## The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7 pm on Monday March 20th , 2017 in the Community Hall.

**MINUTES**

**Present**

**Cllr. Alan Askew (Chairman)**

**Cllr. Michael Dowson (Vice- Chairman)**

Cllrs Diane Hughes, Sheila Irving, Maxine Smith, George Vest

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees

Police Sgt Terry Hill and Colleague

Community Centre: Mr Ken Rowe

Residents 7

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

# Welcome and Chairman’s Report

**Cllr. Alan Askew Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council**

The Chairman, Cllr. Alan Askew welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to give his report.

It has been a privilege to be Chairman of the Parish Council since being elected last May. I have enjoyed very much chairing the meetings and also working with my fellow Councillors.

We meet as the Council on the third Monday of each month except August. Our agendas are publicised the week before each meeting and all meetings are all open to the public to come along and give their views and comments during Public Participation. In addition each month we have reports from the Police and County Councillors. My thanks to them for giving their reports and answering our questions.

As the first tier of local government the council is able to comment on planning applications and we do take this very seriously. Over the past year we have also organised a number of community events including:-

* Meeting Santa and switching on of the Christmas Tree lights
* The Big Lunch
* Open Garden Walk
* Sunflower Competition
* Bulb Planting
* Snowman Competition
* Photographic Exhibition

This year we also intend to incorporate a plant pot festival as part of our Big Lunch day.

We were also able to purchase a community defibrillator which is now on the outside wall of the community centre and our thanks to the Co Durham Community Foundation for their grant for this valuable piece of equipment. Our thanks also to the East Durham AAP and the National Association of Local Council for grants which are enabling Wi-Fi to be installed in this building together with a new smart TV.

Information on all events is included in our quarterly newsletters, monthly electronic letters and the website.

And finally can I thank all the residents, my fellow Councillors and our Parish Clerk. We all feel passionately about Hawthorn and as your representatives the Parish Council will continue to look after our community and do our best for our residents.

# Apologies

Norman Hughes

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 2016 had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the Minutes as a correct record of the meeting.**

# Matters Arising

None

# Reports

## To receive the Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2016 / 2017 and draft accounts had been circulated and posted on the website.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report and accounts**

## To receive the report from the County Councillors

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees thanked the council for the invitation to the meeting.

Cllrs Surtees said she had attended meetings of both the parish council and community centre throughout the year and had contributed financially to the defibrillator and other local projects. Cllr. Surtees has also worked in partnership with the Police re the parking and speeding issues on Stockton Road.

In addition Cllr. Surtees had supported the parish council and local residents to retain street lighting and had worked on local issues including street cleaning, gullies, fly-tipping and hedgerows/verge maintenance.

Cllr. Surtees thanked the parish for their support over the past year and said she was very proud to have been able to represent Hawthorn at the county council

The Chairman thanked Cllr Surtees for her report.

The Clerk also personally thanked Cllr. Surtees for all of her help and work over the past year.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report**

## To receive the report from the Chairman of the Community Centre

Mr. Ron Rowe gave the report.

He thanked DCC Cllrs Angela Surtees and David Boyes for their help and support over the year. Mr Rowe gave details of events in the community centre and stressed the need for people becoming involved and using the centre.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rowe for his report.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report.**

## To receive the Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Terry Hill.

Sgt Hill gave his report including details of crime over the past year in Hawthorn. He stressed that the majority of crime is related to theft of fuel from the garages on the A19. However there have been instances of off-road biking and fly tipping and he stressed the need for residents to contact the police.

He was thanked for attending by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report**

# Any Other Business

Mr Keith Robinson commented on the following:-

1. **Free Dog Bags and why they are free to residents.**

It was explained that the council had made the decision to provide these free of charge and they are well used.

1. **Increase in the precept**

It was explained that this has been necessary to cover the possible cost of the parish council elections in May

1. Stapylton Arms

It was explained that the DCC Planning Officer had attended the previous monthly meeting and had given details of the planning position in respect of the pub.

1. St Michael’s Church

It was explained that DCC had turned down the parish council’s application to register the church as a community asset.

1. Various DCC issues

These included parking, footpaths and parking which both DCC Cllr Surtees and Police said they were aware of.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50 pm