**The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 20th March 2023 in the Community Centre.**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter, Gary Thompson

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

10 Members of the Public

# Welcome by the Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Diane Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Hughes explained that this is the Annual Meeting of the electors and the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on what and how the Parish council is working for the local community.

# Apologies

Cllr. Maxine Smith

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

# Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award

The Chairman informed all that the council had received nominations for the above.

It had been decided to give the Award jointly to Mrs. Jill Paterson for her work for the local Community and to Louise Murray – and the Community Centre Volunteers.

The Chairman, Cllr Diane Hughes said she was delighted to make the presentation to Louise Murray on behalf of the Council. Unfortunately, Mrs Jill Paterson was unable to be present - the presentation to Mrs. Jill Paterson, therefore, will be made at the April meeting.

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022

These had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

# Matters Arising

None

# Reports

## To receive the Annual Report

The Annual Report had been circulated and also made available on the website.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the Annual Report.**

In addition, the Chairman, Cllr. Diane Hughes informed everyone of: -

* Consultation on the structure of the AAP’s – and a meeting to discuss on 30th March.
* Changes to the boundaries – which will reduce the number of DCC Councillors
* A new plaque will be placed next to the new Coronation tree.

## To receive the report from DCC Councillor Angela Surtees

There was no report.

## To receive the report from the Community Centre

Mrs. Louise Murray gave the report.

Mrs. Murray thanked her fellow volunteers and also thanked the Parish Council for the Award which she had accepted on behalf of the team.

Mrs Murray said new members are now joining the Centre Committee ad welcomed the new enthusiasm and the new ideas.

The AGM is in a couple of weeks – and all welcome to come along.

Mrs. Murray was thanked by the Chairman.

## To receive the Police Report

There was no report.

# Any other business

## Memorial / Veterans’ Seat

Mr. Barry Curran gave a progress report on the new seat. He said various options for the location had been considered, however the position in the Churchyard as suggested by the Church Diocese was felt to be unacceptable. The Community Centre had been approached re siting the new seat within the Community Centre grounds – and this is being considered.

The seat will be formally presented on 15th April when the British Legion, Padre will be present, and the playing of the Last Post will take place.

1. **Play Area Fence / Gates**

Some issues were raised about the side gates of the play area.

It was agreed that the key should be placed in the Community Centre and information toi be included in the next Round Up.

1. **Increase in Precept**

Mr. Keith Robinson asked about the 11% increase in the Council Tax.

The Chairman explained this was primarily due to overall inflation and keeping the precept to a minimum or not raised at all over previous years. The Council’s expenditure is very tight, and the council needed to ensure there was money in reserves for future election s / by-elections.

All were thanked for attending by the Chairman who then closed the meeting at 7.40pm.