

Hawthorn Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

7pm

Monday 20th March 2023

Agenda

- 1. Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award**
- 4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022**
- 5. Matters Arising**
- 6. Reports**
 - a. To receive the Annual Report**
 - b. To receive the report from DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees**
 - c. To receive the report from the Community Centre**
 - d. To receive the Police Report**
 - e. Any other reports**
- 7. Any other business**

Diane Hughes

Chairman

Hawthorn Parish Council

1st February 2023

Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council.

The Monthly Meeting will follow on immediately after this meeting at approx. 7.30 pm

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for Hawthorn.

This report includes the Agenda for the Parish Meeting together with the Parish Council's Annual Report and draft Annual Accounts which will be presented at the meeting. The report covers the activities of the Parish Council over the past year .

Our aim is to give residents information about their Parish Council and what we do, how we are rising to the challenges ahead, and how we will focus on community needs for the next year.

General information

The Parish Council looks after and serves the village of Hawthorn. This is a total population of about four hundred and twenty. We are the first tier of local government and have 7 Councillors.

The Parish Council has recently been re-accredited with Quality Gold Status – only 1 of 63 in the country – and which demonstrates that it is efficient, effective and meets all standards expected of a local council.

The council produces a minimum of 2 newsletters each year and these are distributed to each house whilst the electronic newsletter is produced monthly and forwarded to all residents who have signed up to receive it. The agenda for each meeting is posted at least 5 days before the meeting on the two village noticeboards and on the Parish Council website at www.hawthornparish.co.uk

Our council meetings are open to all; everyone is very welcome to come along and give their views and comments during 'Public Participation' on what we are doing and what we are trying to achieve for Hawthorn.

The Parish Clerk is Lesley Swinbank who can be contacted by e mail on clerk@hawthornparish.co.uk. Full information on all aspects of the council's work is on the website at www.hawthornparish.co.uk. You can also register on our Hawthorn Round Up and receive regular communications and information from us in regard of council information, planning applications, events etc. E mail the Clerk as above and you will be added to the circulation.

The Parish Council website at www.hawthornparish.co.uk is continually updated. This includes the agenda for the next meeting, minutes of previous meetings and all council policies, protocols and financial information. It also includes a Community Page and all groups and organizations are able to have their information / details posted on this.

Chairman's Report

Thank you for attending our Annual Parish Meeting.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the Community Centre for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2023. I feel privileged to have been re-elected as chair and thank everyone for their support. I will continue to strive to fulfil the role to the best of my ability.

I am delighted that Hawthorn Parish Council has just recently been awarded the Quality Gold Award for the second time. This award outlines that the council has shown an excellent achievement in good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. It shows that the parish council has gone above and beyond the legal obligations. I want to express my sincere thanks to our clerk, Lesley Swinbank, for her hard work in submitting the application and all additional work attached to it, and also my parish council colleagues in supporting the local community and supporting the scheme. Very well done to all. I'm also delighted to be able to say we have recently been successful with two grant applications, totalling £17,000 for a new fence, netball post and other works in the play area.

In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with activities for children followed by a party on the green for everyone. This appeared to be a big success. My thanks go to members of the Community Association who partnered us in this venture. Sadly Her Majesty has since passed away. The Parish Council will be planning a community event for his Majesty's Coronation. Details are to follow.

There was a good attendance at the Parish Councils Christmas event held in December. The Council will be organising another event in December. However, we are considering amending the format to the music and other aspects to be discussed.

The Council is continuing to work with our County Councillor. Focus has remained on the speeding limit on the B1432 and flooding at the north end of the village. In addition we have continued to address the various other issues which have arisen over the year.

And finally, my thanks to Cllr. Angela Surtees for coming along to our meetings and taking back issues to DCC, my fellow Councillors, particularly Cllr Sheila Irving, the Vice Chairman of the Council, for their help and support and Lesley Swinbank our Parish Clerk for the time and work she gives for our community.

Cllr Diane Hughes

Chair Hawthorn Parish Council

Finance

Hawthorn Parish Council has a turnover of <£25,000 and is subject to the statutory Transparency Code. This ensures all information including accounts are published on the council's website. This includes the full accounts for 2022 / 2023 and previous years, including the Annual Returns, and all income and expenditure. The draft unaudited accounts are shown below and give an idea of the overall balances etc.

Brought Forward		£10,037.03
Income		
Precept	£8,516.00	
LCTSG	£318.00	
Vat	£1,647.85	
Interest	£4.42	
Grants	£19,843.00	
Total	£30,329.27	£30,329.27
Payments		
Administration	£1,738.69	
Capital	£1,111.26	
Chairman's Allowance	£25.00	
Community and events	£626.69	
Donations	£250.00	
Open Spaces	£3,014.63	
Salaries	£2,903.70	
Training	£0.00	
VAT	£198.30	
Total	£9,868.27	£9,868.27
Closing Balances		£30,498.03
Earmarked reserves		
Elections	£3,000.00	
Transparency Grant	£623.00	
Noticeboard Grant	£250.00	
Play Area	£19,712.00	
	£23,585.00	£23,585.00
Net Balances		£6,913.03

**Did you know?
Over the past 6
years the Parish
Council has
received nearly
£53,000 in grants
for the benefit of
the local
community.**

The Precept for 2022 / 2023 was £8,516. In addition a grant of £318 was received from DCC in respect of the LCTSS (local council support grant).

(It should be noted that the Parish Council receives no contribution from the business rate or other contributions from central government unlike the County Council.)

The precept for 2023 / 2024 is £9,632 and Council Tax for Band D will be £47.33.

Community Tax Calculation	2021 / 22	2022/2023	2023 / 2024
Precept	£8,228	£8,516	£9,632
Tax Base	200.9	200.4	203.50
LCTRS	253	318	£212
Total monies	8481	8834	£9,844
% increase		3.76%	11.38%
Band D (Precept / Tax base)	£40.96	£42.50	£47.33

Community Events

Arrangements are now underway for an event to celebrate the Coronation. Watch out for information on the Noticeboards, Website and in the Hawthorn Community Round Up

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at
7pm on Monday 21st March 2022 in the Community Centre.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Maxine Smith, Carolyn Winter, Gary Thompson

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

3 Members of the Public

1. Welcome by the Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Diane Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Hughes explained that this is the Annual Meeting of the electors and the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on what and how the Parish council is working for the local community.

2. Apologies

None

3. Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award

The Chairman informed all that the council had received nominations for the above and she was delighted to be able to present the Award to Mr. Ian Smith for the work and commitment to Hawthorn.

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021

These had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021.

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Reports

➤ **To receive the Annual Report**

The Annual report had been circulated and also made available on the website.

RESOLVED

To receive the Annual Report.

➤ **To receive the report from DCC Councillor Angela Surtees**

Cllr. Angela Surtees said she was very proud to have been re-elected as the County Councillor for Hawthorn at the local elections in May 2021 and she would continue to represent the local residents to the best of her ability.

Cllr. Surtees then gave her report which included: -

- **B1432 Speed Restrictions**

A meeting had been held with DCC Highways, the Police and members from Hawthorn and Murton Parish Councils. As a result, DCC have come forward with a number of proposals which, whilst not reducing the 60mph speed limit, would it be hoped alleviate the overall issues. Cllr. Surtees outlined these suggestions which included signage and linage changes. The Clerk said these would be included in the next Community Round Up and would be available on the website.

Whilst disappointed that there is still no reduction in the speed limit, it was suggested that people now allow some time to see if these new proposals impact on the problems and review again later in the year.

- **Consultation on Boundary Changes**

Consultation is ongoing as to a review of the current constituency boundaries including the Seaham / Peterlee area. Details have been circulated via the Round Up. In addition, there is another review being carried out by DCC into the existing Ward Areas.

- **The Big Econ Survey**

This is looking into how DCC delivers investment etc, and again is ongoing.

- **To receive the report from the Community Centre**

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report. Cllr. Wilson outlined how the Centre has dealt with the covid restrictions over the past 2 years and how it is hoping to return to 'normal'. In addition, Cllr Wilson gave details of the forthcoming Jubilee event in June and the special coffee morning on Saturday 26th to raise funds for the Ukraine Appeal.

- **To receive the Police Report**

There was no report. The Clerk said this was disappointing as correspondence from the Inspector earlier in the year had indicated the PCSO would come along. This had not been the case despite a reminder from the Clerk.

7. Any other business

- i. Mr. Keith Robinson asked about the Annual report and in particular the statement of accounts. In addition, he asked about the cost of the recent by-election.
- ii. Mr. Barry Curran expressed his concerns about the proposed boundary changes
- iii. Mr. Gavin Humphries gave details of the forthcoming coffee morning and the prizes / donations he had already received.

All were thanked for attending by the Chairman who then closed the meeting at 7.20pm.