

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON 15th January 2015.**

**Present:** Cllrs John West (Chairman), Clive Robinson, Ros Alexander, Michael Harrison, Jayne Robertson and Christabel Carr. Catherine Hibbert (Clerk).  
Seven members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Henry Brewis.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm and the Chairman read out a short statement confirming that filming/recording of the meeting would be permitted in line with recent legislative changes.

It was noted that item 5.6 would be taken out of turn at the end of the meeting in closed session to enable the consideration of legal advice.

*The meeting recessed for Public Forum at 7.35.*

The following matters were raised during Public Forum:-  
Maglia Rosso – Works on the Green to create an access without landowner (Council) permission.

*The meeting reconvened at 7.40pm.*

**1. APOLOGIES.**

Noted.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014.**

**3.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1 County Council Report:** In the absence of C Cllr Clements, nothing to report.

**4.2 Borough Council Report:** B Cllr Rushen referred to her January 2015 report, which will be posted onto the Hawstead PC website. It was noted that the BC locality money has now been spent.

**4.3 Police report:** an email report from local police was tabled and noted which confirmed that there has been no reported crime in Hawstead since the last Council meeting.

**4.4 Communications report:** In the absence of Cllr Brewis, his written report was read out which highlighted that the Broadband service around the village continues to be variable and unsatisfactory to some. The possibility of securing improved service by having cabling delivered direct to households was discussed. The Council invited B Cllr Rushen to lobby SCC for support in securing improved local Broadband service.

**4.5 Greens:** Cllr Carr reported that; (i) there is further guidance on the Basic Farm Payment scheme which will shortly replace the Single Farm Payment scheme from which the Council currently benefits. (ii) any tree/hedge cutting needs to be done before 1 March 2015 to avoid nesting birds; and (iii) it would be good to source some suitable tree stumps to protect the village green from parking cars during the wet winter period.

**4.6 Footpaths and trees;** Cllr Alexander reported that; (i) quotes for tree maintenance work would be dealt with at item 5; (ii) the lack of pedestrian refuge on the section of road outside Hawstead

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House continues to present a danger to pedestrians who have nowhere to stand off the road out of the way of traffic; it was **AGREED** that a further attempt to invite Suffolk County Council to take action should be made and that in the meantime the opposite verge should be added onto the Council mowing schedule. It was noted that a further rotten willow on the Green has been reported.

**4.7 Highways and safety;** Cllr Harrison reported that; (i) white lining at Larkfield Corner (originally requested in May) remains outstanding; (ii) some potholes have been reported; (iii) there is no news on the stolen new grit bin, but the landowner who accidentally damaged one of the old grit bins has reimbursed the Council with the cost of a replacement, for which many thanks; (iv) roads are in a reasonable condition although there is a burst drainage pipe at Little Mead. B Cllr AR was invited to pursue this further as it is situated in Whepstead; (v) a missing warning triangle sign has been reported repeatedly but is yet to be replaced; (vi) the Pinford End finger post remains undelivered; and (vii) it was **AGREED** that a working party should be formed to concrete in the fire hydrant post outside the Pound which has repeatedly been taken down. *PCOS Anthony Welford joined the meeting.*

PCOS AW introduced himself as Sophie Mitchell's replacement and offered to take questions on the police report at item 4.3. No questions.

**6.1 Planning consultation DC/14/2184/FUL for continued use of a barn as a wedding and conference venue at Hawstead Place: (taken out of turn).**

Cllr Robinson introduce the application. Mr R Brown (applicant) was invited to comment on the application. He stated that the current use of the barn as a wedding reception venue had started tentatively but was now growing into a successful business; he wanted to make sure this use was supported by appropriate planning consent. There was detailed discussion about the use of fireworks and the dangerous impact this might have on local livestock. **The Council RESOLVED TO SUPPORT the application but to note that one Councillor had expressed concerns over the use of fireworks.**

**5.3 Request received from Mr R Brown for improved access to his field opposite Melpost Farm (taken out if turn);**

It was noted that the land in issue, whilst locally considered as part of the Green is not registered as village Green; it is in fact registered to SCC (highway verge). Mr Brown was invited to take this issue up with SCC (Mr Simon Curl).

**5.4 Bells Lane flooding (taken out of turn);** Cllr Alexander reported that a section of Bells Lane regularly floods where it passes over a low bridge; the pipework under the old bridge is inadequate to cope with the volume of water; there is nothing upstream impeding the flow. Various potential treatments for this area were discussed in detail. **It was AGREED that (1) the silt in the pipework should be cleared; (2) the downflow should be observed; and (3) 2 flood signs and a flood pole requested from SCC.** It was noted that this wild stream is a rare and beautiful asset to the village. Any works to clear silt need to avoid damage to this area.

**6.2 Planning consultation DC/14/2381/HH and DC/14/2385/LB planning consultation and listed building consent application for single storey rear orangery (following demolition of existing conservatory at Park Lane Cottages) (taken out of turn).**

Cllr Robinson introduced the application, noting that the case officer had recommended refusal on grounds that (due to the listed building status) the application was incomplete and that full consultation has not taken place. It was noted that the case officer has not yet visited the property. There was discussion about whether what is proposed represents an improvement on the existing provision. After full discussion the Council resolved by majority vote (5:1) to object to the application. The Council noted that there was no objection in principle to the proposals but that the submission of a revised application addressing the listed building issues would be welcome.

**4.8 Planning and safety;** Cllr Robinson reported that; (i) he is completing the paperwork for his team of Speedwatch volunteers and training will commence shortly; a charge for associated

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signage of £89 is anticipated and was generally **APPROVED**; (ii) the byelaws working party has met and David Carter has agreed to progress the final stage of approval.

**4.9 Achieving Excellence**; Cllr Robertson reported that; (1) supported by Mrs West she has investigated the cost of an automatic defibrillator (approximately £2000) and proposes that the cost of this is sourced as follows; £500 village of the year prize money, up to a further £1000 from the Council and the remainder to be raised from businesses associated with Hawstead. Update to next meeting.

**4.10 Clerk report**. The clerk report (document 4.10) was received and noted. It was noted that the **internal checks on finance controls/risk assessment** need to be undertaken and that the clerk's appraisal is due.

## 5. TO CONSIDER

**5.1 Elections May 2015**; it was noted that the Council elections will take place on 7 May 2015 and that it will be useful to identify any potential vacancies in advance. Consideration to be given to placing an advertisement in the Hawstead Journal/website to encourage residents to stand. It was noted that the Council will have to contribute to the election costs and that the budget will need adjustment accordingly

**5.2 Mowing quotes for 2015**; C Carr agreed to adjust the mowing schedule for 2015/16 (to add in additional areas) and to **bring three quotes to the next meeting**.

**5.3 Request received from Mr R Brown for improved access to his field opposite Melpost Farm**; see above.

**5.4 Bells Lane flooding**; see above.

**5.5 Work on village green**; it was noted that the Council had written to the owners of Maglia Rosso; the situation is being monitored.

**5.6 Aims houses car park**; to be dealt with in closed session.

**5.7 Tree maintenance quotes**. Cllr Alexander tabled three quotes for the three parcels of tree works received from S Bradnam (£1900), N Reekie (£5850) and TC Forestry and Fencing (£3100). All three contractors have insurance and can complete the works before 1 March. The Council **resolved to appoint Stuart Bradnam (£1900 inc)** as his quote represented best value. The Council were most grateful to Mr James Carr for his help on the tree maintenance works. It was noted that the proposed works include two rotten trees on the green but that a large fallen tree would be left in place to rot.

## 6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS

See items 6.1 and 6.2 above.

## 7. FINANCE

**7.1 To receive and review the bi-monthly financial summary for November -December 2014:**

The bi-monthly summary was received, considered and approved.

**7.2 To approve cheques to be issued**; the issue of the following cheques was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**:

Ricoh	£128.76
Hawstead CC room hire	£120
Kingfisher Direct Ltd*	£309.30
LCPAS training course	£20
St Edmundsbury	£864
C Hibbert wage	£664
HMRC tax on wages	£56
C Hibbert expenses	£71.97
C Hibbert Litter picking honorarium	£100

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## 8. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

The Chairman thanked those present for their contributions. He was pleased to confirm that (1) there had been no increase in precept for four years running; and (2) the emergency generator has been tested. Mr Butt has agreed to **check that villagers on the emergency contact** agree to continue. The possibility of inviting a speaker from Suffolk Wildlife Trust or similar to talk about biodiversity before a scheduled Council meeting was noted.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

Recent correspondence received by the Council is referred to in the clerk report (document 4.10).

Receipt of the following items in particular was noted:-

The Local Councillor issue 4 2014

DEFRA CAP leaflet

Transparency code

LAIS on parish polls

Hawstead playground inspection reports Nov and Dec 2014

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**19th March 2015 7.30pm.**

It was noted that a closed session would follow the meeting. There being no further open business, the Chairman thanked Councillors and members of the public for attending.

*The meeting closed at 9.45pm*

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

Documents before meeting

November BC Report

Clerk report to January 2015

Bi monthly summary of finances 15 January 2015

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