

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 19th January 2017.**

Present: Cllrs John West (Chairman), Clive Robinson, Henry Brewis, Ros Alexander, Penny Barham, Michael Harrison and Christabel Carr (in part). Catherine Hibbert (Clerk).
7 members of the public.

Apologies: N/A.

The filming statement was taken as read and the meeting opened at 7.30pm.

The meeting recessed for Public Forum at 7.30pm.

The following matters were raised:-

The Council was asked to consider the introduction of a scheme to make a number of native trees freely available to residents (upon application) to promote biodiversity in the village, with trees available to be targeted at visible locations where they can be enjoyed by all residents. The BC ran a similar scheme successfully in the past. It was agreed to consider this matter at the next meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7.35pm. Cllr C Carr joined the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES.

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Carr declared an interest in item 6.1 below, to the extent that she has use of agricultural land belonging to the applicant for planning permission at this item.

3. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 17th NOVEMBER 2017.

3.1The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2017 were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** as a true and accurate record and signed accordingly.

4. REPORTS.

4.1 County Council report; CCllr T Clements' report was received and noted and will be uploaded onto the website. In his absence, the meeting noted that CCllr Clements had recently allocated £150 locality grant towards a music project being undertaken at Pinford End nursing home.

4.3 Police; the SNT December report for Haverhill (encompassing Hawstead) was noted and will be uploaded onto the website.

4.4 Communications; Cllr Brewis, reported that; (i) Matthew Hancock MP (who is also the Minister for Culture and Digital Affairs) will visit the village on Friday 27 January 2017 to discuss local issues including Broadband service. Whepstead residents will join this meeting too; all welcome; and (ii) progress with the Broadband upgrade is still awaited. The meeting discussed the scope of the use of the village email distribution list and it was agreed that it should be restricted to information of local interest.

4.5 Greens; Cllr Carr reported that; (i) a working party had met to clear an area of the Green (adjacent to Brook Green) in November. The event was well attended (24 residents) - many thanks to all volunteers; a footpath has been cleared and the area would be enhanced by a footbridge to open up land on the other side of the watercourse. *See item 5.1 below;* (ii) before

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mowing quotes for the Green for 2017 are considered it would be necessary to review the preferred number of annual cuts, in response to feedback received from residents during 2016. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the number of annual cuts for the main areas would be increased from 7 to 8 with an earlier start date for the first cut, with the revised regime to be kept under review; additional areas to be added into the schedule; regular flailing of an area of Brook Green to be considered to keep bramble growth in check. The meeting discussed an enquiry from a resident as to any measures which could be taken to prevent overflow parking from the village hall from damaging the Green. The legal restrictions concerning the management of the Green were noted and the possibility of using parking stewards/ a parking plan for the limited number of events attracting excess cars was discussed.

4.6 Footpaths and trees; Nothing to report.

4.7 Highways and safety; Cllr Harrison reported that a burst water main had been dealt with quickly since the last meeting. It was noted that the laurel hedge outside Hawstead Hall would be cut back soon, improving visibility on the bend.

4.2 Borough Council report (taken out of turn); B Cllr Rushen highlighted recent BC activity, including the grant of outline planning permission for the Abbots Vale development at Rushbrooke/Nowton, the BSE masterplan and parking issues in the town. No written report to this meeting.

4.8 Speedwatch; Cllr Robinson reported that Speedwatch activities have been limited recently due to poor weather and light at this time of year. Additional volunteers for this scheme are welcome. The meeting noted that the issue of cars speeding through the village continues to be an issue. It was **AGREED** to research the availability of VAS signage further to address this.

4.9 Clerk. The clerk report was received and noted.

5. TO CONSIDER

5.1 Brook Green - footbridge over stream; Cllr Carr reported that the work undertaken recently (See item 5.1 above) to open up land and create a path had revealed an obvious location at which to position a footbridge to enable full access to the area of the Green acquired through a land swap some years ago. A quote has been provided by S Barnes (the SCC recommended contractor) for a bridge with handrails (£1375 plus VAT). It was **AGREED** that; (i) the project should proceed; (ii) additional quotes should be sought before any contractor is appointed; and (iii) checks would be made to ascertain what permissions, if any, are required to authorise the construction of this bridge over a watercourse. The possibility of seating for this area to be kept under review. It was noted that the work to this area would be highlighted in an article for the Hawstead Journal and that suggestions for a name for this area of the Green would be sought.

5.2 Quotes for tree work/replacement trees; Mr Carr (tree warden) had provided quotes from three contractors in relation to a schedule of necessary tree work on the Green, Pound Green and Bull Green, all to be undertaken before March 2017 (Drew Leper £320, S Bradnam £390, PB Treescapes £390). It was **AGREED** that the Council would accept the Drew Leper tender. Mr Carr had also sourced quotes for hedge plants to enable the creation of a new hedge at the back of the Millennium Field (Aveland £214.20 plus VAT, Botanica £335.70 plus VAT and King & Co £260 plus VAT). It was **AGREED** to accept the Aveland tender. Mr Carr will kindly arrange for a volunteer planting day in February 2017, for which many thanks.

5.3 Annual play equipment report; The St Eds annual play report dated October 2016 (in relation to the stand-alone set of swings on the Green) was received and noted. There were two very low risk findings (seats too close to both the frame and each other – no remedial action required). There was also a low risk finding that an impact absorbing surface beneath the swings in place of grass is recommended. Those present reported very little observed use of this equipment. It was agreed to monitor the extent to which these swings are used and then review this recommendation further.

5.4 Dog bins; a suggestion to install dog bins to serve the footpath running from the church down to the bridge at Pinford End had been raised at the previous meeting; information received St Eds BC as regards procedure for commissioning bins was considered and it was noted that landowner

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consent is required. The meeting discussed the issue, including that; (i) none present were aware of a dog fouling problem on this section of path; (ii) the Council is not the landowner; (iii) a charge would be made for cleaning out the bins. On balance it was **AGREED** not pursue this proposal for the time being.

5.5 Lawshall Neighbourhood Plan pre-consultation. Cllr Robinson reported that he had reviewed the substantial documentation available, noting the significant amount of work completed by the Lawshall team in this regard. In short, the draft plan, which when approved would sit within the current St Eds Development Plan, indicates where - within the plan area - certain types of development would be acceptable to the local community. Proposals would still need planning permission but the wishes of the community, as reflected in this plan, would help guide the local planning authority. It was noted that, although not yet approved, St Eds is taking the draft neighbourhood plan into account when determining planning applications.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS

6.1 Planning application DC/16/2787/HH to demolish existing north side lean-to, single storey extension on west rear; change pitched roof on existing bays to parapet roof on west rear; two storey extension on north side; lean-to on north side at The Old Rectory Church Road, Hawstead IP29 5NT. Cllr Robinson reviewed this application for alterations to this unlisted high Victorian house. The meeting discussed the same and on the grounds that the proposals were sympathetic to the existing building and its setting and had no significant impact on the residential/visual amenity of neighbours it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that the Council would support this application.

7. FINANCES

7.1 To receive and review the bi-monthly financial summary for November-December 2016; received and **APPROVED**.

7.2 To approve cheques to be issued. The following cheques were **APPROVED**.

Detail	Detail	Cheque no	Net (of VAT)	Vat	TOTAL
C Hibbert	Wages	261	720		720
SALC	Training	262	16.00	3.20	19.20
Ricoh	Printing	263	154.05	30.81	184.86
C Hibbert - Various	(i)Expenses £143.13, (ii) honorarium payment to C Rigall and A Parrett £150 and (iii) website fees £17.96	264	295.70	15.39	311.09

7.3 To receive the quarterly financial summary to 31 December 2016; received and noted. It was noted that the opening of a new Council bank account is being progressed.

8. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

The Chairman thanked those present for their contributions and noted that the couple who have sought permission to use the Millennium Field for a wedding reception later this year have been asked to provide written confirmation of the various arrangements.

9. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following items were received and noted:-

9.1 Email from Police and Crime Commissioners' Office dated 4 Jan 2017;

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- 9.2 The Councillor - Winter 2016;
- 9.3 Cross Compliance Rules 2017.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday 16th March 2017 at 7.30pm.
The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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

Website) following approval
Noticeboard) following approval

Documents before meeting

CC report
SNT report
Clerk report
Bi-monthly financial summary
Quarterly summary to 31 Dec 2016

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