

Hawthorn Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
7pm
Monday March 19th, 2018**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Reports**
 - a. To receive the Annual Report and draft accounts for 2017 / 2018
 - b. To receive the report from the County Councillors
 - c. To receive the report from the Chairman of the Community Centre
 - d. To receive the Police Report
 - e. Any other reports
- 4. Any Other Business**

*Cllr. Alan Askew
Chairman
1st March 2018*

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

**The Monthly Meeting will follow on immediately after this meeting at approx. 1
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 that meeting. The report covers the activities of the Parish Council over the past year and includes the Chairman's Report and update report from the Parish Clerk.

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.

All Council agendas are posted on the two noticeboards in Hawthorn and are also available on the Parish Council website at www.hawthornparish.co.uk. Each meeting includes a time for public participation when all residents are able to ask questions and / or comment.

Contact Details

	Address	Tel.
Cllr. Alan Askew	7 Western Park, Hawthorn, Seaham ,SR7 8BF.	0754 501 9164
Cllr. Darren Ellis	Laburnham House, Hawthorn Seaham, SR7 8SG	0781 3876126
Cllr. Dianne Hughes	3 West Lane, Hawthorn, SR7 8SB	07533 246806
Cllr. Norman Hughes	3 West Lane, Hawthorn SR7 8SB	0744 5020239
Cllr. Sheila Irving	4 High West Lane, Hawthorn SR7 8RY	0191 5270428
Cllr. Maxine Smith	29 West Lane, Hawthorn.SR7 8SB	0191 5273526
Cllr. George Vest	Eaglecrest, High West Lane, Hawthorn. SR78RY	0777 1847899
Lesley Swinbank Parish Clerk	Hawthorn Parish Council Springwell House, Sedgfield, TS21 2HS	01740 622429

Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council : Cllr. Alan Askew

It has been a privilege to be Chairman of the Parish Council since being elected last May following the Parish Council elections. At that time ex Cllr Michael Dowson stood down but we are very pleased to welcome Cllr. Darren Ellis who was coopted in June.

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. We have over the past year held a public meeting to discuss the Stapylton Arms and I am delighted to say the interest shown by the community has enabled the pub to be bought out by 2 local residents and we now have our local pub once more. I do urge everyone to visit and that it will be a long term viable business.

In January we met with representatives from Tolent re their pre consultation in regard of their proposals for a Garden Village to the north of the village.

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 added a plant pot festival as part of our Big Lunch day and an Open Walk through the Dene.

We were also able to purchase the smart TV and provide WiFi for the community centre courtesy of a grant from East Durham AAP. In addition we were also successful with our Community Plant application and received £10,000 towards new bulbs, seats, planters and a community greenhouse. The council have also purchased fruit trees – again through a grant and which will provide a community orchard in the play area.

We arranged a second training session on using the defibrillator which is on the outside wall of the community centre.

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.

General information : Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

The Parish Council looks after and serves the village of Hawthorn. This is a total population of about four hundred. We are the first tier of local government and have 7 Councillors. The next elections are May 2021.

The council produces a minimum of 4 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 all meetings are posted 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 lesley.swinbank@hawthornparish.co.uk. Contact details for all Councillors are included on page 2 of this report. 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 me as above and you will be added to the circulation list.

In addition 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.

Finance

Hawthorn Parish Council has a turnover of <£25,000 and is subject to the new statutory transparency code. This ensures all information including accounts is published on the council's website. This includes the full accounts for 2017 / 2018 and the previous four years, including the Annual Returns, and all current income and expenditure.

The accounts are audited each year by both an internal auditor and external auditor. Notices are posted advising residents when these processes are taking place. The draft and unaudited figures for 2017 / 2018 accompany this report.

The the precept for 2018 / 2019 was set at £8,606 . This represents a Band D Council Tax of £42.25 which is a zero % increase overall.

(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.)

Grants are made available each year to local voluntary organizations via the Parish Council.

Grants / donations given in 2017 / 2018 included

- St Michael's £ 250
- Community Centre £150

The Parish Council also received grants for the

- Community Plant Scheme £10,000
- Fruit Orchard £ 150

Community Events and Diary 2018



Monday 19th March	Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday 12th May	Walk around Hawthorn Dene
Sunday 3th June	Big Lunch Spring Photograph Competition Plant Pot Festival Open Garden Walk
Saturday 1st Sept	Judging Sunflower Competition
Saturday 13th Oct	Community Bulb planting
Sunday 11th Nov	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 1st Dec	Visit Santa: Switch on Christmas Lights
Sunday 9th Dec	Snowman Competition Judging