

HAWKCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council:
Mr John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD, MCMI
Newenham
5 Halletts Way
Axminster
EX13 5NB
☎ 01297 34444
✉ johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Hawkchurch Village Hall on Tuesday 16th January 2024, commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr's Dr A Nolan (Chairman), S Bartlett, T Greenshields, J Dobson and D Searle.

In Attendance: The Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Cllr I Hall (DCC), Cllr M Mackinder (EDDC) and four members of the public

081	Apologies Apologies received from Cllr J Baker, who was away.
082	Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct No Declarations of Interest were made at this stage of the meeting
083	Minutes The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 14 th November 2023, having been previously circulated; were adopted as a true record. The Minutes of the Hawkchurch Asset Committee of the 23 rd November 2023, having been previously circulated; were adopted as a true record.
084	Matters Arising No matters arising.
085	Democratic Period A member of the public spoke about her concerns in relation to a recent planning application in Sector Lane. The chairman informed this lady that this council had made some comments; however the application had not, to date, been determined by EDDC, so further comments could still be made via the planning portal. Concerns were expressed by a parishioner that left over materials being used to fill in potholes were being discarded. There was also a feeling that problems with water leaks were compounding pothole problems. Some drains and gullies are full; and therefore in need of attention. Cllr Hall, our County Councillor, responded by stating that

	he was concerned about the poor state of highways in the area, and would welcome a letter from the parish council on this matter.
086	County Council Report A report had been circulated prior to the meeting; and was duly noted. There was an opportunity for a police inspector to visit the March meeting. This was felt to be a useful exercise. There has been a number of rural crimes in the area, including theft of motor bikes. This is a very challenging time for budgets, possibly the most challenging in 30 years
087	District Council Report A review of polling stations is at present being undertaken, although it was appreciated that in villages often the village hall was the only suitable accommodation being available. He also felt that people needed to be reminded of the need to provide identification when attending to vote. The alternative was to apply for a postal vote. He felt that the council might like to push for the fire authority to be a consultee on any battery energy applications in the parish.
088	Accounts for Ratification The following accounts were ratified: Hawkchurch Village Hall £107.50, Total Energies (December) £55.06, Strutt & Parker £779.00, Ian Churchill £1225.00, Darren Strawbridge £336.00, HMRC £239.80, Total Energies January £56.87, Site Ground £244.52, Elementor Ltd £57.80, 123 REG £38.38
089	Financial Update Members agreed the financial update spreadsheet
090	Budget and Precept 2024/25 Members had been circulated with a draft budget by the clerk prior to the meeting. Resolved that the budget for 2024/25 be set at £16,900 and that the precept demand from EDDC be £10,700. The D rate annual payment per household would be £39.48 compared to £38.87 the previous year; and increase of 61p.
091	Annual Business Risk Assessment The chairman had made a few alterations to the document which were accepted by the meeting. Agreed that members had done all within their power over the year to protect the financial assets of the council.
092	Section 106 Agreement with EDDC The EDDC Solicitor had forwarded the Section 106 grant funding document to the clerk. Members accepted the terms of the agreement and instructed the clerk, as the Proper Officer of the Council to deal with this matter on their behalf.

093	Highways A member of the public had contacted the clerk with her concerns in relation to ice building up in Brimley Lane which was causing a hazard. The problem was noted as being down to water flowing out of a field; so is really the responsibility of the landowner. Cllr Greenshields reported that the statistics from the Speed indicator system were showing the highest speed detected was 40mph; which is twice the speed limit for that location. The average speed was 23mph.
094	Rights of Way Mrs Fox had forwarded a report for the meeting. There has been a delay in getting the surveys done because of the rain and the state of paths. Mrs Fox would like someone to come forward to take over this position as she has done it for the last six years. We are still awaiting a decision by DCC regarding the future of the parish paths scheme
095	Planning An application for a detached double garage at Bramblecot Gate had been received after the publication of the agenda. Agreed that members would examine the application and let the clerk know their views. .
096	Planning Decisions It was noted that a planning application for a new dwelling at Courshay Springs had been approved
097	Correspondence Correspondence had been circulated via email by the clerk when received
098	Items of Urgency The chairman asked members to think about a theme for the annual parish meeting later in the year.
099	Next Meeting : Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7pm Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signature -----

Date -----