

**HAWSTEAD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 17th May 2012.**

Present: Cllrs John West, Christabel Carr, Clive Robinson, Michael Harrison, Jayne Robertson, Henry Brewis & Marilyn Bottomley (Clerk).
Borough Cllr Angela Rushen
14 members of the public were present.

Apologies: Cllr Ros Alexander

Public Forum

Query on the procedure when a member of the parish council has not attended meetings regularly
Query on the reason for a Council tax increase for Hawstead
Question regarding the parish Council's policy on easements
Two villagers requested a copy of the minutes for 15th December 2011
Resignation of the current Clerk and the Council's proposed replacement

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

Chairman - Cllr West. Proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Brewis – all in favour.
Declaration of Acceptance signed.

Vice Chairman - Defer until the July meeting

Declarations of interest

None

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 29th March 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th March were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. Proposed by Cllr Robertson and seconded by Cllr Carr. All in favour.

Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting 30th April 2012

The minutes of the planning meeting held on 30th April were approved as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly. Proposed by Cllr Carr, seconded by Cllr Harrison. All in favour.

Reports

Communications – Cllr Brewis confirmed that villagers were now being e-mailed draft copies of the minutes and agenda as they became available. The number of villagers requesting this information was increasing.

Feed back of information for the website was improving. Hawsteadparishcouncil.co.uk

Environment -

The footpaths – were generally in good repair and accessible. The tree which had come down at the Cranks had been cleared. During the year a major land owner was asked if he would consider opening up new foot paths but this was not favourably received. Thank you to the Footpath Warden for carrying out regular inspections. Management of the hay cut continues but it was a poor crop this year.

Quite a few villagers assisted in the Ragwort pulling. Special thanks to Suzanne White

The Council continues to receive income from The Rural Payments Agency and the DEFRA stewardship. In the Autumn there was a meeting on the green with two representatives from Natural England who oversee the stewardship scheme. Areas outside the village hall were checked and it proved a very useful meeting. They subsequently wrote stating they were happy with what had been done and it didn't conflict with the agreement. The current main area should not get any bigger. It was felt that the fete should not be as large as last year.

Mole control continues with the same contractor and the lack of molehills indicates a good job is being done. The ferreter contractor is local and is new this year. This seems the most appropriate method for rabbit control. Complaints of crop damage have been received from a neighbouring land owner – it also impacts on our hay crop. Mowing and topping the green has been a good job on contracted areas. The goal posts have been identified as unsafe and these will be taken down.

The Chairman acknowledged that a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by Cllr Carr

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and the Council was very appreciative.

Highways & Safety – the roads were in good repair and the installed village gates were proving very successful – people were taking note they were entering into a 30 mph limit.

A number of road signs have been replaced. There were and seven new ones on order of which three have already been installed and the other four will be positioned when they are ready. Three months ago SCC was asked to replace 3 x 30 mph missing signs and to install three directional signs on the corner of Bury Road and Bell Lane. This work is in hand.

Concern was expressed over the road closures without prior notice being given and this was taken up with SCC. It also happened again with the water main in Bull Lane which was AWA's responsibility.

SCC were also asked to agree more signage on Larkfield to make it safer – they have however declined but the Council will continue to lobby them on this matter. SCC and Highways are very slow in responding to emails and phone calls.

Speeding through the village is not a serious issue butg does occur and the Council is looking into the possibility of flashing signs available via SCC. The police have however set up occasional speed traps.

Grit bins should be re-stocked during late summer. Nominated villagers are covered under SCC insurance and authorised to spread grit on the relevant roads, and high visibility jackets have been purchased for use next winter.

The Emergency Plan has still to be updated. It was hoped a parishioner would be prepared to take on this responsibility.

Achieving excellence – details of the proposed Parish Plan were outlined by Cllr Robertson. Information had appeared in The Journal with a meeting scheduled for 13th June with Annette Grey from Suffolk ACRE. The intention would be to inform villagers about the proposed plan, to gain interest and then undertake a survey from which villagers' views could be channelled into a plan for Hawstead.

Three new councillors had attended training courses at SALC; the Chairman had been to a Leadership Skills course and Cllr Harrison had attended a workshop on road gritting.

Planning & Legal matters – applications were initially checked on the SEBC website by Cllr Robinson who would compile a verbal report for all councillors. All applications were treated exactly the same and a planning meeting being held within the limited timescale indicated by SEBC

To consider

Triangle of land Whepstead Road – A number of procedural queries had been raised with Simon Curl and a response was now awaited.

Future usage of Millennium Field – quotes had been obtained from suppliers for a picnic bench and following a brief discussion, Cllr Robinson proposed purchasing from Woodberry at a cost of £149 plus VAT. Seconded by Cllr Harrison – all in favour.

Suitable signage covering the use of the area by the public was discussed and Cllr Carr agreed to work on appropriate wording.

Working party report in respect of village green registration – the matter remained ongoing

Bylaws review – there had been some correspondence requesting the exact locations so that a map and grid reference could be set up. No further response received to the date of the meeting

Jubilee celebrations – all in hand and a whole variety of events was planned. The Parish Council would like to contribute towards overall costs and were waiting for the HCC to contact them on the matter.

Cllr Harrison referred to previous celebrations and suggested the parish council provided a commemorative bench and plaque to mark the occasion. Cllr Robertson had a leaflet from Orwell Mencap showing a 6ft Iroko bench for approximately £390 and Cllr Harrison proposed purchasing the item. Seconded by Cllr West – all in favour.

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Planning applications – none received**Finance**

073 **Unaudited accounts 2011/2012:** copies of the accounts circulated to all councillors. Approval proposed by Cllr West, seconded by Cllr Harrison. Five councillors in favour, one abstention.

074 **Auditor for 2012/2013:** Cllr West proposed continuing with SALC. Seconded by Cllr Harrison – all in favour.

075 **Cheques for approval** - The following cheques to be issued were proposed by Cllr Harrison, seconded by Cllr Carr – all in favour.

<u>Chq No.</u>		
42	Open Spaces (membership)	£ 40.00
43	SALC (subs)	£162.00
44	Clerk (expenses)	£ 78.51
S/0	Personnel (April/May/June)	£699.18

076 **Risk Assessment:** defer to next meeting

077 **Standing/Financial Orders:** Reviewed and councillors were unanimous in agreeing that no changes were needed.

Chairman's summary

Vote of appreciation for Bill Crockford who had cleaned the sign. A big thank you to the ladies who provided refreshments for the evening. The Clerk will be leaving at the end of June and the council were appreciative of the work and support she had given working 2½ years for the previous chairman – Malcolm Cornwell - and 12 months for John West - current chairman.

Correspondence & circulars

Various brochures for circulation

APM - e-mail concerning lack of speed limit in Bells Lane. Possible letter to SCC – Cllr Harrison to liaise with Cllr West on this matter.

Date of next meeting - 19th July 2012.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.58 p.m.

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