The **December Monthly Meeting** of the **Hawthorn Parish Council** was held in the Community Centre at 7pm on **11th December 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr. Alan Askew (Chairman)

Cllr. George Vest (Vice Chairman)

Darren Ellis, Diane Hughes, Sheila Irving, Maxine Smith

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

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

# Apologies

Cllr. Norman Hughes

# Declarations of Interest

None

# Minutes:

## RESOLVED

## To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday November 27th 2017

# Matters of Information

None

# Reports

## Police

The Chairman welcome PCSOs Connor Smith and Andy Fox who then proceeded to give the Police Report for the last month.

Both were thanked for attending by the Chairman and they then left the meeting.

## Co. Cllr.

The Chairman welcomed DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees to the meeting. Cllr Surtees then gave her report including:-

1. Problems with street lighting in the village have been reported.
2. Easington Colliery Band who are situated in the old pay office are applying to the HLF to improve the building to include a new Band room a community café and heritage/community facility.  Cllr. Surtees encouraged all to take part in the on-line consultation.
3. Request for ‘No through Road’ sign for Glencot Grove has been reported
4. Concerns over an unknown car being parked on the B1432, 100 yds south of the three houses at Hillcrest have been passed to the Police
5. The dog bin at the crossroads (West Lane) needing to be put back on its post has been reported.
6. A request for the grit bins to be filled will be forwarded to Highways
7. A request for the Road Sweeper will also be forwarded.

## Community Centre

The Chairman gave the report.

This included details of:-

1. The Craft Fair which was held the previous Saturday.
2. The event on 4th January re the travelling theatre
3. The Christmas Ceilidh following the lights switch on.

## Any other reports

None

# Public Participation

The Chairman closed the meeting whilst the public were invited to give their views and comments on items on the agenda.

There were no comments.

The Chairman then re-opened the meeting.

# Correspondence / emails

## Hawthorn Quarry

The Clerk reported that she had received information re the first Review of Old Mineral Planning Conditions for Hawthorn Quarry.

The revised Environmental Statement has now been submitted for consideration by DCC’s Planning Dept. DCC will in due course be in contact with HPC seeking their views on the application.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information and await DCC’s request for views and comments.**

## Royal Garden Party

Information has been received from CDALC re nominating Cllrs for attendance at a Royal Garden Party.

**RESOLVED**

**To nominate Cllr George Vest.**

# Financial:

## RESOLVED

## To endorse the monies to be paid by the Clerk since the last meeting / Bank reconciliation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 100904 | Hawthorn Comm Centre | Donation | £150.00 |  |
| 100905 | Church | Donation | £250.00 |  |
| 100906 | Bt | Line /rent wireless | £226.97 | £37.83 |
| 100907 | SLCC | Membership | £130.00 |  |
| 100908 | Sainsbury | Wine , mince pies etc | £78.84 | £1.93 |

In addition the following were approved:-

Thorburns : Fruit Trees £80

Hawthorn Landscaping Grass cutting etc £1775

Hawthorn Landscaping Tree Stakes and Planting £79

Richardsons Compost £6

Pittington Brass Band Carols around the tree £150

Horns Christmas Tree £190

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Opening Balances** |  | **£10,227.32** |
| **Business** | £8,328.79 |  |
| **Current** | £1,898.53 |  |
|  |  | **£10,227.32** |
|  |  |  |
| **Receipts To date** |  | **£19,174.92** |
| **Payments to date** |  | £6,412.76 |
|  |  |  |
| **Closing balances** |  | **£22,989.48** |
|  |  |  |
| Business | £15,191.29 |  |
| Current | £8,872.71 |  |
| Total | £24,064.00 |  |
| Less u/p to date | £1,074.52 | **£22,989.48** |

## Audit Information re Smaller Authorities

Information has been received re the new audit arrangements.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

## Council Tax information from DCC

Financial Information has now been received from DCC including details of the Tax Base- which has increased from £201 to £203.70 and a reduction in the LCTSG to £29.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information and to take this into account when setting the precept for 2018 / 2019.**

## Budget / estimates ; 3rd Quarter

The budgets and estimates had been circulated and were discussed in detail.

The estimates for 2018 / 2019 take into account the following:-

* Possible costs for the new data protection regs
* Possible costs for any by-election
* Up to 2 % inflation costs

## Precept 2018 / 2019

## RESOLVED

## To set a precept of £8,632 for 2018 / 2019. This represents a Band D Council Tax of £42.38 which is a zero % increase overall.

## The Clerk to confirm this with DCC

## To confirm this again formally at the January meeting

# Training: Information and reports

The Clerk said there had been general consensus that the recent Data protection Training had not been very good. The CALC is awaiting clarification on the issues and the necessity of Parish Councils having to employ data protection officers.

Cllr. Daren Ellis suggested that one of his colleagues may be interested in providing this service for Hawthorn PC.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

# Current Planning Applications: Re DCC Lists

The Clerk informed members that she had forwarded comments re applications at Denehurst and the Pemberton Arms but these are not as yet on the website.

# Events / Information

## Christmas Events

All agreed the Carols around the Tree event had been extremely successful and thanks were expressed to all. In addition the Clerk is to write and thank Mr. Ken Rowe who stepped in as Santa .

## Snowman Competition

Members viewed photos of all the entries and chose their top 3 who will each receive a voucher for £10. All photos are now on the website.

**RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to write and thank all who took part and forward £10 vouchers to:-**

* **Mrs S. Carter 22 West Lane**
* **Mrs Maureen Hunter 2 Glencot Grove**
* **Mrs. Carolyn Winter The Garden House**

# Attendance at meetings re Six months rule

The Clerk explained that if a member fails to attend a meeting within 6 calendar months then that member is automatically disqualified as a Councillor for that Parish. However if a member has extenuating circumstances i.e. illness, work commitments then the council can give a dispensation and accept apologies. (This cannot be done retrospectively.)

**RESOLVED**

**To accept apologies and give dispensations to Cllrs, Norman Hughes and Darren Ellis due to illness and work commitments until December 2018 and review again at that time.**

# Date of the next meeting: Monday January 15th, 2018

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at .m.**