

**The February Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on
Monday 21st February 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)

1 Members of the Public

AGENDA

1 Notice of Meeting

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

2 Acceptance of Office

The Chairman, Cllr. Diane Hughes welcomed Cllr Gary Thompson to the Council.
The Clerk confirmed that she had received the Acceptance of Office from Cllr. Gary Thompson.

3 Apologies

None

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Maxine Smith Item 7.6 : Play Area Inspection

5 Minutes:

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held January 10th 2022

6 Matters of Information

6.1 Trees on village green

Tree officer Invited to site meeting : Awaiting response

6.2 Wild Flowers on verges

Request made to DCC

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees informed members that DCC are no longer pursuing planting wild flowers on the verges. Cllr Carolyn Winter suggested the parish council consider scattering wild flower seeds under the hedgerows.

6.3 Damaged fence at Glencot

Damage to fence reported to Believe Housing Assocn. Awaiting a response

6.4 B1432

Meeting held. Report as below

7 Reports

7.1 Police

No report.

7.2 DCC

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees reported the following: _

7.2.1 Resilience

DCC are working with East Durham Trust and east Durham Connected to raise support for the vulnerable.

7.2.2 Recent Storms

The recent storms have caused some issues and Cllr. Surtees explained the actions which DCC have taken.

7.2.3 DCC Budgets

DCC is currently considering their budgets and proposing a 3% increase.

7.3 Community Centre

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report on the current activities taking place in the Centre.

7.4 Meeting with DCC re B1432

A meeting with DCC and the Police was held at 1pm on Tuesday 15th February.

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees chaired the meeting and said it had been called to discuss the issues surrounding the 60mph speed limit on the B1432. Cllrs from Murton were also present as there are now concerns about the speed limit approaching Murton too.

7.4.1 Brief History

Cllr. Angela Surtees said the issues surrounding the speed limit have been ongoing over several years. The Parish Council have continually raised the matter and residents repeatedly give examples of problems they have encountered including:-

- School children having to cross a 60mph road in order to get to the bus stops
- Residents having to cross the road also in order to get to bus stops – often elderly people having to catch the bus going in the opposite direction i.e. to Easington in order the change buses to come back and continue to Sunderland etc.
- Residents attempting to exit from West Lane and High West Lane onto the B1432 with cars travelling on the road at speed
- The issues of the ‘blind’ part of the B1432 for those vehicles travelling on it to wards the north.
- The issues of cars travelling south on the B1432 past the north junction to Hawthorn – with some overtaking in that stretch of the road.
- Residents on either side of the road accessing the road.

- The new facility at the Pump House is now aggravating the problems

Pre-covid DCC had agreed to carry out some speed surveys.

The purpose of the meeting was the opportunity for officers to explain the situation and possible traffic measures that could be installed to try and alleviate the problems.

7.4.2 Traffic Management Perspective : Maxine Stubbs

Some 10 / 12 years ago DCC classified all roads in county and these are reviewed at intervals. At that time the speed limit of 60mph was implemented – and in accordance with national guidelines taking into account the small number of properties fronting onto the B1432 . Since then there has been very little development on the road and no significant changes which would influence a speed reduction.

In addition Mrs. Stubbs pointed out that if you reduce the speed then the police are not there to enforce it. She had met with DCC Highways Officers to look at what can be done re new signing, lining and ‘flashing lights’.

7.4.3 Highways Perspective : Michelle McIntosh

- Having looked at the speed profiles there are no areas of partic concern and in considering Hawthorn in isolation to the rest of the road – this stretch is not long enough and not enforceable.
- Signage at crossroads very messy – but maybe need to refresh memories. It is hoped that improved signage will reduce concerns .
- Speed surveys – average speed in the 50s

7.4.4 Specific measures to be considered for immediate implementation

- Richardson – slow markings – yellow bar markings / variable speed signs – i.e. crossroads ahead
- Enhance the sign saying crossroads ahead – coming up from Easington.
- Similar approaching from Murton
- Hawthorn – please drive careful sign
- Tidy up all signage
- Road markings need costing
- Flashing signs

7.4.5 The Way Forward

It was agreed that DCC Highways will now come forward with suggestions / recommendations for the B1432 – taking into account all of the comments and information discussed at the meeting, and which will be forwarded to the Parish Council for the Annual Parish Meeting and Monthly Meeting in March.

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees was thanked for organising the meeting. She said she was disappointed that the speed limit would not be reduced at this time.

RESOLVED

- 1. TO receive the report and await the recommendations from DCC.**
- 2. To include the full report on the meeting in the Community Round Up and on the website.**

7.5 Queens Jubilee Meeting with Community Centre

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended the recent meeting of the Community Centre to discuss celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

The suggestions include a number of activities for the Friday 3rd June.

The report had been circulated to all members.

RESOLVED

- a The Parish Council to work with the Community Centre and provide the suggested / agreed activities.
- b The Parish Council to pay for the entertainment - £125 for the Friday afternoon.
- c Not to provide afternoon teas but suggest people bring along their own picnics.
- d To plant 2 trees – it was suggested these be acers – and courtesy of the Tree Week grant if this is successful.
- e Plaques to be purchased for the two trees
- f To give a £250 donation to towards the activities – as this had been included in the budgets to off-set the cost of providing the teas

7.6 Play area inspection

The Clerk had circulated the report from DCC. She had informed DCC that HPC are not responsible for the play area at Glencot.

RESOLVED

- a To receive the information
- b The contractor to carry out the necessary works.

7.7 Tree week

An application has been submitted but no response as yet.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and await the response from DCC

7.8 Any other reports

DCC Cllrs Surtees informed members of a boundary review and that consultation is being arranged.

8 Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr Diane Hughes invited comments.

Mr. Barry Curran said he was new to Hawthorn and was pleased to attend the Parish Council meeting.

He commented on the play area and suggested swings for older children.

The Chairman said this will be considered and thanked Mr. Curran for his comments.

(Mr. Curran verbally agreed for his name to be included in the Minutes – in accordance with GDPR requirements.)

9 Correspondence

9.1 Footpath Diversion

Information from DCC had been circulated.

RESOLVED

No objections

10 Financial:

10.1 RESOLVED

To approve as below.

All payments made using the GPOC

101108	01/12/2021	Signscape	Noticeboards	£2,235.13	£372.52
101109	10/01/2022	Signscape	Noticeboards	£2,200.00	£366.67
101110	11/01/2022	DCC	Elections May	£937.40	
101111	01/03/2022	Lesley Swinbank	Sal Oct - March	£1,058.76	
101112	02/03/2022	HMRC	Dedns Oct - March	£264.60	
101113	03/03/2022	CDALC	Training	£10.00	
101114	03/03/2022	DCC	By election		
101115	03/03/2022	L K Swinbank	Postage	£26.14	
101116	03/03/2022	L K Swinbank	Tv expenses 2021/2022	£353.70	

Business	£10,749.03	
Current	£11,793.86	
Total	£22,542.89	
Less u/p to date		£22,542.89
Receipts To date		£8,779.80
Payments to date		£17,986.53
Closing balances		£13,336.16
Business	£9,544.06	
Current	£11,047.83	
Total	£20,591.89	
Less u/p to date	£7,255.73	£13,336.16

10.2 Bank Mandate : Information

The Clerk informed members that there are still some issues with the mandate – but hopes it will be sorted quickly.

10.3 Fitting new noticeboards

Concerns were expressed about the fitting costs proposed by the suppliers for the above. The Clerk informed members that she had informed the suppliers of the council's concerns but had not been able to change their response.

RESOLVED

- a The Parish Council to install the noticeboards**
- b The Clerk to contact the suppliers for a date and time.**

11 Policies

11.1 Action Plan / Financial Plan 2022

These had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To approve

12 Training

The Clerk gave details of the Managing Council Assets training on 15th March.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13 Current Planning Applications

No new applications have been received.

14 Events & Information

14.1 Queens Platinum Jubilee

This had been discussed earlier.

14.2 Newsletter

The draft newsletter had been circulated to all.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to print and drop off with Cllr. Sheila Irving who will then distribute to members for circulation.

14.3 Annual Parish Meeting / Annual Report

Details and the Annual Report had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To approve

15 The Big Spring Clean 2022

Details of the Durham Spring Clean had been circulated.

RESOLVED

- a To take part on Sunday April 3rd at 10.30**
- b The Clerk to confirm with DCC**

16 Date of the next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting /Monthly Meeting : Monday 21st March 2022

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.58 pm