

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 9th September 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs J West (Chairman), H Brewis, R Alexander, P Barham and G Rushen. C Hibbert (Clerk).
W S Cllr T Clements and S C Cllr K Soons.
Apologies: Cllrs C Carr and P Baker.

The filming statement was taken as read.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Noted.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.1 Public participation.

No matters were raised during the public forum

2.2 County Council. A copy of C Cllr K Soons' report was received; a copy will be uploaded onto the PC website.

2.3 West Suffolk Council. WS Cllr Clements updated the Council on his recent activities.

2.4 Police; a link to the most recent police report is available at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/haverhill>.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1 No declaration of interests were disclosed;

3.2 No dispensations were granted in relation to any identified pecuniary interests.

4. MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 8th JULY 2021.

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated 8th July 2021 were **APPROVED** and were signed as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Communications; the meeting heard that communication within the village continues to work well.

5.2 Greens; Emergency work to make a damaged branch on the willow by the village hall safe had been authorised by the clerk before the fete– see item 6.4 below.

5.3 Footpaths and trees; the meeting heard that the footpaths have been recently strimmed and are in reasonable order.

5.4 Highways; the meeting heard from SC Cllr Soons that hazard signage for Larkfield Corner could be purchased independently by the Parish Council as SCC is not in a position to fund this for the time being, provided that the sign is located on third party land. No highway authority consent is required for signage not on highway land. It was **AGREED** that the pricings for a sign and landowner consent would be sought. C Cllr Soons indicated that grant funding might be a possibility. The build-up of gravel in this area remains an issue; despite reporting, no action has been taken by SCC to remediate the build-up. Discussion followed about the Hawstead volunteer group tackling this issue – subject to appropriate safety measures being adopted.

5.5 Safety (emergency plan); nothing to report.

5.6 Volunteering; it is hoped that the volunteer group will be able to resume its activities shortly.

5.7 Clerk. The clerk report was received and **NOTED**.

6. TO CONSIDER

6.1 Investigating merits of a neighbourhood plan; the meeting discussed the merits of promoting a neighbourhood plan for Hawstead to sit within the West Suffolk Local Plan and direct development to specific areas of the village. Discussion covered; (i) the requirement for a large team of suitably skilled personnel with time available to commit to this lengthy project; and (ii) the requirement for community engagement – a majority of the community would need to support any proposal before any plan could be formally adopted. It was noted that the Local Plan open

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countryside designation over Hawstead means that opportunities for any new development are limited in any event. On balance it was **AGREED** that a neighbourhood plan for Hawstead should not be pursued for the time being. The meeting went on to discuss the development of a written management plan for the open areas of the village which would explain how these areas are being managed and the objectives behind this strategy. This management plan should be shared in an appropriate format with residents over time. Cllr RA to lead on this initiative, for which thanks.

6.2 To consider grant application; a grant application for the annual Hawstead Macmillan coffee morning was received and **APPROVED** - £150.

6.3 Insurance renewal; insurance renewal terms (LTU year 3/3 with RSA - broker CAS) were received, reviewed and, having been deemed adequate, were **APPROVED** – premium £304.30.

6.4 Emergency tree work on Green; it was noted that emergency tree work on the Green had been undertaken by Stuart Bradnam; he is yet to submit an invoice for his estimated fee of £200, payment of which was **APPROVED**.

6.5 Update on Brook Green project. The meeting heard that advice had been received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust on the medium term management of the Green/Brook Green which included; (i) creating a shrubby edge along the margin of the tree belt along the eastern side of the Green to promote wildlife; (ii) creating some shady paths through Brook Green; (ii) creating shrubby edges to the edge of Brook Green, removing any dead/leaning trees which pose a safety threat to adjoining road users and re-stocking where appropriate. It was noted that another SWT contact will visit in Spring 2022 to consider the possibility of creating some leaky dams/restoring watercourses. The Council **AGREED** to pursue the principles of the SWT advice received.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS

7.1 DC/21/1499/HH Householder planning application - new vehicular access

Location Land Adj 1 The Pound Hawstead IP29 5NJ (Consultation period now closed). The meeting noted that this consultation had been received over the summer break and that it had not been possible to convene a meeting in time. The meeting endorsed the informal comments submitted to the planning authority to the effect that the Council had no objection to these proposals.

8. FINANCE

8.1 To receive and approve the bi-monthly financial summary for July-August 2021; received and **APPROVED**.

8.2 To approve payments; the following payments were **APPROVED:-**

	Detail	Cheque no/online payment	Net (of VAT)	Vat	TOTAL
1	C Hibbert 1&1		59.97	11.99	71.96
2	BM – generator repair		48.46		48.46
3	OSS - sub		45.00		45.00
4	Community Heartbeat Trust		135.00		27.00
5	S Bradnam TBC		200.00		200.00
6	CH exps		52.00		52.00
7	Business Services at CAS Ltd		304.30		304.30

(A further CHT invoice for replacement defibrillator pads was queried; after the meeting it was confirmed that this invoice was not payable).

9. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY: The chairman asked those present for any suggestions on how to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee locally and any other initiatives to improve village life.

10. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS

The following correspondence was received;-

10.1 Play area reports for August and September 2021;

10.2 WSC letter dated 15/07/21 re planning consent DC/20/2212/HH;

10.3 Grant information.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Signature.....

Thursday 11th September 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Distribution
All Cllrs
Email list
Website
Noticeboard

Docs before the meeting

CC reports
Clerk report
Bi Monthly summary
Clerk report

Signature.....