

**HAWSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING  
ON 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7.30pm.**

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

**Apologies:** N/a.

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.**

A resident raised the following matters;-

- The history recorders' report for 2021 is now on the website.
- The community orchard in the Millennium Field was planted a year ago and is becoming well established; one tree has had to be replaced.
- Request to revisit the Quiet Lanes initiative further in relation to Bull Lane;
- Concern about the recent intensive clearance work around the Cranks footpath.

**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.

**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; (i) budgeting challenges faced by SCC post Covid-19; and (ii) the increased budget in relation to drainage.

**2.4 West Suffolk Council.** WS Cllr T Clements highlighted; (i) the WSC budget; and (ii) the need for effective communication. He was asked if WSC would consider allowing plastic bags to be recycled in blue bins; he invited written questions so that he could seek definitive answers from relevant officers. The Council thanked TC for approving a locality grant towards wheelie bin stickers.

**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** PB declared an interest in the planning application at item 7.1;

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

**4. MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021.**

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were **APPROVED** and will be signed as a true and accurate record of this meeting.

**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.

**5.2 Greens;** it was reported that; (i) the waymarkers have been installed at Brook Green – thanks to JC and RC; (ii) assistance from volunteers to tread in the ruts on the greensward near Brook Green would be welcome whilst the ground is damp; (iii) the mowing quote for 2021 (having been approved in 2020) should be re-confirmed; (iv) the RPA grant will gradually reduce over the next four year period as the scheme is phased out and replaced by the Environmental Land Management Scheme. The meeting heard that there has been some parking encroachment on Bull Green – it was agreed to monitor this and review at the next meeting.

The meeting then discussed a proposal to seek expert advice on the management of the trees at Brook Green in order that the Council can make an informed decision as to its long term objectives for this area and can develop and adopt an appropriate management plan. It was

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**AGREED** that a working party (open to anyone with an interest) would be formed to take this proposal forward. The possibility of seeking advice from Suffolk Wildlife Trust was raised; it was noted that a donation might be expected.

**5.3 Footpaths and trees;** an update from the tree warden (attached) was received. The clearance work around the Cranks footpath was discussed; it was noted that a 250m of hedge has been coppiced but will regenerate; it was last managed by the landowner in 1992.

**5.4 Roads;** nothing to report. The speedstickers for wheelie bins will need to be distributed once received.

The meeting discussed; (i) the flooding around Bells Lane apparently caused by a too-narrow culvert leading down from the pub; (ii) the possibility of bringing all those interested (adjoining landowners/Council/highway authority) together to explore flood mitigation options such as creation of attenuation ponds; (iii) frustration at the seasonal traffic difficulties the flooding at Bells Lane creates; (iv) the build-up of silt under the Bells Lane bridge and the reasons why this needs to be addressed by SCC as highway authority. It was **AGREED** that; (a) advice would be sought from SWT regarding natural flood management; (b) a letter would be sent to SCC to confirm the expectations arising from the recent exchange of correspondence between the Council and SCC regarding the build-up of silt under the bridge; (c) SCC should be invited to review the seasonal flooding at the Pinford End bridge too.

**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 Proposal for additional dog waste bins;** it was **AGREED** that enquiries should be made of WSC as to the cost of arranging for an additional dog waste bin to be emptied.

**6.2 EV charging points in the village;** the pros and cons of installing an EV charging point in the village were discussed including; (i) the fact that this environmentally friendly initiative could be an asset for both village hall users and visitors; (ii) residents with electric cars have a charging point at home; (iii) the point may attract a wide range of outsiders to the village; (iv) there were concerns about compatibility of different charging systems. It was **AGREED** to undertake further research on EV charging points.

**6.3 HCC proposal to alter playground surface (village hall);** it was **AGREED** that the Council should confirm to HCC that it has no objection in principle to a replacement permeable surface; HCC would be asked to confirm details of the proposed replacement surface before proceeding.

**6.4 To review adequacy of internal audit arrangements and approve statement of internal controls;** the internal audit arrangements were reviewed and the internal statement of controls was **APPROVED**. The meeting heard that JW has undertaken a recent check of the internal finance controls.

**6.5 Proposal to appoint SALC as internal auditor; AGREED.**

**6.6 To receive and approve risk assessments;** the risk assessments were received, reviewed and **APPROVED**.

**6.7 Renewal of WSC/HPC play equipment service level agreement. APPROVED.**

## **7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS, APPEALS AND NOTIFICATIONS**

**7.1 DC/21/0330/CLE Proposal Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development - continued use of dwelling without agricultural occupancy restriction at Church Farm Church Road Hawstead IP29 5NT.** As the criteria for such an application are matters of fact to be determined by the planning officer, it was **AGREED** not to comment.

### **7.2 Appeals and notifications**

The following planning notifications were received and **NOTED**;-

DC/20/2095/CLE Little Owl The Pound Hawstead IP29 5NJ- Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development - use of holiday let as dwelling Approved: 2021.

## **8. FINANCE**

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

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

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	Detail	Cheque no/online payment	Net (of VAT)	Vat	TOTAL
1	LAH	Signage	98.00	0	98.00
2	SALC	Planning training	25	5	30.00
3	SALC	Payroll service	19	3.80	22.80
4	C Hibbert	1&1	59.97	11.99	71.96
5	C Hibbert	Exp	52		52
6	C Hibbert	Wage (fourth quarter)	846.20		846.20
7	HMRC	tax	19.00		19.00
8	Command Pest Control	Mole control	390.00	78.00	468.00

**9. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY:** The Chairman thanked those present for their various contributions. JW encouraged councillors to consider stepping forward for the role of chairman at the annual meeting.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS**

The following correspondence was received:-

- 10.1 Play area reports for February and March 2021;
- 10.2 Various covid-19 information;
- 10.3 Anglian Water letter 18.02.21.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm to follow the Annual Parish meeting at 7pm. The onward meeting schedule was discussed and it was **AGREED** that the Council should lobby HCC for the usual Thursday evening slot.

*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

Attachment to item 5.3 – tree warden update.

The Brook Path oak way-marker post was installed in January at the corner near the old brick arched field bridge.

In the absence of volunteer work parties during lockdown a request in the Village Voice was put out to appeal for individuals or 'bubbles' to help with smaller tasks on the main Green, Pound Green and the Millennium Field. These have all been completed with a fantastic response for help.

The Millennium Field rear hedge is growing slowly but has now survived 3 summers of excessive heat and drought. I will be planting a few extra plants to fill in any gaps and weeding it before the end of March. It should grow away well from now on as the roots are established. It's a dry stony bank and was always going to be tricky to establish but will be well worth it in the end.

The Memorial Oak planted in memory of the contribution of the Wright and Rushen family is establishing well. I have some extra bark mulch and will be doing spring maintenance on it in the next week or so.

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**Approved**

Last year I asked Pete Fordham MBE, the retired warden of Bradfield woods National Nature Reserve, if he might be willing to walk through and give us some advice on management of our parish trees and woodland to keep us on track and optimise management. He rashly agreed but I hadn't followed this up because of Covid. I am still planning on doing this. This could tie in nicely with the fresh look at Brook Green. I'll contact him and let the PC know if/when he can come. And finally....a few years ago the Parish Council agreed the receipt of a young elm tree from David Bellamy's Conservation Foundation. Unfortunately when it arrived the tree was minute (albeit free!) when it arrived and after having cosseted it in my garden it is at last now ready for planting. We provisionally agreed a site on the East side of the green near the ditch before the wee thing arrived. It would be good to arrange a site meeting and planting in the next 2-3 weeks. <https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/projects/the-great-british-elm-experiment/>

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