

# Hawkesbury Parish Council



**Minutes of Hawkesbury Parish Annual Assembly Meeting  
Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30pm  
In the Methodist Hall, Back Street, Hawkesbury Upton**

**Present:**

**CLlr Hope (Chair), Cllr Higgs, Cllr Powell and H Jones (Parish Clerk)**

**Apologies**

**Cllr Harding, Cllr Musty, Cllr Ruthven, Cllr Wareham, Cllr Stephens and Cllr Turner**

**Public Participation**

5 parishioners (list held for PC records)

Action

- 1 To take apologies for absence**  
Cllr Harding, Cllr Musty, Cllr Ruthven, Cllr Wareham, Cllr Stephens and Cllr Turner
- 2 Approval of Annual Assembly Minutes dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**
  - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 signed as a true and accurate record.**Resolved by Cllr Hope signing the minutes; Clerk to ensure the approved minutes are placed on the website**

**Community Shop-Representative**

The shop is going from strength to strength, trading is going well and are employing local people; in addition, many young people work in the shop and gaining retail experience in their free time – very positive. The shops AGM is approaching-good time to buy a share.

Hawkesbury Community Shop put to the parish Council to see if they would support the planning application to redo the shop frontage-to increase the size of the door and make the window narrower making the access wider. In addition, parking outside the shop is an issue at times, it was put to councillors if they had any views/advice to accommodate potential shoppers/parking

Sales have increased, way past the predicted figures, fantastic staff and products available. They have extended the opening hours to capture people coming home from work, in the first week they more than covered the costs of staying open later.

Good News. Thank you to their representative to attending tonight's meeting.

### **3 Chairman's report read by Cllr Hope**

Firstly, Cllr Harding would like to express thanks to all the councillors and to the Clerk, Hazel, for all their work and dedication in what has been another busy year.

The Park Street development received planning consent from South Gloucestershire Council for a slightly reduced development after instigating a public appeal against the refusal of their first scheme. Since then SGC has announced that they have achieved a five-year land supply which makes it slightly easier for villages to defend against inappropriate developments. That said, there is an appeal pending against the refusal of the 8-house development planned on land east of Hawkesbury Grange.

After these development proposals, the Parish Council has supported the formation of a Community Land Trust with the aim of providing future properties that are required in the community on a not for profit basis.

Upgrading and extending the playground is due to commence later this year after the incredible effort of a small group who comprise Hawkesbury At Play in raising £130k in what seems like no time at all, well done to all of them.

Congratulations are also due to Neil Fozzard in winning a neighbourhood award from SGC for all his voluntary work in various local organisations.

The Parish Council still has a waiting list for allotments and managing this is ongoing.

The Parish Council is grateful to the Badminton Estate for the donation of the Christmas Tree, this is a great annual event and thanks to all those who make it happen.

Councillors have worked hard on improvements to the Cemetery by changing the contractor who cuts the grass resulting in a better result. We have also carried out trimming of the 7 Irish Yew trees which had got too large. We continue to liaise with the Badminton Estate over the provision of additional land for a much-needed extension to the cemetery.

Some of you will have noticed a new bench on the plain which was donated by Grace and Susan in memory of their mother. Thanks' are also due to the gardening club for donating £500 towards a new commemorative bench which is to be sited in the cemetery, this is on order and will be installed shortly. We are also progressing the provision of a plaque to commemorate WW1 adjacent to the memorial.

The Parish Council would also like to thank the Cotswold Wardens for their work in improving the Farm Pool and to all those who helped with the Big Spring Clean recently.

The Parish Council continue to be mindful of the traffic speed and parking in the village and this is under constant review.

Finally, thanks are due to those involved in obtaining a grant in principle to provide a defibrillator to be installed in the redundant phone box at Orangend at the foot of

Chase Hill.

Thanks again to all Councillors and Hazel

#### **4 Hawkesbury at Play-Representatives**

Hawkesbury at Play has reached their target of £130k and are now in the process of appointing a company to carry out the work.

They have three plans and will be looking at the community's comments before making their final decision.

There will be a zip wire, play area and the orange pagoda will be moved closer to the skate park. It will be assessable for a wider group of people. The Committee are working with the show committee to take into account the marquee on show day.

Work should commence in the Autumn and plans will be on show in the shop/library during the consultation period in June/July.

Security was raised-CCTV, discussion with the Hall Committee to see what area this covers. Contingency funds are available to assist with any additional costs. The zip wire will be covered under their insurance.

Suggestion was made to work with the youngsters within the community-this was noted.

In addition, the company who carries out the work may paint the basketball court.

Cllr Hope thanked the representatives for attending tonight.

#### **5 District Councillors report – Cllr Hope**

A look back over the year, but also over the last 28 years. Great privilege to represent this large rural ward, with Hawkesbury Parish holding a special place.

During the last few weeks, things have been fairly quiet at the Council, due the Conservatives standing down all the meetings. Cllr Hope has had complaints about the large increase in the Council Tax Bill – this is made up of a large 12% increase in the Police Precept. Large borrowings are being made to spend on school buildings; included in the bill is an increase for social care. Please contact the number on the Council Tax Bill to ask for help and further advice on your bills.

For many years Cllr Hope has served on the Health Scrutiny Committee, inspecting the many changes to our NHS over the years. With the closure of Frenchay we were promised services would be delivered locally – we have the Yate Minor Injury Unit providing services for a wide area; and we have just heard they will be increasing their opening times. There will be closer working between South Gloucestershire and Bristol on all community health matters in the future.

There has been much time on developing the Joint Strategic Plan and the JTP; the work on providing the Local Plan seems to have been put on hold until later in the year. There have been many speculative planning developments, but SG has now got a 5-year land supply, enabling a stronger case to be made against such applications.

The importance of engaging with the local planning policy early.

MAF grants awarded to Hawkesbury @Play; H Village Hall, AT Tennis Club, HVT, Sodbury 800 Festival, Shop mobility and Hawkesbury CLT

Following on from last year still awaiting Broadband on the Commons, understand a plan is being drawn up for implementation before the end of the month?

No police attending this evening, however the CEF Forum did meet in Hawkesbury Upton last month.

The Community Library meets fortnightly, with a good attendance, crafts for children. More children /adults would be welcome.

The Farm Pool, is being renovated by the Cotswolds Wardens. A long process, more work on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April – a Management Plan is being drawn up, which will involve volunteers in the future.

Cllr Hope has served on the AONB Conservation Board for many years, and Cllr Hope still think their communications could be improved – Cllr Hope has sent the most recent information sheet to the clerks. The Board is campaigning to become a National Park.

Cllr Hope also sits on the Merlin (Housing Association) Customer Assembly, which has been very informative. Bromford has now merged with Merlin, and they will be working with Neighbourhood Coaches in the future.

Thanks to the Vanda Preece, Dave Carey, and especially Hazel and all other clerks for their help and support.

## **6 Neil Lodge Ash Die Back presentation**

Ash Die Back disease originated in Japan. In 1992 it was found in Poland and it has since crossed Europe. This is as a result of migrating birds and the movement of trees.

Ash is good for making furniture.

Signs of Ash Die Back, it's is found in the leave's it then destroys branches, they become a straw like bronzy colour and turn brittle, where it should be flexible. The disease is across the country and there is a restriction on movement. There are concerns with Health and Safety with the diseased trees falling over during strong winds.

Not everyone including tree surgeons are aware of the disease, it is more dramatic than Dutch Elm Disease.

Further discussion took place on Grey Squirrels and the damage they cause and other diseases found in trees.

Cllr Hope asked Mr Lodge if he could support the clearing the land opposite Somerset Monument-this was noted

## **7 Hawkesbury Parish Councils Finance report**

Hawkesbury Parish Council has stayed within its budget for 2018/19 and remains in a good financial position.

The parish Council continues to support local groups and organisations with grant funding of £2015 for example the Guides, Youth Club, Rainbows, Preschool, Evergreens and Citizens Advice. In addition, the Parish Council supported Hawkesbury at Play fund raising with a donation of £2500

As promised in last year's report we are pleased to confirm the maintenance work on the yew trees and removal of the Holly tree in the cemetery has been completed.

## **8 Hawkesbury Volunteer Transport (HVT)**

This year's HVT Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 14.00hours in the Village Hall meeting room. All Welcome to attend.

During the past twelve months a number of Drivers have retired, finding, in most cases, that age is catching up on them. HVT has been operating for twelve years now, so those of us that started when we were in our 60's is now approaching 80 years of age and at this age we cannot get insurance cover without an overload policy.

Of the original team of 10 only four are left.

Over time we have been lucky enough to maintain a reasonable level of driver support and at the moment we have filled all but one of the insurance slots giving HVT nineteen volunteer drivers. As there are some of this group who would like to retire, HVT are looking for 4 or 5 new volunteers. So please, if you know anyone who might be interested ask them to get in touch with HVT.

Money-121 years on and HVT still charge the Passengers the same amount as when HVT started. 40 pence per mile, despite the increase in fuel and insurance costs.

At the last AGM it was voted in that, if a Passenger had to attend hospital for treatment on a daily basis, then at the Chairman's discretion and provided we could use the Comcar, HVT would convey the passenger for free. HVT felt that anyone undergoing this type of treatment did not need the worry of transport costs. During May and June last year we put this into practice, and did 25 journeys covering 1175 miles. Thereby saving the Passenger £220.00. If they had had to use a taxi then the cost would have been in the region of £2500.00.

HVT would like to continue with both keeping the cost at 40 pence per mile and they would also like to continue not charging passengers who require long term treatment, by that they mean a daily visit to the hospital for 6 or 8 weeks.

To do this HVT needs to obtain funding of £1600.00 per year to cover the basic cost of insurance at £1270.15 and the £300 cost of the telephone and a small amount of stationary.

A few facts and figures-between April last year until the end of March this year, which

is HVT's accounting period, the Team have carried out 238 trips, have driven 7206 miles and during June last year, achieved a HVT record of 49 trips and 1683 miles in one month.

Once again a very successful year and many thanks to all the HVT Team members and to South Gloucestershire Council for their continued support. Over

**9 Open Forum**

No further reports/questions

**10 Date of the Annual General meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Methodist Hall, Back Street Hawkesbury Upton at 7.30pm**

Signature of Chairman as a true and accurate record

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