

Hawkesbury Parish Council



**Minutes of Hawkesbury Parish Council Annual Assembly Meeting
Held on Monday 15th April 2013 at 7.30pm
Hawkesbury CE Primary School Hall**

Present:

Cllr Bleaken (Chair), Cllr Robinson, Cllr Musty, Cllr Frankcom, Cllr Winbow, Cllr Hope and H Jones (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr Isaac, Cllr Cox and Mr N Lodge

Public Participation

Mr A Shewry, Mrs L Ruthven, Vicky Rispen, Liz Howard, PC Hart, Mrs L Hemmingway, Mr A Hemmingway, Mrs H Keogh and Mrs T Warner

Action

1 Accept apologies for Absence

Cllr Isaac, Cllr Cox and Neil Lodge – Wildlife Trust

2 Chairmans Report-Cllr Bleaken

A brief report from Cllr Bleaken regarding the past twelve months of the Parish Council. All Parish Council minutes from the meetings can be viewed on the website.

The Parish has 21 orchards, 5 from 100 years ago. Parish Orchard survey has been carried out and 16 new orchards have been identified. Samples have been taken from some of these trees others have had their cavities concreted to find evidence of the noble beetle. Many orchards were planted 25 years ago; Mr Peckett has the largest orchard and knows all his trees.

3 Woodland Creation and Resilience – John Weir

Mr Weir joined the Forestry Commission when he was 18 years old; the first ten years he was involved with the beautiful countryside followed by the next ten years involved with chopping down trees and then he was a Director of the Westonbirt Arboretum.

The history of tree coverage

- post ice age vast areas
- by the Dooms day book only 15% of tree cover
- 2nd world war reduced to 5%

- Now it is back up to 8.5%
- The Government's ambitious target is 12% by 2016

As a result of Dutch Elm disease many trees had to be cut down, the gales in 1987 destroyed many trees. Larch trees were lost due to disease, now there is disease in Oak and Ash.

New Zealand try to prevent diseases being brought into their country by ensuring no dirt is on travellers shoes. Other countries sell cheap trees to tourists to bring into their home countries which does not help stop diseases travelling from one country to another. Deer and Grey Squirrels are also a problem for trees.

Westonbirt has trees from all over the world-visit Westonbirt see what they are doing to help the restoration of trees.

A short video was played to the audience.

Mr Weir talked about how climate change is not generally understood by many people, changes in the size of forests. There are many challenges ahead we need to anticipate what is coming and not be risk adverse, go back to basics. Be aware of any trees that may be dying, plant a replacement sooner rather than later to replace the dying tree.

Trees love wet weather but dislike drought seasons.

Forestry's are changing; years ago they would plant probably ten different species now they have increased the species to twenty. One of the best countries to work with is Denmark. Trees are great for this world enjoy looking at them.

Challenge for your Parish

Do something for your Parish! See where you're Ash Trees are; plant more, younger ones, different species ask a woodlands officer to come out and speak to you.

Mr Weir was thanked by the Chair for his presentation.

4 Neil Lodge Wildlife Trust

Apologies received from Mr Lodge

5 Police Report-PC Hart

This is a lovely village to live in and there is not an excess of crime.

A proactive "Marking Day" was held at Bryant Tyres on the A46 for certain 4 x 4 Discoveries, to help with the prevention of pipes being cut on their catalytic converters.

Rogue Traders/Scrap-a successful operation with regards to stolen scrap metal. These outlets are now being regulated all cars registration numbers should be taken and any scrap metal purchased is paid directly into seller's bank and therefore criminals are now not going to these outlets.

Gold is proving more difficult it can be sent via the post and sold a cheque is then returned to the sender there is no record of where it came from.

The Police are proactively being involved and on 22nd April 2013 free property marking is taking place.

Number plates are being stolen and being used in congestion charges areas in London or at petrol stations (not paying for fuel). Non removable plates can be purchased from Bryant Tyres.

The Portcullis in Chipping Sodbury is under review following issues relating to underage drinking. It is closed for 3 months and a decision regarding reopening will be subject to an appeal – see what happens.

Anti Social behaviour at Chipping Sodbury is much improved. There are still fights and antisocial behaviour; the George pub has now changed hands, the Portcullis was closing at 2am this may be reverted to midnight when it reopens.

As for Hawkesbury the odd garage break in; PC Hart knows there are concerns regarding the Skate Park, especially users from outside of the village this is being looked at.

Part time street lighting-this has helped Chipping Sodbury; burglars do not like it dark. Occupiers of property should be more vigilant, no lights/curtains left open are tell tale signs of non occupancy there is a free supply of timers available.

Paul Fortunes replacement hours have changed, a request had been made for Sian Rowlings to visit the Brownies but received no response from her, PC Hart will look into this.

PC Hart was thanked by the Chair and he left the meeting.

6 HVT-Alan Shewry

Hawkesbury Volunteer Transport is available for anyone in the Parish to attend a medical appointment at a charge of 40p a mile or free (Diamond card holder).

It was set up 5 years and 9 months ago, they have travelled 35,500 miles making a 100% of appointments on time except one and that was due to the snow. Last year alone they travelled 6,500 miles 230 appointments. There are two other claims for fame, they had a blow out on the motorway but still got the patient to hospital on time and only one speeding ticket.

- One person on the telephone with the diary making the appointments; this is run by four ladies one week on three weeks off. This is the most important person liaising with the passenger and driver. These ladies do not drive the cars
- There are 18 drivers on their books of which 6 of them of their core drivers who do 70% of the trips which all helps to keep it going.
- There are approximately 80 passengers on their books this does fluctuate from time to time
- Costs-Insurance £1200 third party and the drivers No Claims are protected
- There is a community vehicle and/or they use their own cars
- Telephone costs £350 per year-pick up the phone to obtain a driver and phone the passenger back to confirm the booking.

A question was put to Mr Shewry-what do you need to make life easier-more drivers. Some drivers do short trips and others longer journeys.

Mr Shewry was thanked by the Chair Cllr Bleaken for his time.

7 Hawkesbury Upton Recycling Group (HURG) Liz Howard

- Continuing to oversee the management of the site
- Concern over Council's proposed Waste Strategy Plans and have responded accordingly and hope the Parish Council will also respond. The discontinuing of green bin collections could have a serious impact on our community composting.

Brownies

- 25 Brownies at present
- Grateful for the Parish Council donation towards the PGL weekend. The Brownies fundraising and donations have enabled them to reduce the cost to parents by £30
- In 2014 it will be 100 years since the formation of Brownies – so watch out for lots of celebrations and activities

Drama Group

- Successful last production of Fawlty Towers and Vicar of Dibley
- Next funding project is to move the lighting box on the stage (so it is more secure and smaller) and replace the tab curtains
- The Drama Group have received £1000 funding from South Gloucestershire Council for Youth Drama Workshops which they are in the process of planning at the moment
- Next production.....who knows! A panto??

The following groups have been formed as a result of the Parish Plan which is in the process of being reviewed and updated

Rights of Way Group

- Free walks leaflets available in the shop and PO. Walks also available on the village website
- Village Walks are held 4 times a year
- A booklet of 8 walks is in the process of being put together. This will be on sale in the shop and PO – a percentage of the sales will be given to the shop and PO

Gardening Club

- Celebrating 5 years this year with a visit to Rodmarton Manor in July
- Coach trip to Kew Gardens in June
- Membership is around 25-30. New members will be very welcome.

Liz Howard was thanked by the Chair for her time.

8 Beaufort Bureau-Mr & Mrs A Hemingway

Both Mr & Mrs Hemingway are now retired and have just taken over Beaufort Bureau. It was set up in 1992 to support the village and over the time has been a huge asset to the village. However over the past few years it has gone quiet and the revenue has also been reduced considerably for various reasons (demands disappearing; home computers).

Their aim is to regenerate the business and to continue to support the village any ideas would be appreciated.

Mr Hemingway will deal with the business consultancy, Rachel their daughter will look at the training and marketing side and Liz will be looking at Mental health (low key) an article was put in the Parish News recently. They are feeling their way forward.

They are still going to be offering secretarial support.

Ipad training would be useful especially "apps" maybe relevant to social groups.

The Chair thanked both Mr & Mrs Hemingway for their time.

9 Skate Park and Youth Club Cllr Frankcom

The skate park-have you seen it! if not go and have a look. This was as a result of the Parish Plan, people got together with some good ideas, more got together and raised £53k. It is now open.

There has been a few issues with regards to younger people behaviour issues, bad language, litter and finally outside village children.

Benefits-rosy cheeked children, outside in the fresh air, learning skills dealing with other children.

More work is to be carried out, installation of a bin and bench the land needs to settle before this is carried out. A meeting will take place at the end of April with the suppliers. Unfinished landscape and seeding is required. The access needs resolving and making good.

The Launch event was originally going to be in the spring but this needs to be discussed again at the end of April before a revised date is set; it maybe at the Hawkesbury Horticultural show. The event should see professional skate boarders, goodies and tricks.

Youth Club update;

Represents the important profile of 11-16 youths, there is a lot in the village for primary age children to do, but there is a gap and the youth club fits it. In the past 18months there has been big changes; the committee decided fresh blood was needed with new people new leaders and workers. They have two new leaders Marina Pogose and Miranda Baldwin they are full of enthusiasm and have good ideas and numbers have risen.

The girls are cooking and the boys are eating, they have recently purchased a karaoke machine which Marina loves. Lots of trips have been organised and they have received a grant from South Gloucestershire Council to help fund transport.

If you would like to be on the committee they meet once a term, 3 times a year with a little fund raising.

A question was raised with regards to the skate park with a path for the children to go

along the edge rather than go across the grass. A path will need maintaining and to be honest will the children use it?

The Chair thanked Cllr Frankcom for his time.

10 South Gloucestershire Council Annual District Councillors report-Cllr Hope

This has been another busy year, against a background of many changes; South Gloucestershire Council's major reorganisation to three main departments – People, Place and Corporate and with the return to the Committee system, which means decisions made by each committee. The Council offices at Thornbury are now being used for meetings only. Last November saw the introduction of an elected Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner – Sue Montstevens and the election of a Mayor of Bristol – George Ferguson.

The 1st April also saw Public Health becoming a local authority responsibility.

Changes are also taking place to reflect the Localism Act, with a greater role for parish councils. Cllr Hope organised well attended meeting for parish councils in the ward and interested parties to learn more about Neighbourhood Planning and a further meeting for residents and graziers with the Rural Payments Agency about the Dangerous Weeds Act – pertaining to the management of The Commons.

There are further opportunities for parishes with the setting up of Community Land Trusts, the Community right to Bid and the Community Right to Buy. The latter could include shop, pubs or any other building which could be said to be a Community asset and the value of registering such properties as community assets.

Cllr Hope has also provided briefings regarding social and affordable housing.

Part of the New Homes Bonus has been allocated to the Area Forums and applications have been invited from local groups and parish councils. Some of this money has already been allocated in the Yate/ Frampton Cotterell area.

Hawkesbury Upton's young people have fared reasonably well out of recent grant allocations and it was a pleasure to support the Skate Park with an allocation from my Housing Revenue Account pot of money.

The Core Strategy, which is the planning framework for our area, is working its way through the process, with an agreement that 28,355 houses be provided by 2027

Traffic management is always an issue, with speeding traffic through the village regarded as a danger and nuisance. The Local Speedwatch group are always looking for volunteers to help.

The Council has signed a contract with BT to provide all homes with at least 2mbh broadband speed and faster speeds to 96% of South Gloucestershire homes, however this is not until 2015.

There have also been changes to our health services – Clinical Commissioning Groups (GPs) are now responsible for purchasing local primary health services. Rehabilitation and reablement projects are taking place, which are developing a model of care to keep people out of hospital. The new Southmead hospital is due to open in 2014, with the future of Frenchay hospital still being discussed. Meetings are also taking place on how to develop public transport routes of the new major hospital.

11 Hawkesbury Parish Council Financial Report-Parish Clerk Mrs H Jones

Hawkesbury Parish Council has stayed well within its budget for 2012/2013 and remains in a good financial position.

Once again the parish Council has been able to provide £1500 worth of grants for several local groups and organisations for example the Rainbows, Guides, Youth Club, Citizens Advice, and victim Support. In addition the Parish Council donated some money towards the Diamond Wedding celebrations mugs.

The Parish Council agreed the precept for the next financial year 2013/14 at £13,000 being a 2.6% increase; this was supported by predicted income of £1500 from the Cemetery and Allotments and expenditure of £19860

With regards to the allotments at Birgage, all 22 of these allotments are fully utilised this year, the parish Council with 6 people on their waiting list. This year's rent was increase by £1 to 23.00 per plot.

12 Hawkesbury Preschool and Toddlers-Tamsin Warner

Preschool and toddler group have both had a very positive year and the number of children coming to Preschool and toddlers has continued to increase.

Fundraising is still necessary to maintain the viability of a small village Preschool. Including a Nearly New Sale tomorrow morning at 10am in the Village Hall for anything you might need for 0-5 years. They are very lucky to have a large and active committee, combined with an enormous amount of support across the community.

Their vision for the Tuesday weekly toddler group is to provide a friendly space for parents to meet and for children to play. They hope that it provides a support for parents at what can be an isolating time. Frequently they find it is the first village activity that people who may have lived in the village and surrounding area for some time get involved in.

In terms of Preschool they strive for genuine continuous improvement. They feel that they have achieved that in the last 12months. It is difficult to convey what running the Preschool requires. Preschool rely on dedicated staff and an active committee who offer countless hours to run what is essentially a small business, in a highly regulated and potentially unprofitable environment. Despite all the challenges Preschool feel that the benefit to the children and the wider community is worth this effort and more. Watching children's transition positively to school or seeing one child thrive in the supportive atmosphere they believe our community run preschool offers, makes it worthwhile.

From September South Gloucestershire is extending its support to enable more two year olds to benefit from grants to pay for their time at Preschool. Preschool will be doing their best to make sure everyone in the Village is aware of this so that anyone who is eligible can take advantage of the grant.

Last but not least, Pre-school would like to thank the parish and the council for their continued support. The recent generosity of the parish council of a grant of £150 will be used to purchase some more ride ons. These will be much used and abused for years to come!

Parish News – Vicky Rispin

Fiona Rowe deals with the layout of the magazine, Pauline Dixon deals with the Commons area in addition they all work full time.

410 magazines are printed each month of which 300 are delivered some are put in the post office and shop, 6 are posted one as far as France.

Income covers the production costs, adverts and printing and the Parish News are able to fund a number of projects, the Hawkesbury show schedule, Preschool, wooden bench, Christmas lights and cards.

Most items are received by email and it has even been known to be dictated on the answer phone. September and December sees the largest issues, but January is the quietest.

A question was asked if Little Badminton received the Parish Magazine. There is no one to distribute them; however they can go into the shop or post office and buy one.

A question was raised regarding electronic copies of the Parish News, but this is not an option, it is a big file.

The Chair thanked Vicky Rispen for her time.

Bonfire night Cllr Musty

This is run by a small group of volunteers and is now in its fourth year and has been running successfully on the public recreational field. There is no gate fee and their aim is to keep it that way. With regards to the Insurance because there is no fee (they are providing a service) there are different requirements.

There is a small surplus of cash each year and last year they purchased two gazebos although these were damaged by the snow after the event and were beyond repair. Small groups can also be involved selling cakes/soups etc.

The team would not like the event to get too big, just keep it as it is.

The Chair thanked Cllr Musty for his time.

13 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday 13th May 2013; it will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Hawkesbury Parish Hall, Hawkesbury Upton at 7.30pm.

Hall Committee report was available on the chairs prior to the meeting to read, see below;

Hawkesbury Upton Hall Committee

Report for the year 2012

I would like to again thank the committee for their dedication and work over the past year. Taking into account the current economic climate we are in, I think the Hall has

managed to do well to retain all the standard hirers and maintain a good level of income and still at very reasonable & competitive hire charges.

We have not been as busy this year with private hires for functions and bars and even had to cancel our own Fun Day in the summer due to bad weather. However one successful fundraiser that was held in the autumn, the Motorcycle event, did raise a very good income that managed to cover the lack of functions earlier in the year. In March we had another successful Breakfast fundraiser and all monies added to the Hall Improvements fund. The Drama group were successful in obtaining a grant to help pay for some new stage curtains, further fundraising still required for new tabs and lighting.

This year we produced a wish list of larger tasks that are required to be achieved over the medium term and these were added to the wish list over the year and are listed below: Crockery; Lee's Lights; Playground repairs; New Kitchen; bench for playground; Stage Curtains, Stage Curtain Tabs, Stage Lighting; Resurface Car Park.

Of these tasks we completed the purchase of 120 place setting of crockery, Christmas Lights now managed by the Hall and paid for by the Parish magazine, Playground repairs completed & Stage Curtains purchased leaving the ongoing list as: Resurface Car Park; New Kitchen; Bench for Playground; Stage Curtain Tabs & Stage Lighting. Looking forward to the coming year, again we continue to search for grants to help our funding raising alongside our own fundraising activities. Hopefully these efforts will enable us to complete many of the items on our wish list as well as the general day to day Hall maintenance requirements.

Treasurer's summary report below provided by Mick Bendeaux.

Once again our letting fees and bar profits virtually covered our day-to-day running costs. Unfortunately there were fewer functions wanting a bar so those profits were down by about £1,000 this year contributing towards an excess of expenditure over income of £1,703. The other main increase in expenditure was oil, although the 2011 amount was somewhat falsified by a credit balance from 2010 being carried forward and thereby reducing the 2011 figure. The figure for 2012 was a true representation of the oil costs. There were a couple of one-off expenses in 2012 - the refurbishment of the carpark for £904 which was offset by a grant for the majority of this cost, and the refurbishment of the Hall floor for £1,140. There were donations received towards the cost of this exercise from the Summer Skittles league and the Buffs

Thanks again to everyone.

Angelo Sauro, Mick Bendeaux & Fiona Steeds
Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary