

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 16th January 2014.**

Present: Cllrs John West (Chairman), Clive Robinson, Christabel Carr, Henry Brewis, Ros Alexander, M Harrison and Jayne Robertson. Catherine Hibbert (Clerk).
Ten members of the public.

Apologies: None.

The meeting recessed for Public Forum at 7.30pm.

The following items were raised under Public Forum:

The availability of any Broadband update, it having been noted that the BT site at Sicklesmere may have been subject to recent works.

The meeting reconvened at 7.35pm.

1. APOLOGIES.

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Robinson noted an interest in item 7.3 (namely cheque payable to himself).

3. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS DATED 21st November and 10th December 2013.

3.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2013 and 10th December 2013 were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

4. REPORTS.

4.3 Police: (taken out of turn)

The written report from the police (attached) was noted and **it was AGREED to upload this onto the village website.**

4.4 Communications: Cllr Brewis reported that; (1) there was no further available update on the local Broadband service available for this meeting; (2) Mr Andy Parrett has undertaken training and has started work on upgrading the website, (see item 5.1 below); (3) provisional dates for a series of coffee mornings throughout the year have been arranged and details will be published in the Hawstead Journal. Bookings for the village hall will take priority over these proposed dates. Themes might include speeding, housing etc; (4) the new village hall noticeboard is under construction; (5) the email distribution list continues to work well. Efforts to expand take up of this service will continue; further consideration will be given to using the website/email/ Hawstead Journal to improve local communication.

4.5 Greens: Cllr Carr reported that; (1) the Soil Protection Review is required as part of the single payment scheme in respect of which Hawstead PC receives a grant for its permanent pasture crop. The completed SPR document was tabled and signed by the Chair. **It was AGREED that (i) copies should be maintained (by the clerk and Cllr Carr) for inspection and that (ii) this document should be reviewed in January 2015;** (2) Mr Barnby is agreeable to continue rabbit control on the Green upon the previously agreed basis. **It was AGREED that the clerk should write to the unsuccessful bidders;** (3) the paths across the Green are becoming damaged by horse riders in the wet conditions. **It was AGREED that a notice should be placed in the Hawstead Journal requesting that riders avoid walking directly on the paths in order to minimise damage;**

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Cllr Rushen joined the meeting at 8pm.

(4) trees which came down on the Green in the storm have largely been cleared thanks to volunteers. **It was AGREED that the proposed tree maintenance programme at Brook Green should be deferred pending the outcome of the planning application on nearby land.**

4.6 Footpaths and Trees: Cllr Alexander reported that; (1) SCC has been notified about both the depth of verge outside Hawstead House and the overgrown state of the footpaths by the Cranks (a further tree has come down since the last meeting). **It was AGREED that progress against these items should be monitored and progressed further as appropriate;** (2) some footpath signposts with rotten footings may require replacement. **It was Agreed that the availability of signage from SCC/St Edmundsbury should be investigated** for both the churchyard path to Pinford End and the Pinford End Bridge; Cllr West to confirm exact location; (3) **It was AGREED that a further notification about an overgrown hedge outside Oaksmead, Bury Road obstructing vehicles should be reported to SCC.** The footpath officer noted that the local paths were treacherous underfoot in these wet weather conditions.

4.7 Highways and safety: Cllr Harrison reported that; (1) the roads are in reasonable condition and, given the mild winter to date, are relatively free of potholes. There is however a lot of water sitting on the roads which may become hazardous when frozen; (2) a new sign is on order from SCC for the Whepstead Road;

C Cllr Clements entered at 8.05pm.

(3) regarding the outcome of the speeding surveys recently undertaken by SCC, its position that it was not prepared to provide any further physical speed control measures at present was noted. It had advised the Council to consider alternative measures such as Speedwatch. Cllr Robinson has investigated this scheme and reported that its object is to educate drivers as to their actual speed. The Council must buy/borrow the appropriate equipment (equipment costs £1249.20; high viz jackets provided free by police); six volunteers, including a coordinator, must attend training run by the police (free of charge) and teams of three must commit to a regular session (say one hour pw) of monitoring and recording speeds in accordance with the training. Where a car is recorded driving in excess of 36mph, the police will follow this up with a letter to the driver (it being noted that no prosecution will follow). Anecdotal evidence indicates the correspondence is both effective in encouraging drivers to reduce speed and encourages the police to be more vigilant around areas where excessive speeds are being monitored and recorded under this scheme. One councillor noted anecdotal evidence to the contrary. The scheme was discussed. C Cllr Clements confirmed that he would support the use of this initiative in this village. **It was AGREED that (i) the Council should progress the purchase of this equipment, seeking financial support from SCC via C Cllr Clements; and (ii) the Council should defer writing to SCC, as previously agreed on 21 November 2013, on the issue of the speeding surveys pending the outcome of this initiative;** (4) following discussion lead by C Cllr Clements about the use of mobile flashing speeding signs it was **AGREED that the Council should request two such signs from SCC via Cllr C Clements who agreed that he would seek to provide funding for these items;** (5) The bridge at Pinford End will take some time to repair.

4.1 County Council report (taken out of turn) – C Cllr Clements' report (copy attached) included updates on Broadband, primary school places, care homes, apprenticeships and railway infrastructure.

4.2 Borough Council report (taken out of turn)– B Cllr Rushen's report (copy attached) included an update on restructuring at Forest Heath BC and St Edmundsbury BC and the introduction of the new locality officer, Gemma O Shea.

4.8 Achieving Excellence; Cllr Robertson reported that; (1) the various laminated signs approved in previous meetings remain on order and the dog fouling signs are ready for collection. It was noted that these will need some suitable wooden post mounts; (3) the two new benches have not yet been ordered as approval from Haverbury as to the actual location

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is awaited. (It was suggested that details of the proposed location could be set out in the Hawstead Journal for feedback).

4.9 Clerk Report – The clerk report (document 4.9) was received and noted.

5. TO CONSIDER

5.1 Proposals to upgrade the village website; Mr A Parrett has been familiarising himself with the website and outlined his suggestions for revising the format (which were generally approved) and for its use as a repository of local documents, such as the history recorders report, the Hawstead Journal and material from the Record Office. He proposed to invite contributions via the email list. The Council was appreciative of his efforts in this regard. It was noted that responsibility for the website would ultimately lie with the Council but that it should be a resource for the village and the initiatives proposed by Mr Parrett in this regard were welcomed.

5.2 Signage to Pinford End; The principle of improved signage to Pinford End was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED and it was agreed that (1) Cllr Brewis would advise upon proposed locations; (2) the clerk would approach SCC.

5.3 Training for Councillors; It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that a bespoke training session on planning for the whole Council would be welcome. Clerk to progress.

5.4 Goal posts on the Green: Cllr West reported that following the November meeting further consideration had been given to the size of the proposed posts and an **alternative quote of £313 plus VAT plus £100 for delivery had been obtained which was generally APPROVED.** There was some discussion about whether the byelaws would require any amendment to enable use of the goal posts in the proposed location; it was concluded that the current set of byelaws does not require further amendment. As and when any revised set of byelaws is formally adopted this would need to be reviewed to check that any arrangements for ball games on the proposed area are permitted.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS;

None.

7 FINANCE

7.1 To receive and review the quarterly financial summary: the quarterly summary (October-December 2013) (copy attached) was received and noted.

7.2 To receive and review the bi-monthly summary of finances; the bi-monthly summary of finances for November -December 2013 (copy attached) was received and noted.

7.3 To approve cheques to be issued. The issue of the following cheques was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED:-**

Payee	Cheque number	Net £	Gross £
C Robinson	106	195.83	235.00
C Hibbert	107	100.00	100.00
C Hibbert	108	504.00	504.00
HMRC	109	126.00	126.00
C Hibbert	110	63.30	63.30
SALC	111	45.00	54.00
Hawstead	112	120.00	120.00
Engrave Cut and Copy	114	148.00	148.00
B L Colson	115	50.00	60.00
Hawstead PC	116	3,000.00	3,000.00

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transfer to
reserves

8. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

The Chair thanked Mr Parret for his work on the website and expressed the hope that this would become the go-to place for information about the village. He also highlighted the following issues; (1) the proposals for the Metcalf Arms by the current owners; (2) A copy of the Council's consultation response re the Brook Farm application is now on the St Eds website; the St Eds planning officer has undertaken a site visit recently and a decision in March 2014 is anticipated; (3) St Eds have made some slight alterations to the local planning procedures and he had attended a training session on this, along with Cllr Robinson and the clerk; (4) the Almshouse Trust wants to renovate its car park and seeks the Council's comments. **It was AGREED that this should go onto the agenda for the next meeting;** (4) outcomes from the rural profiling pilot were fed back to the Council before this meeting and **it was AGREED that a note summarising these would be prepared for the Hawstead Journal.**

A Councillor queried whether any planning permission was required for change of use of the Metcalf Arms from pub to café/shop. It was noted that St Eds as local planning authority was fully aware of the various proposals.

It was noted that a short confidential meeting would follow.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted:-

- 9.1 Letters from the Carters dated 8 January re Cranks and Pinford End signage;
- 9.2 Card from Mr C Rigall dated December 2013.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20th March 2014 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked Councillors and members of the public for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Distribution
Cllr C Robinson
Cllr R Alexander
Cllr J West
Cllr C Carr
Cllr Jayne Robertson
Cllr H Brewis
Cllr M Harrison

Website) following approval
Noticeboard) following approval

Attachments

Terry Clements C Cllr Report January 2014
Angela Rushen Report – January 2014

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Police report – January 2014
Clerk report to November 2013
Bi monthly summary of finances 16 January 2014
Quarterly summary of finance Oct-Dec 2013
Chairman's summary

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