

Hawkesbury Parish Council



**Minutes of Hawkesbury Annual Assembly Council Meeting
Held on Monday 16th April 2012 at 7.30pm
in the Hawkesbury CE Primary School**

Present:

H Bleaken (Chair), S.Hope, M Cox, B Robinson, P Barnett and H Jones (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

A Musty, M Frankcom and P Isaac

Public Participation

Mr Chris Webb, Charene Winbow, Keith Player, Roy Fielden, Alison Barnett, R. G Nelmes, B Salthouse, N Stephens, N Norris, M Baldwin, David Colborne – Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, Mike Martin-Gloucester Wildlife Trust, Jill Martin Bristol-Hawkesbury Local History Society.

Action

1 To accept apologies for absence

Aggie Kwiatkowska – The Fox Inn
Mike Hart – Police
Cllr Frankcom, Cllr Isaac and Cllr Musty

2 Chairman's Report – Cllr Bleaken

Cllr Bleaken welcomed everyone for attending this year's Annual Assembly.

In the last year the Parish Council has kept up their commitment to the local community. Including the annual Spring Clean, although this was widely advertised but not many helpers attended.

All minutes are on the website and can be viewed to find out what the Parish Council has been involved in. From the website you can find out what's happening with our landscape, walkers and cyclist, fantastic countryside, maintenance on stiles and paths and also endangered species.

Cllr Bleaken introduced Dr Mike Martin .

3 The Fox Inn

Due to unforeseen circumstances Aggie Kwiatkowska was unable to attend.

4. Gloucester Wildlife Trust-Dr Mike Martin

Lower Woods Inglestone Common

Dr Martin wanted to firstly talk about Hawkesbury Countryside.

There are two concepts-Hawkesbury Parish and Hawkesbury Countryside. How did Hawkesbury become a parish, this dates back many years and was determined by the origins of prehistory, settlement territories Anglo Saxon's 600 AD, Parishes became fixed and was influenced by agricultural areas. There are 4 different elements;

1. Sufficient area to enable production of crops
2. Pasture areas
3. Meadow hay produce
4. Woodlands

One of the parishes structure was the church- this was where the organisation took place and commitment.

Hawkesbury is like most other parishes, arable land; meadow pastures close to the settlement-woodland further away from others and always near a river.

Designated of components of the countryside AONB

The Commons are still retained by Hawkesbury; grazing common and wood common- it belonged to the commoners.

Lower woods is a nature reserve:

Ancient natural woodland

Its half in Hawkesbury the rest in Horton and Yate Parish.

Owned by Gloucestershire wildlife trust.

Force of Lower woods vascular plants

371 species of flowers/plants

35 types of grass

17 hedges

10 bushes

8 orchid

14 ferns

8 conifers

Non vascular mosses 88

Guided blue bell walk is being held at 2pm this Sunday

At Lower Woods you can see white admiral butterfly which are extremely rare

Silk wash butterflies at times at least 40 sightings per hour

The river splits the parishes of Hawkesbury Horton and Yate.

5 David Colbourne Cotswold volunteer footpath warden

Mr Colbourne is part of the Conservation board-voluntary arm

1968 Conservation voluntary wardens were introduced

There are 350 wardens providing a valuable service over many years

6 Districts including Cotswold way

The Wardens manage themselves and give a minimum 8 hours of voluntary work per month

44,000 voluntary hours given by voluntary wardens saving over £300k

Hawkesbury is the most southern district.

Parish Wardens

The aim of parish wardens in the AONB

They cover 280 parishes, although Hawkesbury does not have a designated warden.

They walk all the PROWs regularly-footpaths, bridle ways and complete minor repair jobs, Environmental jobs and get to know the land owners.

Conservation –coppicing
Key feature ANOB limestone grassland clearance
Invasive plant clearance

PROW (Public Right of Way)

Repairs and maintenance of the PROW, improved access gates from 50 stiles substituted by kissing gates. They have a good relationship and provide materials and man power, Dry stone walling and Hedge laying – They use the Somerset hedge laying system.

Guided walks

There are 250 walks throughout the Cotswold, these are advertised in the Cotswold Lion newspaper and can be found on line.

Interpretive guided walks-Guides stop to explain what to look at.

On their 40th anniversary in 2008 they introduced a walks on wheels project. This was three walks per district that was suitable for buggies not necessarily wheelchairs and varied from 1.5 miles – 4 miles, some were suitable for power mobility buggies and it was launched on Badminton Estate.

Miles without stiles 30th anniversary. For this year's Diamond Jubilee diamond project they are going to re walk all those walks and publish them in a standard format and can be found on "escape to the cotswold"

Education project, this was launched a few years ago; they should be getting out and talking to schools/children they are taking it slowly.

Their Publicity officer knows the local press.

A question was raised "What is your concern with cattle-what do you advise walkers" They advise them not to go in a field that have cows with calf's , the majority of the guided walks no dogs are allowed as they can cause a problem. If dogs are allowed the dogs must be on leads.

What is important is cattle may attack dogs and in this instance perhaps the dogs should not be on a lead, there are more attacks in rural areas and this can be dangerous and should be publicized.

One of the audience mentioned that they did not want to see all the stiles replaced with metal kissing gates; it would be down to landowners to make this decision. Authorities are little reluctant to have all kissing gates but wooden stiles are expensive and do not last as long.

David thanked everyone for raising points and listening attentively.

7 Skate Park Chris Webb Marcus Baldwin and Will Noviss

Apologies sent from Cllr Frankcom.

A project to build a Skate Park in the village of Hawkesbury started about a year ago, and the enthusiasm from everyone involved has been brilliant.

The project started off when Chris Webb managed to obtain a ramp which would normally cost £20k for £1k; he approached Cllr Hope to see if this would be possible to build a skate park for the children to use and be safe off the roads.

A lot of work has been involved in obtaining quotes and fund raising. The target to build the park and cover the initial two years of insurance will be in the region of £53K, during the first year they have raised £38K. The Park will be situated on the Rec in the bottom left hand corner for local children.

What is the timescale to complete the build? The Park itself would take about 3 weeks; they will be using concrete as it is much more durable and quieter when being used.

Using concrete will this have any impact on the Hawkesbury Show? No, the size of the park will be 24m by 6m and will not impact on the show.

They are waiting for a final grant and they are happy to go ahead when all the funding has been raised. Future events are in hand to raise more money.

Everyone involved are working very hard to make this work and this includes the children. 90% of all accidents happen's on the road, having this in place would make it much safer environment for our children.

Is there was an age limit? Plenty of fathers would like to have a go. The size and standard of all parks attracts people from all over the place to demonstrate their skills. This particular park will be fun for children on scooters and bikes and Dads if they wish.

6 Hawkesbury School report –Cllr Hope

Apologies from Cllr Frankcom.

Cllr Hope said everyone has worked hard with the skate park and we will be seeing more from them in the future.

Hawkesbury School is a thriving successful school although they have recently seen falling school numbers. Villages are not growing as fast as they were in late eighties early nineties.

They are involved in several projects and one in particular is to help raise money for the swimming pool; this is in need of serious refurbishment and on June 16th there is going to be a sponsored 5k fun run, anyone can join in.

8 Diamond Jubilee – Cllr Hope

The next Jubilee meeting is being held tomorrow Tuesday 17th April at the Methodist Hall. A programme of events will be issued in the May edition of the Parish News for example they are holding a lunch, arranging a beacon on the Coombes, and have a large TV for people to watch the Countries celebrations and much more.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting so please come along.

9 Police Report

No representative from the Police attended the meeting.

10 District Councillors report-Cllr Hope

Cllr Hope mentioned that Paul Fortune had now become a “proper Policeman” and a replacement PCSO has taken his place.

Cllr Hope thanked Mike Martin and David Colbourne for coming to the Annual Assembly and said Hawkesbury is a special place to live.

During the last year Cllr Hope has served as the party spokesperson on Health; this has included representing South Gloucestershire Council on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee as well as the Committee which works with other local authorities scrutinising the Ambulance Trust. This has also involved scrutinising local developments at Franchay/Southmead and our local minor injury services at Yate.

Cllr Hope has worked on a review of the Safer Stronger Groups and Delayed Hospital Discharges and also sat on Employee Panels, as well as the Complaints Panel.

This has been a year of change, with many structural changes taking place in the Council structure as well as moving towards a committee structure in the coming year. Many of the changes are because the council has to realise £42million savings by 2015.

There have been many seminars and workshops on how the council will introduce the Localism Act/Neighbourhood Planning and the Big Society. All challenges which face us all in the future.

Local Traffic Management/Local Housing and the new Skate Park are major local issues as well as dealing with local planning matters.

A question was raised regarding the widening of some of the pavements in Hawkesbury; this would cost a lot of money to implement. Discussions have taken place regarding reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph outside the school during school times. At times the parking of cars on the roads helps to reduce the speed.

12 The Show Committee-Charene Winbow and Keith Player

The following members are on the Show Committee Board;

Chairperson - Keith Player

Vice-Chair - Karen Hasted

Secretary - Vicky Rispin

Treasurer - Dick Blundell

Entries Secretary - Charene Winbow

Anthony and Sarah Merritt and Claire Morgan have all stepped down from the committee. This leaves the committee with two vacant key posts for Carnival Organizer and Raffle Organizer. Anthony Merritt has agreed to continue with the up keep the show website.

Accounts for the Show are healthy after the best year since 2008, but this includes the Sunday entertainment. The Sunday entertainment is now more

profitable than the Saturday Show. The Show has enough in its funds to survive 1 to 2 rained out weekends.

They hope to have the Show Schedule published by mid-June; this is to take advantage of the Badminton Village Club Day, where they hope to have a stall to promote the Show. There have been a few changes to the schedule this year for example omission of classes not entered last year; changes in the photograph categories to include sport and Jubilee Celebrations; new classes such as marmalade and a Jubilee Floral Arrangement.

The Carnival will be about 30 - 45 minutes earlier into the show ground. They hope this will decrease the amount of time spent 'hanging around the Plain' and get people into the show ground earlier to start the entertainment.

Entertainment

For Saturday: Lawmen, Bicycle Stunt Team and kids activity tent

For Sunday: Background Noise (Hawkesbury Band), Echoes (Pink Floyd tribute band), Mangled Wurzel's (Wurzel's tribute band). This year there will be an age restriction - under 12 years will not be able to attend Sunday evenings event.

Each month there will be an article in the Parish News for you to read regarding the show and also the committee will be donating seeds to the school to encourage children to grow plants to exhibit at the show.

They will be asking the fair to turn down the music so people will hopefully be able to hear the speaker system.

A question was raised if a banner could be erected advertising the Acts; local companies may be able to help as a donation.

11 Parish Council Financial report- Parish Clerk

Hawkesbury Parish Council has stayed well within its budget for 2011/2012 and remains in a good financial position.

One large purchase was made during this financial year the new notice board which has now been erected, feedback received has been good. The old notice board is in the process of being restored by Mr M Choyce at no extra cost and will be placed at Little Badminton in due course.

The Audit for 2010-2011 was completed and in the Auditors (Mazars) opinion the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention.

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 £1000 to the Hall to help towards their repairs last summer.

Last year the Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant for £1012, the Parish Council would like to see the Pool with a regular supply of water, clear of non indigenous plants and containing some wildlife. This grant will hopefully help find out if this is possible.

The meeting was then closed and refreshments offered.

- 13 Date of the next Parish Council Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 14th May in the upstairs meeting room at Hawkesbury Parish Hall at 7.30pm.**