

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 8th February 2024 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs R Alexander (Chair), P Barham, P Baker, J Bulbrook & J West. C Hibbert (Clerk). One member of the public (tree warden).
Apologies: P Cllrs H Brewis & C Carr.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

The filming statement was taken as read.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies received; no applications for approval of apologies received.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.1 Public participation. No comments made.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1 JW declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 to the extent he is a close neighbour of the village hall and was formerly the HCC treasurer. RA declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 6 and 7 to the extent she is a Trustee of both the River Lark Catchment Area Partnership and HCC.

3.2 No dispensation applications were received.

4. MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 11th JANUARY 2024.

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated 11th January 2024 were **APPROVED** and signed as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS

5.1 DC/24/0045/HH Proposal Householder planning application - dropped kerb and off road parking at The Red Shed, The Pound Hawstead, Suffolk, IP29 5NJ. The meeting noted that the highway authority had lodged an objection to the application on grounds of inadequate vision splay. It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Council should endorse the highway authority's position on highway safety and **OBJECT** to the proposal.

5.2 DC/24/0016/FUL Planning application - one dwelling at 1 The Pound, Hawstead, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29: The meeting noted that this was a further iteration of a previous application, in respect of which planning permission had already been granted, but that the design was different. The revised design was generally welcomed. The Council unanimously **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal.

5.3 TPO 070 (1966) tree preservation order - one Scots Pine (T1 on plan and order) fell High Trees, Lawshall Road, Hawstead, Suffolk, IP29 5NR Ref. No: DC/24/0079/TPO.

Following consultation with the tree warden it was noted that this is a very tall tree which may be diseased at the base; if it fell it could damage the nearby dwelling. It was unanimously **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal on condition that the tree, once felled, is replaced with a suitable indigenous specimen.

6. TO CONSIDER

6.1 To discuss the EV charging point proposal (<https://www.greensuffolk.org/plugin-suffolk/>) subject to final confirmation of support at a later date (if required). The Council having previously expressed an interest has been encouraged by SCC to submit an application for this initiative before the end of the month in order that SCC can put the relevant contract out to tender. The Council discussed the following; (i) the extent to which this initiative might be beneficial for village residents and their guests/ users of the village hall; (ii) the fact that full details will only be available after an application has been submitted (subsequent withdrawal is a

Signature.....

possibility); (iii) conjecture that SCC will have target numbers of EV points to deliver; (iv) concerns that this facility might attract users (taxi drivers/delivery drivers?) from outside the village who might gather at night to charge vehicles causing noisy/ anti-social behaviour; most people who own an electric vehicle will have a charging point at home already; this would be useful for guests of residents with no charging point and village hall users; (v) there are plenty of EV charging points available for use in central BSE in supermarket carparks/garages; (vi) concern about whether the village electricity supply would be reliable enough to support this facility; (vii) the required 15 year commitment; (viii) The existing village green byelaws restrict parking overnight on the village green (of which the car park forms a part); the installation of the charging point may lead to breach of byelaws and enforcement challenges; (ix) siting of wall mounted chargers may make access to the car park challenging; it might be necessary to create a new dropped kerb, which could be costly; (x) anecdotal evidence from a councillors' relative who manages a leisure venue with EV charging points which has been problematic due to antisocial behaviour; (xi) anecdotal evidence from the village hall manager at a nearby village which hosts such EV points; the equipment was described as 'complete rubbish' (often broken, expensive, underused; mainly used by residents awaiting installation of their home charging point); (xii) the likelihood of technology (and equipment) improving during the proposed lease period; (xiii) any application pursuant to this scheme would need to be made by HCC (with support of the Council) in any event as the power would be provided via the village hall; (xiv) concerns about the company running the scheme by reference to information available at Companies House and the need for proper due diligence before pursuing any application; (xv) the fact that current Phase 2 of this scheme has been amended in light of feedback following the roll out of Phase 1; (xvi) HCC feedback on the proposals ('mixed'); (xvii) the fact that residents in a road with a need for a charging point can petition SCC for a charging point to be installed in that road, if required. Following full discussion it was **AGREED** by a majority 4:1 **NOT TO SUPPORT** any application which HCC might chose to submit in this regard at this time.

7. CHAIR REPORT

7.1. Registration of the Defibrillator on App. Concerns had been raised that the village hall defibrillator had not been registered on the Defibfinder App. Following investigation, CHT (supplier) confirmed that the defibrillator is currently registered with the East of England Ambulance service and will be signposted without delay to anyone in the area calling 999; adding this facility to separate apps will generate a further admin to keep details regularly updated on different apps; CHT do not recommend registration on the Defibfinder App as those experiencing emergency health problems should always call 999 in the first instance.

It was noted that reservations about the recent HCC proposal to move the village hall defibrillator onto a separate electrical circuit had been conveyed to HCC as per the minutes dated 11th January 2024.

7.2. River Lark volunteers The Chair reported that a team of volunteers had been mobilised locally to monitor water quality on the locality as part of a Citizen Science project (this is not a Council initiative).

Thanks were noted to JW (and his team of volunteers) for their efforts to improve accessibility to the area around Hawstead Brook for residents and visitors; the importance of balancing accessibility with championing ecology was noted.

7.3. AOB

Discussion followed about the letter which it had been agreed to write to HCC on the subject of car parking matting at the meeting on 11th January 2024; comments from the greens officer CC are awaited before that letter is sent. The Chair has subsequently expressed the opinion that the Council did not have full information as regards the proposal at the point it had resolved to respond in this way. The Clerk highlighted that it was important for decisions to only be made in relation to scheduled agenda items in order to ensure that the Council has the opportunity to

Signature.....

prepare appropriately (including ensuring that all necessary information is available before a decision is made).

It was noted that there needed to be a final push to get the new website up and running and all councillors using the new email account. The clerk will email those who are yet to submit required information.

Quotes for tree work are still awaited (clearing dead trees at Brook Green, Bull Green, Pound Green, installing owl boxes etc); the tree warden has been in touch with SB in this regard; this work is required before 1 March 2024. It was **AGREED** to approve any quote up to £1,000 plus VAT.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.30pm .

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Distribution

All Cllrs

Website

Noticeboard

Docs before the meeting

Signature.....