

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING  
ON 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs J West (Chairman), C Carr, R Alexander, P Barham, P Baker and G Rushen.  
C Hibbert (Clerk).  
C Cllr K Soons (in part); WS Cllr T Clements. Four members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr H Brewis.

The meeting was held remotely due to the Covid-19 outbreak; a recording was made. The filming statement was taken as read.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Noted.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

**2.1 Public participation.**

The following matters were raised:-

Resident 1: Objection to planning application at item 7.2 below on grounds of adverse impact on neighbouring property (overlooking/lack of privacy/adverse impact on amenity); location unnecessarily close to neighbouring property given large plot size; scale excessive; non-compliance with various JDMP 2015 policies; the proposals do not complement the street scene; no attempt to mitigate the impact of the proposals is offered.

Resident 2: Objection to planning application at item 7.2 below; many trees on this property have already been removed leaving neighbouring property exposed; these proposals will lead to additional trees being removed, notwithstanding comments to the contrary in the planning application; the size of the proposed building is too large – equivalent to the size of the village hall; the loss of further trees on this property will have a detrimental impact on the current green, tree-lined street scene at this entry point to the village.

Resident 3: Objection to planning application at item 7.2 on grounds that the proposed development is too large, located too close to the neighbouring property and will result in removal of further trees. Support for the planning application at item 7.1 below.

**2.3 Suffolk County Council.** C Cllr K Soons presented her report, a copy of which will be uploaded onto the PC website. She highlighted the automatic number plate recognition trials ongoing in Suffolk which may inform future community decisions on speeding campaigns.

**2.4 West Suffolk Council.** WS Cllr T Clements highlighted the relaunch of the Home But Not Alone Scheme, emphasised the importance of clear and effective communications and noted the comments made by residents in relation to the planning applications below.

**2.5 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 declarations of interest were received;

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

**4. MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2020.**

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 were **APPROVED** and will be signed as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

**7. PLANNING, APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS**

**7.1 2DC/20/2095/CLE;** Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development - use of holiday let as dwelling at Little Owl The Pound Hawstead IP29 5NJ. The meeting unanimously **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the application. The point was made that this building had started out as a garage rather than a dwelling and, as such, was an example of how a structure capable of use in a number of different ways can end up with planning permission for a use other than that for which it was originally intended.

Signature.....

**7.2 DC/20/2212/HH:** Householder planning application - three bay cart lodge and machinery store with first floor guest accommodation above at Woodlands, The Pound, Hawstead, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The meeting considered the planning application and noted the comments from residents together with the following points; (i) the planning application form contains various anomalies/inaccuracies, including the statement that no trees will need to be removed (there will; some are marked with a cross), the assertion that the proposed structure cannot be seen from the footpath (it will be); the statement that there are no trees within falling distance of the proposed development (there are); (ii) no pre-application advice has been taken; (iii) the proposal is planned to sit very close to neighbouring property despite the size of the plot; (iv) as a building intended for ancillary use to the main dwelling it is unclear why it is situated outside the fence/security arrangements at Woodlands; (v) the building is large and with its chimney, juliet balcony and substantial first floor accommodation has potential to be used in a variety of ways other than simply as ancillary accommodation – there is no justification given as to the proposed scale, yet the structure is equivalent in size to the village hall; (vi) the dominant impact the proposed structure would have on street scene as one enters the village; the development would be out of character with its surroundings; (vii) the structure could be sited in the garden rather than woodland belt to avoid loss of trees; (viii) it would be a shame to lose further trees around this property – many trees have recently been cut down; (ix) the close proximity to a listed grade II property; (x) the location to the front of the property would set an unacceptable precedent; (xi) the proposed 'studio' use needs clarification; (xii) no detail of proposed heating in the accommodation is given; (xiii) the ground floor accommodation will effectively comprise a substantial five bay cart lodge/machinery store; (xiv) JDMP 2015 Policy DM24. A statement from the tree warden was considered which made following points; (a) the proposed location is in an area of deciduous broadleaf mature woodland; (b) SCC has declared a climate emergency; there is an acknowledged national/international climate emergency; (c) the proposals will result in the unnecessary destruction of this mature woodland belt; there are other siting options available to the applicant which would not result in the loss of this woodland belt; (d) no meaningful mitigation has been offered in respect of this proposed loss of native woodland habitat; (e) the proposals would result in an unnecessary and ill-advised loss of woodland which will have an unacceptable impact on local biodiversity; the loss of such habitat within the village is lamentable. It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Council would **OBJECT** to these proposals on grounds of scale, location, impact on neighbours, unnecessary loss of trees, visual impact and breach of policy DM 24 JDMP 2015. It was further **AGREED** that the Council (clerk/tree officer) would approach the tree officer at WSC to request the introduction of an area tree preservation order to preserve the area of mature woodland.

### **7.3 Appeals and notifications**

The following planning notifications were received and **NOTED**.

DC/20/1459/VAR; Variation of condition 5 of DC/20/1032/FUL to extend the opening hours to be Monday to Saturday 7am to 10.30pm and Sundays 9am to 8pm - Metcalf Arms Lawshall Road Hawstead IP29 5NR; **GRANTED**.

DC/20/1913/HH 19 Whepstead Road Hawstead IP29 5NS; Householder planning application - detached garage (following demolition of existing garage); **REFUSED**.

**2.2 Covid-19 update.** The meeting heard that the volunteer Covid-19 response group continues to meet regularly to ensure support is available to those residents who need it.

## **5. REPORTS**

**5.1 Communications;** the meeting heard that; (i) the website continues to run well, thanks to AP; (ii) the village email lists are running well; (iii) consideration is being given to surveying residents as to internet speed; and (iv) the viability of introducing 5G to the village is under review.

**5.2 Greens;** it was reported that; (i) RD will chain harrow the Green at no cost in spring; (ii) flooding around Bells Lane has pushed some cars onto the Green, causing damage; discussion followed about various local flooding issues and possible solutions. Thanks were noted to JC for clearing the fallen beech on the Green.

**5.3 Footpaths and trees;** the meeting heard that the condition of the footpaths will be reviewed once the weather has improved.

Signature.....

**5.4 Roads;** nothing to report.

**5.5 Safety;** nothing to report.

**5.6 Volunteers;** nothing to report; projects are on hold due to Covid-19.

**5.7 Clerk;** report received and **NOTED**.

## **6 TO CONSIDER**

**6.1 Speed stickers;** it was **AGREED** that 500 stickers for wheelie bins of two designs would be purchased – cost circa £500. The availability of locality funding would be checked before purchase.

**7.2 Village survey outcomes;** Councillors had met informally to review the outcomes of the village survey. Some suggestions had been looked into previously but could not be progressed/ fell outside the Council's remit (ie the parking situation at Whepstead Road); a significant level of concern had been expressed about speeding; various linked initiatives can be investigated, including different signage//guns/ANPR; some expressed concern about land management. It was **AGREED** that GR would review the Bells Lane area of the Green further with JC. The possibility of village walks/tractor rides would be investigated further when restrictions allow.

**6.3 Millennium Field Signage;** The purchase of a replacement sign for £98 from LAH Signs was **AGREED**, the meeting having considered a total of 4 quotes ranging from £80-£300.

## **8. FINANCE**

**8.1 To receive quarterly financial summary to 31st December 2020;** received and **APPROVED**.

**8.2 To receive and approve the bi-monthly financial summary for November-December 2020;** received and **APPROVED**.

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

	Detail	Cheque no/online payment	Net (of VAT)	Vat	TOTAL
1	C Hibbert website	Online	14.97	2.99	17.96
2	C Hibbert wage 3rd quarter	Online	846		846
3	HMRC 3rd quarter	Online	19.20		19.20
4	WSC open spaces	Online	881.26	176.25	1057.51
5	C Hibbert honoraria	Online	150		150
6	Rougham Estates Xmas trees	Online	88.96	17.79	106.75
7	C Hibbert exps	Online	55.70		55.70
8	JW	Online	30		30

**9. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY:** The Chairman thanked those present for their various contributions. It was **AGREED** that Council would write to thank CR for erecting/removing Xmas tree.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS**

The following correspondence was received;-

10.1 Play area reports for December 2020 and January 2021;

10.2 Various covid-19 information;

10.3 WSC correspondence re precept.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm.

*The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.*

Distribution

All Cllrs

Email list

Signature.....

Website  
Noticeboard

Docs before the meeting

CC reports  
Clerk report  
Bi Monthly summary  
Quarterly summary to 31/12/20

Signature.....