

MEETING OF HAWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:30PM

Minutes

Present: Cllr Caukill (Chair), Cllr Humphrey, Cllr Wallace, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Buckle and Cllr Sinclair

Also attending: Cllr Louisson, Cllr Oppenheimer, K Horton (Clerk) and 2 member of the public.

- 1) **Welcome.** Meeting opened by Cllr Caukill. Introduction of Cllr Fisher at her first meeting.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies received from Cllr Large and Cllr Butcher for medical and personal reasons. Apologies accepted.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** No interests declared
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** - Parish Council Meeting held on 10th December 2025. Minutes accepted as accurate record of the meeting and duly signed.

5) Report from County Councillor Oppenheimer

- Highways maintenance. Pothole crisis has continued due to persistent rain and anger at situation has risen – dangerous and impacts pride in area. Resources have been brought in to make good and it is hoped a period of clear weather will allow repairs. Operation Resilience originally started with £10million and budget should have been increased to deal with increased road usage and weather damage. Money has not been available – there is a £100 million deficit. Budget for Operation Resilience cut to £7.5million in last budget. Local Gvnt reform and financing needs attention. Emergency pot hole fund has historically come from central government.

Q. Query on quality control of pothole repairs.

Infills are initial response to make road safe and recognise they are unpopular. Speed allows for 9 infills vs 1 sealed repair. Need to reduce risk of accidents. Pothole will stay on system for full repair.

Q. Reclassification of HCC salting route is not acceptable. Cllr Oppenheimer will ask question about private financing of salting and whether accidents will be taken into consideration for changes to classification.

- May 2026 elections. End of January it was confirmed local elections were going ahead. Cllr Oppenheimer not standing this time.
- County Cllr Grants available but applications need to be received by end of February. Cllr Caukill asked for clarification on whether terms of grants rule out applications from PCs.

6) Public Participation.

Resident. Extremely unhappy about Hawkley not being on the salting route. Having to take unpaid leave from work as unable to get safely out of village. No additional provision of salting bin to compensate for lack of salting service.

Resident. 22 objectors attended meeting at Hut re the appeal against Empshott Grange's initial application and requested that the PC object to appeal. May 2025, the first application was refused and the residents would like PC to object to the appeal on the same basis as original application response. Safety should be paramount.

7) Report from District Councillor Louisson

- Budget setting for EHDC is taking place. Believe council tax will be raised by max amount possible to cover increased costs.
- Local Gvnt reorganisation. No indication of what decision central gvnt will make but anticipated mid March.

- If reorganisation goes ahead, initial elections will be next year. 1st April 2028 Unitary Authorities will come into being. Mayoral elections have been postponed for 2 yrs so Unitaries will be formed without a mayor in place.
- SDNP Local Plan is up for discussion and EHDC Local Plan is going to next stage of consultation in the summer: assumes 25% of housing and population is in the park and other 75% will be addressed in the EHDC plan.
- Food waste. Preparations under way for roll out and collections starting October.

8) Planning.

- a) To note responses submitted by the Clerk, under clause 21e of the Standing Orders and/or Temporary Scheme of Delegation, since the last meeting.
- SDNP/25/04675/HOUS. Rother House , Empshott Green Lane, Hawkley, GU33 6HU
Proposal: Single storey extension to replace existing run down sun room along with amended driveway and entrance gates. The Parish Council lodged "No Objection" assuming the concerns raised by Hampshire Highways are resolved satisfactorily.
 - SDNP/25/04809/TCA. Willow Bank , Vicarage Lane, Hawkley, GU33 6NF
Proposal: Oak Tree (marked T1 on plan) tree surgery. No Objection lodged
- b) To consider a response to the following planning application(s):
- SDNP/25/04621/FUL - Home Farm House , Mill Lane, Hawkley, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6NU
Proposal: Pull down old 4 bay carport and replace with new oak frame carport to the same footprint. New carport to have upstairs storage area with solar panels on the back.
Site visit completed and resolved questions around the heights and levels included in the planning application. Recommended that No Objection be lodged. All in agreement.
 - Planning Inspectorate Reference: 6001892. SDNPA Reference: SDNP/24/03736/FUL
Subject of Appeal: Change of use from a dwellinghouse (Class C3) to an independent specialist day school with secondary provision (Class F1)(a), associated external play space, access, parking and ancillary works including landscaping.
Case Officer has confirmed that appeal has been made against the original application. Appeal was made shortly before deadline. Cllrs discussed appeal process and how appeal will be considered. Details of appeal and application discussed including enforceability of conditions. Cllrs noted that some appeal details were not relevant to original application.
Cllr Caukill proposed that the agenda item be deferred so further consideration of information could be carried out, Cllr Humphrey seconded and all in agreement.

9) Physical Environment

- a) **Fly tipping.** *To receive a verbal report from Cllr Fisher on the fly tipping along Church Lane and to agree what action, if any, the Parish Council will take in response.*
Church Lane has a steep drop near B3006 and this location is often used for fly tipping. Cllr Fisher proposed that planting a hedge would remove ability to access the location and thus reduce tipping. Cllr Fisher proposed contacting the LO to request permission. Cllr Caukill seconded and all in agreement. Enquiry about possible financing for hedge planting would be revisited following initial enquiries.
- b) **Ponds.**
- To receive a verbal report from Cllr Buckle on any works carried out and planned for the ponds.** Sediment traps have been fitted by SDNP ranger and volunteer – thanks noted. The sediment traps appear to have already helped with some drainage issues in recent heavy rain

by reducing the road wash off. Into March, planting at Jolly Robins and Uplands is planned. Lower Green in hand. Ducks on pond an indication that biodiversity is improving. Fencing around Jolly Robins is an item to close off along with placement of seating.

- ii) **To confirm whether the restoration of Jolly Robins pond can be considered closed in relation to the grant from SDNPA.** Cllr Buckle proposed that the Cllrs delegate authority of this point to her and the Clerk following consideration of item (i) . All in agreement.
- iii) **To consider and accept the drafted Pond Policy.** Proposed by Cllr Buckle and second by Cllr Wallace and all approved.
- c) **Cheesecombe Lane.** *To receive a verbal report from Cllr Caukill on the progress made since the last meeting in addressing the concerns of residents about vehicles accessing the lane and to confirm any further action.* Cllr Oppenheimer suggested it was possible to close the unmetalled part of the track. Highways have confirmed that this would mean reclassification of the route to “bridleway” and this would mean the route could not be driven on with motorised traffic prohibited. Highways would likely support this change of classification and suggested process as they would not need to maintain the route as a road. Consultation process which would involve LO who do currently have access points. Highways will carry out an assessment of the route. Cllr Caukill will keep PC informed of progress.

Cllr Buckle proposed an extension to the meeting running time to complete the agenda. All in agreement

10) Parish Council Finances/Administration

- **Clerk’s Report inc**

- i) **Updates post December meeting**

- Documentation for Cllr Fisher’s Cooption and Declarations have been completed and lodged with EHDC
 - Approved Precept request lodged with EHDC
 - Response on Local Government Reorg has been logged
 - Upper Green phonebox. No progress on engaging resident to manage proposed seasonal use.
 - Upper Green groundworks. Highways licence has been applied for by contractor. No date for works to start at this time
 - Stairs Hill. Request for meeting and concerns of residents raised to Cllr Oppenheimer.
 - Jolly Robins junction and drainage. Cllr Caukill and Cllr Oppenheimer have followed up with Highways. Site has been reviewed and falls out of scope of department. Drainage improvements have been submitted by Highways for consideration under larger scale works.

- ii) **Correspondence**

- *Road closure at Spread Eagle junction.* Details sourced from Utility company and circulated as requested by Cllr Caukill
 - *Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner invitation to Road Safety Summit 2026 on 3rd March 2026.* No Cllrs wish to attend.
 - *To note the response from HCC to HPC’s complaint about the change to the Gritting Routes and to agree any further action.* Letter of complaint and appeal against the change in salting route classification for Hawkley parish was sent following December meeting. Followed up with an online complaint in January. Response received and circulated to Cllrs. HCC reference consultation and factors considered in relation to reclassification.

Clerk has queried how size of settlement is confirmed in case this provides an opportunity for appeal. Cllr Oppenheimer in earlier agenda item had committed to raise questions from the PC to Hampshire CC

- **Financial summary for December 2025 and January 2026** and in addition:
 - i) *Notification of Payments made under Item 14 of the Financial Regulations since the last meeting*
 - ii) *Notification/authorisation of other payments. Reimbursement to Village Hall for playarea inspection*
No questions raised and duly signed
- *To confirm Cllr Fisher should be set up as a signatory and with online banking access for the parish council accounts and to complete the associated paperwork. All in agreement*

11) To confirm the date and the format of the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting (APM) It was proposed that a Hustings style event be held on 22nd April 7pm with candidates for County Councillor. Wine and nibbles would be available following the meeting. Clerk to action

12) To consider a number of grant requests and agree any funding to be awarded under Free Reserve. Applications received from Butser Home Start, Rosemary Trust, HIOW Air Ambulance, EH Citizens' Advice, LUPIN and South Downs Trust. Proposal from Cllr Caukill that LUPIN's request be met in full and remaining funding be split equally across other applicants. All in agreement.

13) Date of next meeting – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Wednesday 20th May 2026, 7:30pm.

Meeting closed 9:14pm

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Signed, Councillor Caukill, Chair HPC

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Date