

**MEETING OF HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM in Hawkley Village Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Cllr Caukill (Chair), Cllr Wallace, Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Buckle, Cllr Large, Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Stewart and Cllr Butcher

Also attending: K Horton (Clerk), County Cllr Oppenheimer and District Cllr Louisson. No members of the public in attendance.

- 1) Welcome.** Meeting opened
- 2) Apologies for Absence.** None received
- 3) Declarations of Interest.** No declarations made
- 4) Approval of Minutes** - Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Cllr Humphrey proposed and Cllr Sinclair seconded the minutes for signature. All in agreement to accept as accurate record and minutes duly signed
- 5) Public Participation.** No electors present
- 6) Report from County Councillor Oppenheimer.**
  - a) Finances**
    - i) Refuse centres and school crossing patrols have been financed and will not be cut
    - ii) Central Government have provided no increase in budget for Hampshire. HCC is waiting on details of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
  - b) Highways and Byways**
    - i) Highways Maintenance department has extra funding coming in. Prepping for cold winter
    - ii) Cycles and Walking routes consultation is taking place and comments are welcome.
    - iii) BOATS continue to be discussed and he hopes that progress will be made on the proposed management.
  - c) Planning.** Confirmed that SDNPA are considering the request to call in Emsphott Grange's Change of Use application. Cllr Oppenheimer explained that SDNPA can call in any planning application in the National Park to consider it against their Local Plan and consider the precedent it sets. Councillors who had given apologies at the last meeting were referred to its minutes by way of background.
  - d) Devolution.** HCC waiting for white paper that sets out plans. Potentially has big implication for parishes.
- 7) Report from District Councillor Louisson.**
  - a) Budget prep.** Redundancies and Department savings have sourced over £1m so small surplus now shows for the 2024/25 budget.
  - b) EHDC** has built up a Property portfolio to generate revenue. A review of the portfolio is being carried out: in previous years the portfolio generated £7-8m and helped EHDC avoid Council Tax increases Still overall net income but Commercial property not so profitable post pandemic.
- 8) Parish Council Finances/Administration**
  - a) Clerk's Report inc**
    - i) Correspondence:
      - Responses to HPC's Highways and Winter prep emails. 3 responses to Winter prep email – 1 suggesting closure of B3006 for a couple of hours to allow work to be carried out. Highways –

3 other residents responded: 1 seeking clarification on what action residents were being asked to carry out and the others positive in the PC's request

- Planning Application for tree surgery on three ash trees on Lower Green. HPC will not respond as application is made in the PC's name. If a formal decision has not been issued by 6 December 2024 the work may be started within two years of this date.
  - Invitation from HALC to County Forum meeting. Cllrs reminded of the opportunity to attend.
  - EHAPTC Autumn Meeting. Thanks to Cllr Caukill and Cllr Sinclair who are attending for HPC
- ii) Stairs Hill. Update from last meeting: flashing hazard light has been replaced. Response to request for double white line was negative. Request has been made to Highways for a meeting with PC and resident representative.
- iii) Verbal update on EHDC's Stakeholder Conference. Clerk represented PC at a meeting where plans for Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) were shared: Transfer of Asset and Services to PCs. Step along from Devolution which is in progress. Unclear whether PCs will be approached by EHDC and offered the option to take on assets or services or whether PCs need to be proactive. While it is assets unlikely to impact HPC but may not be the case if it progresses to services. Example of Lengthsman which is currently financed by HCC.
- b) Financial summary for September and October 2024 and in addition:
- i) Notification of Payments made under Item 14 of the Financial Regulations since the last meeting
  - ii) Notification/authorisation of other payments
- Audit Working Group confirmed figures had been reviewed. Signed after two typos corrected.

**9) Meeting access.** *To consider the consultation being held by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on enabling remote attendance, and proxy voting at local authority meetings, including parish & town council meetings and to agree whether Hawkley Parish Council will lodge any comment.*

- It was noted that HPC has not had an issue with Cllrs attending meetings in person. Discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of using remote attendance. Considered how a PC the size of Hawkley could manage hybrid meetings from a practical IT perspective. Noted that individuals with mobility or caring responsibilities may benefit from the arrangement.
- The Clerk summarised the discussion and confirmed Cllrs were comfortable with "PCs should have the right to choose whether to use hybrid meetings and proxy voting based on their unique circumstances" being submitted to the consultation. Clerk to share consultation details with Cllrs again so they can comment individually.

**10) Rural Affordable Housing.** *To consider an offer from Action Hampshire to come and speak to the PC on rural affordable housing and how a project can be started in a parish.*

- Rural Affordable Housing scheme would be for social housing that would be funded by Housing England. Hampshire Services would decide who resides in property. A number of questions were raised by Cllrs relating to what requirement there is for social and affordable housing in the village.
- Cllr Louisson advised Cllrs that a number of policies are being discussed by central government that may impact funding, housing quotas and building opportunities in a National Park. Cllr Louisson advised Cllrs that a number of policies are being discussed by central government that may impact funding, housing quotas and building opportunities in a National Park.
- It was agreed that training/information session enabling councillors to refresh their understanding of the issues should be held in the New Year once the terms of the revised NPPF are clear.

**11) Ponds.** *To receive a verbal update from Cllr Buckle on the progress of the works to the parish ponds. To agree what fencing will be installed around the perimeter of Jolly Robins.*

- Jolly Robins Pond: Pathway has been created around the pond to both roads. Bench has been provided by tree surgeon. Log pile has been left in situ for insects not firewood. Advice is that major work now needs to be left for a year and see what is in place before any further planting.
- Cllr Buckle has requested a quote to remove front stumps and contour front of pond at JR.
- All work has been completed on other two ponds. Some weeding may be required in the spring.
- Cllr Buckle noted that Health & Safety matters and Insurance likely need to be considered following the works. Cllr Buckle was asked about the depth of the ponds. Anecdotal advice is that Lower Green is about 4ft deep and Uplands about 3ft deep.
- Cllrs discussed the options for fencing around the back of the Jolly Robins Pond. Cllr Buckle proposed stock fencing be installed to keep the open vista. All Cllrs were in agreement. Cllr Buckle will get a quote for this work and confirm land boundary.

**12) HCC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).** *Verbal update from Cllr Large on a recent briefing.*

LCWIP is exploring how to get people walking and cycling – mobile and healthy. It focuses on the movement of residents from various sites in town to other sites eg Alton Train Station to College. The range of the plan does not impact HPC and it was agreed Cllr Large would focus on the EHTPC subcommittee and focus on BOATS that are part of the parish.

**13) Phone box.** **To establish a refurbishment action plan for the Upper Green phone box.** Cllr Large would like to start work in March 2025 and needs 3 or 4 people to commit to helping: stripping and sanding the phone box and then painting. Clerk will draft email requesting volunteers.

**14) Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7:30pm, Hawkley Village Hall.

**Meeting closed 8:59pm**

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Signed, Councillor Caukill, Chair HPC

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Date