

HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkley Parish Council Empshott Hut, Wednesday 9th March 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Peter Cregeen (Chairman); Nick Davis (Vice Chairman); Charlie Butcher; John Scutt; Jilly Caesar; Susan Sinclair; Geoff Brighton. Sue Harwood (Clerk) was in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Vaughan Clarke (County Councillor); Judy Onslow (District Councillor).

There was one resident present.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

David Caukill who was out of the country on business.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 28th April 2010

These, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reported that 2010 was generally a quiet year, with two notable exceptions: regrettably the gypsies on Hawkley Road obtained a three year extension to their temporary permission and there remain no outward signs of progress towards HCC and EHDC finding an official site; on a brighter note work on the village hall is progressing very well with Nick Davis and his team having raised 90% of the £235,000 required. The Parish Council donated £5500 towards the project this year. There have been 19 planning applications (vs 17 in 2009) and so many thanks to John Scutt, Jilly Caesar and Geoff Brighton for their hard work. The lengthsman scheme continues to operate smoothly and it is hoped that the contract can be renewed for a further two year period. Many thanks to Tony Madeley for his unstinting efforts. Meanwhile Nigel Brown worked extremely hard clearing all the lanes of snow over the bad weather. New grit bins are now in place for next year. Thanks to all Parish Councillors, County Councillor Vaughan Clarke, District Councillor Judy Onslow, and finally the clerk, for their hard work, and to all residents for their support.

4. Report from District Councillor:

Judy Onslow commented that great efforts continue to be made towards establishing a permanent site for the travelling community but no details are available. The new SDNP goes live on April 1st, however the vast majority of planning applications will continue to be handled by EHDC. Through sound financial management and judicious use of reserves EHDC has succeeded in producing a balanced budget and has maintained an unchanged council tax for another year. Cost savings continue to be sought across the board and redundancies are not unlikely. A fantastic community effort led by Nick Davis has resulted in the fine new-look parish hall, currently under construction.

5. Report from County Councillor:

Vaughan Clarke reported that, as with EHDC, there will be no increase in HCC's share of Council Tax this year. Two main issues have dominated the agenda this year: the reduction in funding from central government and the state of the roads. HCC's funding was cut by £30.9 million (14.3%). Considerable savings have been achieved through job losses wage freezes and cuts in overtime payments. Some 'extras' on the concessionary service have

necessarily been withdrawn. There will be no reduction in the roads budget, enabling more roads to be properly resurfaced. Pressure will be brought to bear upon the utility companies to ensure longer-lasting repairs on completion of work. Hampshire is well prepared for next winter with salt reserves 3 times government's minimum levels, 7 extra salting lorries, 2000 extra salt bins, also snow shovels issued to every parish.

6. Open Forum:

An email from a resident was read out bemoaning the number of speeding cars which are threatening the colonies of wildlife in the parish's ponds and asking that consideration be given to more signs being sited in their vicinity. All Councillors rejected the idea – it being agreed that drivers intent on abusing the law will not be discouraged by extra signs littering the lanes. The Clerk was instructed to write a short article for the parish magazine.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

_____ Chairman

_____ Date