

Hawkesbury Parish Council



**Minutes of Hawkesbury Parish Annual Assembly Meeting
Held on Monday 16th April 2018 at 7.30pm
In the Methodist Hall, Back Street, Hawkesbury Upton**

Present:

Cllr Hope (Chair), Cllr Higgs, Cllr Harding, Cllr Powell, Cllr Musty, Cllr Ruthven, Cllr Wareham, Cllr Stephens and H Jones (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

None

Public Participation

8 parishioners list held for PC records

Action

1 To take apologies for absence

None

2 Approval of Annual Assembly Minutes dated 25th April 2017

- 25th April 2017 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

3 Chairman's report

Cllr Hope - a big Thank You to Mike Cox, who recently resigned. During what cannot have been an easy time, he has led the Parish Council through a challenging and busy year. The Parish Council received an application for a large number of houses, which received many objectives – guided the Parish Council through the many meetings.

The Parish Council has instigated meetings to inform the parish about Neighbourhood Development Plans and Community Land Trusts.

The Parish Council has a waiting list for the allotments and are currently aware of the disturbance caused to the plots by Western Power installing electric infrastructure for the neighbours.

The Parish Council is grateful to the Badminton Estate for the donation of the

Christmas Tree, but also to the Summer and Winter Skittles -who helped with the purchase of new decorations. This is a great annual event and thanks to all those who make it happen.

Mike has worked hard on improvements to the Cemetery – with great improvements in how the place now looks and instigating the much-needed extension to the cemetery.

Thanks to all those who helped during the bad weather; this showed the great resilience of the parish, and the great community spirit of Hawkesbury Parish.

Thanks to Councillors and Hazel

4 Police Report – Kenneth Hill Avon and Somerset Police

Kenneth Hill has been the beat manager for a year, previously many years at Hanham, which is very different to rural area.

He is aware of the concerns regarding the lack of police present in the area, they have a large area to cover and are usually in their car, being pulled by their radio.

20MPH vehicles going over this speed limit, the speed camera vehicle has been in the village and caught offenders.

Crime in this area is really low.

Questions raised –

- What is the best way to contact the police-101, unless it's an emergency then it is 999.
- 101 operators do not have local knowledge-improvements are taking place
- Slow to get through on 101-apologised this is being looked into
- How often do you visit Hawkesbury – about 6 times a week, not always getting out of the car, but they try their best to speak to residents and go into the shop

CLlr Hope thanked the police.

5 Hawkesbury at Play-Representatives

A group of volunteers have been looking at improving the facilities on the recreational field. They apologised for not approaching the Parish Council and Hall committee earlier. However, they have approached the young children and Primary school. They will be holding a consultation on Friday 20th April 2-3.30pm and 6-8pm, all welcome. They would like to involve the community in the project. A request was made for the Parish Council to purchase the equipment so they could save the VAT, regrettably this is not possible. Hawkesbury at Play will continue to fund raise to refurbish £60K or purchase new equipment up to £141k. There will be designs on show during the consultation, refreshments available on Friday. All welcome.

The equipment is well used but breaking in places, welcome views opinion- they have raised £3500 since August 2017

6 Plastic in the sea and Blue Planet 1 & 2-Cllr Ruthven

Cllr Ruthven worked on the first series of Blue Planet in 2001. It was played out after the 9/11. A brief back ground on how the filming was carried out on the blue whales (small plane), when filming Blue Planet two a helicopter was used. Seen many change in attitudes over the years. Cllr Ruthven showed the audience how they used a kite to film, now drones are used.

Technology has improved since the first series. 1992 a spillage of toys was used to track winds and the flow of tide currents. Split level shots were used to show how sophisticated a 30tonne sperm whale is, driving deep to feed on squid, we were also given insight to how they used bathroom suckers to hold the cameras on the whales to film and they released after 30hours. Time to find the cameras!

Recently on the television a sad scene of a dead pilot whale from toxic overload, although this cannot be proven it was from plastic. When making plastic permanent, there was no thought on how "we" in the future would be able to depose of it. Some plastic has its uses

An amazing insight – short film shown to the audience - thank you to Cllr Ruthven.

Cllr Wareham visited Uganda recently and once a month they spend 3 hours cleaning up including the chief. We struggle to get volunteers once a year at the big spring clean.

7 Hawkesbury Stores representative

Refurbishment following recent grants received, a big thank you to the Fox for allowing the shop to decamp there until the work was completed.

Upstairs there is a lovely office and store room for the shop, the front office is being rented out. Downstairs electrics have been replaced, flooring, lighting, they recycled the counter and replaced the fridge freezers. Offering a better layout, gluten free products and increase in a variety of stock. They now employ 4 staff increasing local employment. The unsung heroes of the shop are the 60 volunteers and the management group of 7. They wish to continue with the dry cleaner service, prescriptions and serve the local community.

Recently they won the south west village shop and are due to travel to London on 25th April to the Houses of parliament to see if we can be the National Winner.

The aim is to have the shop open in 20years time. Well done to everyone.

8 District Councillors report – Cllr Hope

Planning still plays an important part in our lives. The Joint Strategic Plan, outlining the areas for housing and growth has been submitted to Government. The Local Plan is currently out for consultation. These plans form the basis for future planning policy and against which future planning applications will be decided.

Health –The Health Service and local government are working closer together to help deliver more efficient services. There is still great pressure on the A&E services, a new model of care has been agreed and it is hoped reablement services will be

developed on the Frenchay Site as well as upgrading and improving services in Thornbury for South Gloucestershire Residents.

Following up on ongoing matters, which were raised last year,

- **Superfast Broadband** there are still some pockets waiting for improvements – The Commons; it would appear they are now in the programme.
- Cllr Hope tries to attend the **Community Engagement Forums** for the ward. The one covering Hawkesbury Parish meets in Cromhall and covers the Wickwar, Charfield, Hawkesbury area - the issue of traffic speeding is regularly raised. Chief Inspector Evans is coming to the next meeting on the 8th June at Wickwar.
- Over the year our Parish lost the local mobile library, but more recently have set up **Hawkesbury Community Library**, which meets fortnightly in the Village Hall. They have had 2 successful meetings.
- **Grants - Member Awarded Funding.** This year Cllr Hope awarded grants to
 - Hawkesbury Cricket Club
 - Hawkesbury Community Library
 - Old Sodbury Village Hall
 - Hawkesbury Youth Club
 - Great Western Air Ambulance.

Please contact Cllr Hope should you be interested in applying for funds for the forthcoming year.

- The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) now represents the areas of South Gloucestershire; Bristol and Bath & North East Somerset, has decision making powers over housing and transportation; The Joint Strategic Plan and Transport Plan have been agreed.

9 **Hawkesbury Parish Councils Finance report**

Hawkesbury Parish Council has stayed within its budget for 2017/2018 and remains in a good financial position.

The parish Council continues to support local groups and organisations with grant funding of £2000 for example the Guides, Youth Club, Rainbows, Preschool, Victim support and Citizens Advice. In addition, we have supported six months rental fees for the library and the cost of replacing the defibrillator battery. It was agreed by the PC that they will donate £100 per year to help with its continual maintenance.

Earlier this year the Cricket Club approached the PC to see if they would consider taking over the costs of emptying their dog bins. Councillors were all in favour and as from March, we have taken over the costs of emptying one bin on the Cricket field, Councillors will be reviewing the situation again in September.

£3400 was spent on the Cemetery, restoring the Lych gate and tree maintenance, additional work is due to start on maintaining the yew trees this autumn.

In addition, the Parish Council agreed to pay the Skate Park Rospa annual inspection report

10 Hospital Hall

A report from the Hall Committee was given;

- Turnover of 21K down from previous year
- In the process of changing the charity trust-incorporated Charity-hopefully more volunteers will get involved in the running of the hall
- Car park needs repairing, it is used by not only the community but walkers to school run, pot holes have appeared. This is a health and safety issue and would cost in the region of £27k to replace the car park.
- Major benefit for the parish

Parish
Clerk

11 Hawkesbury Volunteer Transport (HVT)

This year's HVT Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th June at 14.00hours in the Village Hall meeting room. All Welcome to attend.

HVT thrives due to the efforts of a great team of volunteers consisting of 5 co-ordinators who are the people that run the group and 20 volunteer drivers. HVT is what it is due to the combined efforts of these people.

When HVT carried out its first journey, back in September 2001, passengers were charged 40 pence per mile and out of that we paid the driver, using their own car, 25 pence per mile, putting 15pence in the HVT fund.

In May 2009, HVT took possession of the first Comcar and the first fuel load was 39 litres at £1 per litre (£4.50 per gallon).

On the 1st April this year we filled the Comcar with 27 litres of fuel that cost £1.22 per litre (£5.49 per gallon).

Nowadays, 11 years on, despite the hike in fuel prices, HVT still charge our passengers 40pence per mile but we now pay our Drivers using their own care. 50 pence per mile, double the 2007 rate.

An observation. Between December last year and the end of March this year HVT performed a total of 50 journeys. The average for the previous 3 years was 90. This gives a clear indication of the effect of the flu epidemic.

Once again, a very successful year and many thanks to the HVT team and South Gloucestershire Council for their continued support.

12 Open Forum

1st Hawkesbury Upton Guides

A strong unit of 25 girls from Hawkesbury Upton and surrounding villages, Hillesley, Luckington and near Wickwar. A regular helper has joined the unit which takes a bit of pressure off the leaders.

The oldest guide is nearly 16 as well as 4 others who are over the guide age of 14. It is that reason we aim to start a Ranger group in September. This will run fortnightly and give the girls an opportunity to continue their Guide journey,

Guides will be planting wildflower seeds in the community, they have signed up to Parliament week and will be holding an afternoon tea in July. The guides have their trip to Foxlease/Brownsea Island to look forward to, with 13 girls attending. They will be preparing for Remembrance Day knitting poppies for the Festival of Remembrance as well as helping at the Royal British Legion Afternoon Tea.

In June the guides will be attending the unveiling of the War Horse Memorial at Ascot in June, they won a competition to name the horse on the memorial, this is going to be a very memorable and poignant day which the guides are extremely excited about.

One of the most important things that we want to do is be involved in the community and we take part in as many opportunities as possible and if they can will always help.

The Guides would like to thank the Community and Parish Council for its continued support which they appreciate and certainly don't take for granted, that enables them to do so much.

26 Date of the Annual General meeting will be held on Monday 14th May 2018 in the Methodist Hall, Back Street Hawkesbury Upton at 7.30pm

Signature of Chairman as a true and accurate record

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