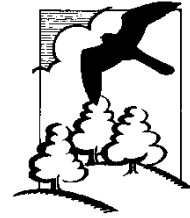


HAWKHURST PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 29 April 2024 at the Copt Hall, Hawkhurst

Chairman: Cllr Clare Escombe

Those present: Cllrs Ros Cory, Clare Escombe, David Lloyd-Owen, David Blake, Jeremy Cross, Lisa Ridley, Simon Paish, and David Veale

Ward Councillors: Cllrs Beverley Palmer, and Ellen Neville

Members of the public

Locum Clerk: Miss Lisa Rackett

Locum RFO: Mrs Sandra Rackett

Due to absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the Council agreed Cllr Clare Escombe would chair the meeting.

320/23 (a) Apologies for absence, Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Anderson and Cllr Paul Green.

(b) Declarations of changes to the register There were no such declarations.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or other interests as defined by the Kent Code of Conduct and the localism Act 2011 on any items on the agenda. There were no such declarations.

(c) Requests for dispensations. There were no such requests.

(d) To confirm if whether anyone in attendance interests to film or record the meeting. Cllrs Simon Paish and Locum Clerk Miss Lisa Rackett declared their intentions to record the meeting.

Although no public session had been scheduled on the agenda, the Chairman closed the minute at 7.20pm to allow the members of the public present to speak.

321/23 To agree the minutes of the Full Council Meeting 18.03.2024. The minutes of the meeting were taken as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

322/23 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section one of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Annual Governance Statement for 2023/2024 was agreed by the Council. After the motion had been moved Cllr Simon Paish requested a named vote for questions three, four, eight, and nine.

Cllr Paish requested a named vote.

Question Three: We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. The Council agreed to tick yes, and the vote too place as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Escombe, Cory, Lloyd-Owen, Blake, Veale

Against: Cllr Paish and Cllr Cross

Abstention: Cllr Ridley

Cllr Paish requested a named vote.

Question Four: We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of elector's rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The Council agreed to tick yes, and the vote too place as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Escombe, Cory, Lloyd-Owen, Blake, Veale, and Ridley.

Against: Cllr Paish

Abstention: Cllr Cross

Cllr Paish requested a named vote.

this Question Eight: We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements. The Council agreed to tick yes, and the vote too place as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Escombe, Cory, Lloyd-Owen, Blake, Veale

Against: Cllr Paish

Abstentions: Cllrs Cross and Ridley

Cllr Paish requested a named vote.

Question Nine: (For Local Councils Only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee, we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. The Council agreed to tick no, and the vote too place as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Escombe, Cory, Lloyd-Owen, Blake, Veale, Paish, Cross and Ridley

Against: Nil

Abstentions: Nil

Cllr Simon Paish called for a named vote on item 323/23.

323/23 To approve the Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section Two of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2024, and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from the last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24). The Council agreed Section Two of the AGAR and the vote was as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Escombe, Blake, Cory, Lloyd-Owen, Ridley, Veale
Against: Cllrs Cross and Paish
Abstentions: Nil

324/23 To agree the quote for the next year for the Parish Councils insurance. The Council agreed to remain with Zurich and add the street lights to the insurance provision. The Council will carry out reinstatement cost assessments in the next year in order to ensure the insurance provision is correct across the board.

Part 2 Exclusion of Public and Press – In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings Act 1960), the public and press be excluded from the meeting by the reason of its confidential nature.

Cllr Simon Paish called for a named vote on item 325/23.

325/23 To appoint the candidate for Parish Clerk and within the salary range recommended by the Personnel Committee. The Council agreed to appoint the candidate recommended by the Personnel Committee, the salary was agreed at spinal point 38 along with a 37 hour per week contract. The vote took place as follows:

In Favour: Cllrs Blake, Cory, Escombe, Lloyd-Owen, and Veale
Against: Cllr Cross and Paish
Abstentions: Cllr Ridley

Meeting Closed 8.34pm