

## MINUTES HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

**Present :** Cllrs Clive Robinson (Vice Chairman and acting Chairman), Jayne Robertson, Michael Harrison and Henry Brewis.

**Apologies:** Cllrs John West, Ros Alexander and Christabel Carr.

The meeting was opened at 7.30 by Councillor Robinson.

### **Public Forum**

Mr Rupert Brown outlined the future concept for Hawstead Place Barn. Mr Brown opened by saying that there had been an event every year since 1580. This year there had been 8 events last year 7, 9 the year before and 8 the year before that. Mr Brown said that he had several requests to have 'ceremonies' conducted at the barn not just the wedding receptions that have previously taken place. Mr Brown pointed out that he was not looking to be doing anything that would detract from Hawstead church and has been in touch with Jayne Buckle (Hawstead Rector) about this. It was his intention to continue with the policy of no fireworks and no lanterns. The Vice Chairman thanked Mr Brown for coming to the meeting and giving the Parish Council this information.

Mr Paul Caldwell raised a question regarding the ditch in front of the Alms-houses. Mr Caldwell stated that during the summer this becomes overgrown and an eyesore, he stated that it costs £40 per cut and was suggesting that the Parish Council might like to consider whether a 50/50 contribution might be appropriate. Mr Caldwell requested that this should be considered on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

The public forum closed at 7:46 pm

### **Councillor's declaration of interest**

No declaration of interest was made.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Harrison all in agreement.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012 were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Brewis all those at that meeting in agreement.

## **REPORTS**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Clements gave his report.

Cllr Clements explained the various problems with reorganisation of schools. Cllr Clements reported that although in many other areas that mobile libraries were closing that he was pleased that we still maintained ours.

Cllr Clements was pleased to be able to announce that funding had been recommended for improvements to the corner at Bull Hill.

### **Borough Councillor**

Cllr Rushen outlined the new shared West Suffolk director posts which are subject to confirmation. The reorganisation will cause some small one off costs which have been provided for in the budget but all in all on course for saving in excess of the target.

The Abbey Gardens kiosk has been refurbished and is known now as the Gardner's Rest and will operate as a café as well as continuing to offer drinks and ice creams.

Rural Vision – all comments made by the public are now available on the council website.

The Apex/Theatre Royal – different options are being investigated to improve efficiency.

Parish Conference – this will be held in the Gt Welnetham village hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. David Ruffley has asked to come and will give a presentation.

Cllr Rushen also said that Ian Gallin would be willing to meet with Parish Councils and suggested that the Hawstead parish council might like to commit to this and she will organise it sometime in the winter months.

### **Communications**

Cllr Brewis reported that there had been a steady increase in people on the email list and apologised that the website was not always as up to date as he would like but hoped that when we have a new clerk then this will not be a problem.

It was felt that we should keep the bi monthly coffee morning going and that we would establish a date for October.

### **Highways and safety**

Cllr Harrison reported that although Anthony Smith from Suffolk Highways had initially said that everything is okay with Larkfield corner and Bells lane and no action is required he has since changed his mind. The bridge at Bells Lane has now had some repairs but it is against policy to extend the 30 mph speed limit.

The corner at Bull hill will have some chevrons and this issue will be revisited in some months to see if they have had an effect.

The large water leak on Bull Hill has been repaired but the small leak is still in need of some attention.

Cllr Harrison reported that the unsafe goal posts on the village green have now been removed and so this potential health and safety problem no longer exists.

### **Planning and Legal**

Cllr Robinson reported that there are no outstanding planning issues requiring attention and that with respect to the easement issue that this is progressing satisfactorily.

### **OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER**

#### **Village Hall car park resurfacing**

Quotations for this work were looked at and it was felt the work should be carried out by Mr Adrian Baker. It was pointed out that the community council were looking into the possibility of improving the exterior lighting at the village hall and that it would make sense to coordinate this work. All agreed that this should happen. A member of the public very kindly pointed out that there might be grants available for this work. Cllr Rushen was able to confirm that this is indeed the case and should be available on a matching basis.

#### **Bottle bank**

There was some discussion about the problem that occurred during the summer when the bottle bank was not emptied when it should have been. It was decided that although it caused a problem at the time it is not an on-going problem and so the situation will be monitored for a period of 12 months to see if any action is required.

#### **Storage facility adjacent to the hall**

There was a suggestion from the community council that it might be helpful to have a storage facility adjacent to the village hall. Cllrs Robinson and Brewis both expressed

concern about security and the aesthetic qualities of this. Cllr Robinson volunteered to liaise with the community council on this matter.

#### **Appointment of the new parish clerk**

It was reported that there are currently four candidates for the position of Hawstead parish clerk. Cllr Robertson suggested that the process should be delayed for a month as it would be good to have full involvement from the chairman – all in agreement.

#### **Finances**

Various cheques were duly approved and issued.

#### **Chairman's summary**

Cllr Robinson thanked members of the public for their attendance and helpful input in particular Mrs Karen Cauldwell for input re grants.

#### **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting of Hawstead parish council was confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Cllrs Harrison and Brewis gave advance notice that they will be unable to attend this meeting.

Cllr Robinson closed the meeting at 8:53 pm