2021 in the Copt Hall 7:30pm - 9pm
Arranging Planning Training - 2022
Arranging Dynamic Councillor Workshop - 2022
Arranging Charing meetings training - 2022

5. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- 5.1 **Committee Membership** – Cllr Anderson requests to join Community and Sports Centre Committee.

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Green seconded that Cllr Anderson should join the Community and Sports Centre Committee

Agreed unanimously

- 5.2 **Closure of High Weald Academy** – what can the Parish Council do to support affected families – Cllr Escombe led a discussion, the main points being;
- Disruption to children's education and families caused by closure
 - Time taken to get to schools further away
 - Impact of changing demographics
 - The school has been struggling but should have been turned round not closed
 - Being realistic the Secretary of State has made the decision
 - Being pragmatic what can we do to support families affect by the closure of the High Weald Academy

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Blake seconded to write a letter of support to Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council backing an alternative Trust to turn around the school

Agreed Majority 11 for, 0 against 1 Abstained (Cllr Ridley)

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Weeden seconded to lobby KCC (Sean Holden) to ensure free transport is provided to the nearest school whether that is in Kent or East Sussex.

Agreed Majority 11 for, 0 against 1 Abstained (Cllr Ridley)

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Paish seconded to make a one off Charitable Donation of £500 to Dunks to support the children of the Parish affected by the closure of Weald High Academy

Agreed Majority 11 for, 0 against 1 Abstained (Cllr Ridley)

- 5.3 **Council Strategic Priorities** – following a discussion

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded to adopt the attached Council Strategic Priorities

Agreed majority – 10 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstained

- 5.4 **Drainage Consultant Brief** – Cllr Taylor-Smith introduced the item and after a discussion which included minor amendments and including project dates

Cllr Taylor-Smith proposed and Cllr Anderson seconded to approve the attached Drainage Consultants Brief (version 10)

Agreed majority 10 For 0 against 2 Abstained

- 5.5 **Neighbourhood Watch update** – Cllr Hunt updated Council that he was the Neighbourhood Watch link with the Council and handed out the latest leaflet
- 5.6 **Hawkhurst Golf Club Community Asset Tribunal appeal** - As the nominator of the Hawkhurst Golf Club to be a community asset, does the Council wish join and submit a witness statement to the tribunal, there is no fee. If we do, the public can then submit statements as well. We need to inform the tribunal tomorrow and request an extension if we want to
The appeal is against TWBC not the Parish Council so we are not at risk of costs, unless we act unreasonably.

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Green seconded to write a statement

Agreed unanimously

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND UPDATES

- 6.1 **Facility and Services Committee** – Cllr Cory updated Council that representatives have visited a natural burial ground to gather ideas, that Sovereign have visited the Heartenoak Recreation Grd and will submit information and that the Queens Trees will arrived in November 2021, need volunteers for planting.
- 6.2 **Planning Committee** – 30th September 2021 - Cllr Escombe noted them
- 6.3 **Community and Sports Centre Committee** – 4th October 2021 – Cllr Taylor Smith noted them
- 6.4 **Strategy, Administration and Projects Committee** – 11th October 2021 – Cllr Taylor-Smith

S137, Grants – seek grants up to £300 for "Slow down signs" and up to £350 for "Christmas trees"

A discussion took place regarding a late request for £850 from the HGBS for this year's Bonfire.

Also a debate took place on the potential use of Parish Office energy refund in 2021/22 for archiving.

Other items Communications Strategy / FOI Policy will come to Council in November 2021.

Cllr Hunt proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded to approve a grant of £500 to the HGBS for this year's Bonfire.

Agreed majority 6 For, 3 Against and 3 Abstained

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded to approve the use of the Parish office energy refund in 2021/22 towards archiving

Agreed unanimously

7. Finance

7.1 Financial position

Accounts for payment	£	7,376.21	to 18.10.21
Payment received	£	120,466.88	to 29.09.21
Net Expenditure	£	113,090.67	
Cambridge & Counties	£	89,379.55	to 30.04.21
Cambridge Building Society	£	84,635.37	to 31.12.20
Lloyds Current	£	10,001.00	to 29.09.21
Lloyds Access Reserve	£	181,785.58	to 29.09.21

7.2 Agreement to pay payments schedule

The circulated payments list and an additional cleaner cost of £327.68 were discussed;

Cllr Escombe proposed and Cllr Green seconded the payment schedule and the additional payments above

Agreed unanimously

8. CORRESPONDENCE

No	From	Issue	
1	Various Residents	What can the Parish Council do about lack of garden waste collection	Liaising with TWBC
2	Various Residents	High Weald Academy closure	See item 6.2
3	Kent Rural café and information	Not running winter programme – will restart in Spring 2022	Noted
4	Various Residents	Complaints about contractors blocking entrances and emergency services not able to get through – Red Oak	Contacted TWBC planning enforcement and asked local TWBC Cllrs to chase up
5	A resident	Asked for clarification on the Community and Sports Centre costs	Will write back and confirm

9. NOTES & INFORMATION – Plan Bee Newsletter

10. BURIALS AND MEMORIALS – None

11. CONFIDENTIAL:

11.1 **Council budget 2022/23** – a discussion on the budget was deferred

11.2 **Environmental Spillage update** - Cllr Cory updated the Council on the environmental spillage

11.3 **Personnel Committee** – Cllr Green updated Council on personnel issues and;

Cllr Green proposed and Cllr Taylor-Smith seconded the adoption of the Mobile Phone policy

Agreed unanimously

CLOSURE:9:45pm

Signed.....

Date.....