**The September Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 26th September 2022 in the Community Centre. The meeting had been postponed from the previous week due to the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)

Cllrs Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter, Gary Thompson

**Officer:** Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 2

The Chairman, Cllr. Diane Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to stand for a minute silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

# The Chairman confirmed that Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Sch 12 paragraph 10(2) of the LGA 1972

# Apologies

Cllrs. Gary Thompson, Maxine Smith

# Declarations of Interest

None

# Minutes:

## RESOLVED

## To approve the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held Monday July 18th, 2022

# Matters of Information

## Local Council Award Scheme

The application has been submitted

## Trees on village green

No progress.

The Clerk is to write again to the Tree Officer at DCC expressing concerns about the branches from the cherry tree touching the overhead wires.

## Damaged fence at Glencot

No progress

# Reports

## Police

None received.

## DCC

None received.

## Community Centre

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report.

The Centre had held its AGM and discussed new ideas for the autumn, including the programme of coffee mornings. These to be advertised in the Round Up.

## Play Area Fencing

The Clerk informed members that she had been unable to obtain any information re – renewing the fencing around the play area. The Clerk did suggest looking at possible hedging / trees which would grow and become the barrier to the field.

**RESOLVED**

**To await information from the contractor and also at the same time look into planting hedging.**

## Play area report and recommendations re repairs

The Clerk had circulated the report – which identified some issues.

**RESOLVED**

**To ask the contractor to carry out the work he is able to do in the first instance.**

## Any other reports

### B1432

The Clerk informed members she had e mailed DCC seeking information on the new signage and road lining.

# Public Participation

# The Chairman invited the members of the public to give their views and comments.

These included:-

## Play Area Equipment

A question was asked about providing play equipment which would be suitable for older children.

The Chairman confirmed this would be part of the overall review of all the equipment – but pointed out that the council balances are low and in the current financial climate it would be difficult to raise the precept. However, the council would be beginning to consider estimates for 2023 / 2024 next month.

A question was asked re S106 monies being available for such new equipment.

The Clerk said she was not aware of monies being allocated for this within Hawthorn, but she would look into this and report back. In addition, she would enquire about Dalton -Le – Dale’s new play equipment and if they had been able to access grants etc.

In addition, a question was asked about emptying the bins within the play area. The Chairman said these are emptied by the contractor on a regular basis.

## Daffodil Bulbs

It was agreed that the bulbs being donated by Mr and Mrs Morgan should be planted by the volunteer resident – on the highway verge near Western Park.

# Correspondence

## Information re the Civility and Respect Pledge supported by NALC and SLCC had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**Hawthorn Parish Council agreed to sign up to the civility and respect pledge**

## Land transfer

A letter has been received from a local resident informing the Council that it is their intention to instruct solicitors to purchase or adopt the strip of land in front of their property in order to prevent anyone else purchasing same and thereby preventing access etc.

The Clerk circulated information from DCC which confirmed that the land is not registered as such but has been maintained by DCC historically, and that they have no records of being contacted by any resident re purchase.

**RESOLVED**

**The Council to request DCC now register this strip of land in front the various properties to the road which would prevent purchase / adoption by anyone.**

## Request for Netball Post

An email has been received from a local resident requesting the council consider installing a netball post in the play area.

**RESOLVED**

**In principle members were all in agreement – and would include in the review of the play area as discussed earlier.**

## Consideration of SAAA External Audit

The Clerk had circulated information from SAAA re appointing external auditors. The Clerk explained that as Hawthorn Parish Council has a turnover £25,000, they are subject to the Transparency Code and as such do not need to go to external audit. However, they can, if they choose to do this – although the associated costs are very high and she would advise against it.

**RESOLVED**

**Not to opt out of the current process.**

## Speeding High West Lane

An e mail has been received from a local resident re the speeding on B1432 and High West Lane and suggesting a meeting with the Police and local residents.

The Clerk said she had included information again in the Community Round UP re the meeting in February.

**RESOLVED**

**To respond to the resident confirming the Parish Council have discussed this over many years. The meeting with the Police and DCC was held in February – and subsequently DCC had come forward with proposals to install new signing / linage. The Council have asked for information re progress.**

**All information will continue to be included in the Community Round Ups**

## West Lane Footpath Re-surfacing

An e mail has been received from a local resident re the state of parts of the footpath in West Lane.

**RESOLVED**

**To ask DCC to re-inspect the footpath and take appropriate action**

# Financial:

## RESOLVED

**To approve the monies paid by the Clerk since the last meeting / Bank reconciliation**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16/09/2022 | C. Winter | Plants | £40.00 | £6.67 |
| 16/09/2022 | Florist | Flowers / Village Green | £30.00 | £5.00 |
| 25/09/2022 | L K Swinbank | April - Sept Salary | £1,077.60 |  |
| 25/09/2022 | HMRC | Deductions | £269.40 |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Business | £6,048.11 |  |
| Current | £3,988.92 |  |
| Total | £10,037.03 | £10,037.03 |
| Less u/p to date | £0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Receipts To date** | **£10,479.61** |  |
| **Payments to date** | **£1,789.12** |  |
| **Closing balances** |  | **£18,727.52** |
|  |  |  |
| Business | £7,696.51 |  |
| Current | £11,101.01 |  |
| Total | £18,797.52 |  |
| Less u/p to date | £70.00 | **£18,727.52** |

## Implications for the 2022 / 23 estimates

Information has now been received from DCC re the budgets for 2023 / 2024.

This Indicates the LCTSG Grant will reduce from £318 to £242 whilst there will be a small increase in the tax base - i.e., £89.25 - resulting in an overall increase of £13.25. In summary - levying the same precept as last year will give an overall increase to HPC of £13.25

In addition, it is expected the current pay offer is increasing lower salaries by around 8-9%. Inflation is currently running at around 10% and expected to increase as the year progresses.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

# Training:

**The Clerk gave details of the current training events which are being organised by the CTP.**

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

# Current Planning Applications

Details had been circulated.

There were no new applications.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

# Veteran’s Seat

The meeting with Mr. Ken Rowe and Mr. Barry Curran had taken place earlier in the evening. The new siting for the seat is proposed to be within the Church grounds, subject to permission / faculty from the Diocese.

The Council confirmed their support for the seat in principle, but it was pointed out that currently the financial situation / balances are not sufficient to be able to give financial support. However, the Council would be happy to raise money via donations at the Christmas event and also include in the Round Up.

# Events & Information

## Operation London Bridge

Members agreed that the actions and protocol following the death of the Queen including the laying of flowers, condolence book and the flag had been efficiently and effectively followed.

**RESOLVED**

1. **To ask the Church to keep the Condolence Book**
2. **To ask the Church to return the flag – which will be retained by Cllr. Sheila Irvine whilst the flagpole will be stored in the Community Centre**
3. **To purchase a small tree in memory of the Queen, to be planted at the grassed area at the north end of the village.**

## Walking the footpaths

This had been postponed due to the period of mourning following the death of the Queen.

**RESOLVED**

**To re-arrange in the Spring. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Gary Thompson to agree a date.**

## Christmas Event

**RESOLVED**

1. **Cllr. Sheila Irving to organise the Tree**
2. **The contractor to be asked to test the lights**
3. **To discuss the presents for the children at the next meeting.**

## Summer Community Event / Coronation

**RESOLVED**

**To combine the Community Event with the coronation celebrations if possible.**

# Date of the next meeting:

## The next monthly meeting will be Monday 17th October 2022

## The date of the November meeting will be one week earlier than usual : Monday November 14th.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm