

## Hawley Parish Council

Hawley Village Hall on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:30pm.

### MINUTES

**Attending:** Cllr D Caukill, Cllr G Brighton (left 21:42), Cllr L Buckle, Cllr S Sinclair, Cllr J Humphrey, Cllr R Oppenheimer and Cllr C Louisson. Present - K Horton (Clerk)

One resident also attended.

- 1) **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Dixon and Cllr Large.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Caukill declared an interest in agenda item 9A and confirmed he would step out for the discussion.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes.** To approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. No questions raised so approved as an accurate record and signed.
- 4) **Public Session:** Adjournment of the meeting to allow the public to raise questions or make representations.
  - Resident grateful for inspection of ponds and pleased the matter on the agenda. Raised concern that Jolly Robins has historically flooded and some of the drains appear overgrown. Will forward drain details to the Clerk.
- 5) **Update on actions arising from previous Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting:**
  - a) 2023/24 Precept. Papers submitted to EHDC.
  - b) Progress of Play area installation. Groundwork complete with slight increase to cost as mounds levelled. Installation on equipment starts 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
  - c) Archiving of HPC paperwork with Hampshire Archives. Clerk has started collating papers for submission
  - d) Parking at Jolly Robins' bungalows. 4 houses and 4 parking spaces with one additionally parking on garden. Visitors appear to be parking over utility manholes rather than using vacant spaces. Clerk shared update from Abri and Highways which confirmed spaces are not on private land. Resident offered to clarify that spaces are not assigned to particular houses and should be used if free.
- 6) **Report from County Councillor Report from County Councillor Oppenheimer.**
  - Highways. Two periods of extreme rainfall and freezing – most demanding weather for team. Weather in Feb has not been as bad as anticipated and team is catching up on jobs. Inflation has meant a real term cut in resources and this will continue to impact.
  - Funding for Lengthsman PC pool will continue.
  - HCC was active during teacher strikes and gave advice to schools while also maintaining a list of closures.
  - £221m investment programme to Hampshire schools confirmed.
  - Further to recent news articles, the Leader of Hampshire has clarified that HCC is not at risk of going bust with reserves that will cover through to 2025.
  - Energy security and climate change are hot topics and HCC have funding and support available for local groups who are focusing on Community energy projects.
  - Vacancy on SDNPA. Hampshire rep would be very welcome.
- 7) **Report from District Councillor: Report from District Councillor Louisson**
  - Havant Borough Council separation almost complete with no shared employees. Last point is waste collection contract which is being re-negotiated with set of KPIs. Apologies for refuse collection. Recent issue is lack of spare parts for lorries which impacted capacity.
  - Consultation on reforms to planning has been started by government. Proposals in planning reforms will allow an adjustment to housing allocation for districts with national parks or AONB.

- Budget increase 2%. £150,000 extra of council tax which will go to welfare. Enhanced council tax support scheme which benefits 10% of EH pop. EHDC will also allow residents to pay Council Tax over 12 months rather than 10.

**8) Ponds:** To receive a report from Cllr Buckle on the potential Ponds' Maintenance programme

- Arcadian Consulting are coming on Monday to complete survey on three parish ponds. Cllr Buckle and volunteer pond managers will attend.
- Survey will clarify what remedial work is required, potential cost and implications of advice. Information will be used to complete Cllr Grant application.
- Cllr Buckle will bring report back to HPC to agree next steps. Proposal is that volunteers are involved in this discussion. Cost needs to be contained and communication with residents ensured.

**9) Local Plan: Social Housing**

**a) No 4 Homefield Cottages.** To receive a report on the status of the sale of 4 Homefield Cottages and to agree what further action is required. Cllr Louisson and Clerk thanked for work to date. Property has been pulled from auction but it was agreed that this was not the end of the matter. Clerk was instructed to follow up on meeting with Abri and engage with Damian Hinds' admin team.

**b) Social Housing in the parish.** To receive a paper on Social Housing in the Parish

**a. Consider what steps are necessary to safeguard the existing social housing in the parish and local residents' access to it.**

- Report circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Louisson confirmed that the discussions with Abri about Homefield Cottage had exposed a wider problem and subsequently EHDC Housing Team will look at whole portfolio of social housing. Abri's housing review policy suggests that all social housing in Hawkley is at risk and the Cheesecombe Farm Lane properties (three social housing and two shared ownership) do not appear to have clause in the deeds restricting sale.
- Proposal: engage with Abri on wider issue not just 4 Homefield Cottages. Cllrs in agreement.
- Priority of access to social housing. Cllr Caukill asked for Cllr Louisson's support in clarifying why a local resident was not supported in a recent application for housing when historically reassurance has been given by EHDC and SDNPA that local connection provides priority over applicants.

**b. Potential for future social housing developments. Following HPC's email of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in connection with SDNPA's Land availability Assessment, to note SDNPA's response to and to agree whether HPC will take any further action in relation to this matter.**

- SDNPA advised that isolated rural settlements are not ideal and further any development would be a rural exception.
- Cllrs agreed that small development would likely keep village "live" but ideally would want to see those with local connection living in any properties.
- Cllr Louisson was able to share some detail about social housing developments in Ropley.
- Cllrs will source more information on Community Land Trusts and Shared Ownership and report back at a future meeting.
- Cllrs agreed that a public meeting would need to be held once more detail had been obtained.

**10) Asset of Community Value:** To agree whether to progress with an application to record the village pub (currently called Hawkley Inn) as an Asset of Community Value.

- Background to process circulated ahead of meeting.
- Cllrs considered the appropriateness and timing of such an application given the pub is being sold as a going concern. General agreement that future application would be more appropriate.
- Clerk to speak with peer in Medstead PC about process and update Cllrs.

**11) Flooding of ditch on Vicarage Lane:** Ditch is prone to flooding outside Beech House and Willow Bank. Report on actions taken and agree possible next steps.

- Since last meeting, ditch has been cleared out by Lengthsman team and Chair.
- Ditch is responsibility of landowner as confirmed by historical research
- Clerk to ask Churchfields, Willow Bank and Beech House to keep drains clear

**12) Parish Council Finances/Administration:**

**a) Clerk's Report**

- i) Upper Green phone box adoption. BT have confirmed that electricity will be maintained and Clerk will now complete paperwork.
- ii) Lengthsman Scheme. Further to the update from Cllr Oppenheimer, that group funding was confirmed for 23/24, it was proposed that HPC stay in the group scheme overseen by Greyshott PC. Cllrs approved the proposal.
- iii) Update on Local Elections. Cllr Brighton has confirmed he will not be standing for election in May and Cllr Caukill thanked Cllr Brighton for his long service to the local community.

**b) Finances**

- i) Finance
  - Report (including notification of payments made under Item 14 of the Financial Regulations) approved.
  - Items on the Payment Schedule: Webhosting and Clerk's salary Q4 approved
- ii) To consider and agree Grants under Section 137 of the 1972 LGA ("The Free Resource")
  - Grant applications received from Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, Hampshire Citizens Advice, Butser Homestart.
  - Cllr Butcher proposed and Cllr Brighton seconded grant for Rosemary Foundation.
  - Cllr Butcher proposed that the remainder of the grant budget be evenly split between the grant applicants. This was agreed by all Cllrs.

**c) Correspondence**

- i) **Coronation Celebrations: To consider how best the Parish Council can support the planning of this event.** Both Hawkley Hall Trustees and Empshott Hut are organising events. Intent is for events to be self-funded but there may be request for financial support from the PC. Grant requests are to be submitted at next Council meeting.  
Hawkley Hall Trustees wish to engage local rep from each society to take responsibility. Cllr Humphrey confirmed she would lead on ticketing and promotion.

**11) Items for next Council agenda.** Coronation, Social Housing, Ponds, Noticeboard.

**12) Date of next meeting:** APM Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7pm

Meeting closed 9:48pm

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Signed, Councillor Caukill, Chair HPC

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Date