## The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7 pm on Monday March 19th, 2018 in the Community Centre

**MINUTES**

**Present**

**Cllr. Alan Askew (Chairman)**

**Cllr. George Vest (Vice- Chairman)**

Cllrs Darren Ellis, Diane Hughes, Sheila Irving

Community Centre: Mr Ken Rowe

4 Residents

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 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 co-opted 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 Wi-Fi 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.

# Apologies

Cllrs. Norman Hughes, Maxine Smith

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

Police

# Rachel Gatland : DCC : Waste Management

The Chairman welcomed Rachel Gatland from DCC who proceeded to give a very interesting and informative presentation on waste management in Durham County.

This included details of recycling including cardboard, glass etc. and how most materials are now recycled at various plants.

Mrs Gatland also answered all questions including garden waste and fly-tipping.

Cllr. Darren Ellis suggested stickers on each bin which identifies what should be placed in each.

Mrs. Gatland was thanked for attending the meeting.

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting 2017.**

# Matters Arising

None

# Reports

## To receive the Annual Report

The Annual Report had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report.**

## To receive the report from the County Councillors

Apologies had been received from DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees.

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

The Chairman welcomed Mr. ken Rowe who has just stepped down as Chairman of the Community Centre after 22 years.

Mr. Rowe gave the report and thanked the Parish Council for their help and support over the past year, and in particular for the new community greenhouse.

Mr. Rowe was thanked by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report.**

## To receive the Police Report

Apologies had been received.

## Any other reports

None

# Any other business

Mr. Keith Robinson asked about:-

1. The AGM and Annual Parish meeting – The Clerk said these are two separate meetings
2. Vermin near the Services – The Chairman said he would make enquiries with DCC
3. The increase in the precept for 2016/2017 to cover possible election costs for May 2017.
4. The condition of the noticeboard at West Lane is deteriorating. The contractor to be asked to look at it.
5. Planning applications : the Clerk reported that information / decision is always included in the monthly minutes.

Mr. Ken Rowe asked about:-

1. Tolent not leafleting Hawthorn re their public exhibition.
2. The Pemberton Arms and possible development

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm