

**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

a To receive the Annual Report

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

RESOLVED

To receive the Annual Report.

b 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: -

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iii. The Big Econ Survey

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

c 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.

d 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.

