The **October Monthly Meeting** of the **Hawthorn Parish Council** was held remotely using ZOOM on **Monday 19th October 2020 at 7pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr. Alan Askew (Chairman)

Cllr. George Vest (Vice - Chairman)

Cllrs Diane Hughes, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter, Sheila Irving

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

1 Resident

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

# Notice of Meeting

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

# Apologies

**RESOLVED**

**To approve apologies for absence from Cllr Maxine Smith**

# Declarations of Interest

None

# Minutes:

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held September 21st, 2020**

# Matters of Information

# Reports

## Police

The Police had sent their apologies.

The Clerk to forward the Police Report once received.

## DCC

The Chairman welcomed DCC Cllr Angela Surtees who proceeded to give her report including:-

1. Work is now underway on the culvert on Stockton Road.
2. The County Durham Plan is now being considered for adoption by DCC.
3. The issue of the Right of way near the Rectory which has been ploughed up is being investigated.
4. The tea/coffee business near the Dene can be looked into by DCC. However it was agreed that Cllrs. Sheila Wilson and Carolyn Winter will speak informally to the owners in respect of licenses, ownership of land etc and report back to the next meeting.

## Community Centre

The Chairman and Councillor Sheila Wilson gave the report including;-

The next meeting is 2nd Tuesday in November.

A special thank you to Cllr Angela Surtees for help with the activity packs for those residents who are self-isolating.

## Right of way : Footpath past the Rectory

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees confirmed that the footpath past the Rectory which has been ploughed up is a Right of Way. DCC are looking into this and will report back.

## Any other reports

None

# Public Participation

## A resident raised the issue of the tea / coffee business being carried out near the entrance to the Dene. He said he welcomed the new facility which is available for all local visitors to the Dene.

Some concerns were expressed about the need for licenses and ownership of the land where the trading is taking place.

**RESOLVED**

**Cllrs. Sheila Wilson and Carolyn Winter to visit the premise for an informal talk and give advice /information on how to contact the appropriate departments at DCC in order to run such a business.**

# Correspondence

## Planning for the Future Consultation

The Planning for the Future Consultation is now underway. Cllr. Diane Hughes had attended the recent webinar on this and reported back to the meeting.

The Planning for the Future White Paper is proposing far-reaching changes to the existing planning system. However members felt that whilst it some positive ideas such as streamlining applications, developer contributions and improving access to decision-making by the community with more digitisation and in addition reducing the current drawn-out Local Plan process, these are completely offset by a number of changes which will have a detrimental effect on local communities.

**RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to draft a response echoing the Hawthorn Parish Council views that these proposals contained in the White Paper are significantly worse than the existing system. They will impose top-down government targets, alienate local involvement and participation, and sacrifice proper planning controls simply to speed up housing development. This to be circulated to members for agreement and then forwarded as the Council’s response.**

# Financial:

## RESOLVED

## To endorse the monies to be paid by the Clerk since the last meeting and agreed at the meeting.

## / Bank reconciliation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10/10/2020 | Glasdons | Litter Bin | £170.34 |
| 10/10/2020 | British Legion | Poppy wreath | £25.00 |
| 20/10/2020 | C Winter | Plants and flowers | £50.00 |
| 20/10/2020 | Comm Centre | Halloween trail | £50.00 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Business | £10,331.74 |  |
| Current | £12,676.69 |  |
| Total | £23,008.43 |  |
| Less u/p to date | £728.56 | **£22,279.87** |
|  |  |  |
| **Receipts To date** |  | **£9,282.74** |
| **Payments to date** |  | £3,933.00 |
| **Closing balances** |  | **£27,629.61** |
|  |  |  |
| Business | £17,784.26 |  |
| Current | £10,748.49 |  |
| Total | £28,532.75 |  |
| Less u/p to date | £903.14 | **£27,629.61** |

## ½ Year Estimates review.

## RESOLVED

## To approve the ½ year Estimates Review as circulated

## Community Plant budget – requirement to complete project

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the information as circulated.**

## Defib battery

It was reported that the current battery remains full.

**RESOLVED**

**Not to take any action at this time.**

## Request donation from Durham Cathedral

**RESOLVED**

**Not to give a donation at this time**

## Donation Pumpkin Trail

**RESOLVED**

**To give a donation via the Community Centre**

# Current Planning Applications

No new applications have been received.

# Events & Information

## Christmas Tree and Switching on the Lights

**RESOLVED**

**Cllr. Sheila Irving is liaising with Horns re a 15ft – 18ft Christmas Tree – and lights to be switched on – at 5pm on Saturday 5th December. Unfortunately there will not be the usual Santa and gifts, and the brass band.**

## Remembrance Service

The Clerk said information has been received from Rev Paul Patterson which will be included in the next Round Up.

# Parking

The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with DCC Highways and had forwarded photos showing cars being parked around the corner from the village green and onto West End.

**RESOLVED**

**To await the response from DCC**

# To discuss signage at the Dene Entrance (CW)

Cllr. Carolyn Winter suggested purchasing permanent signs re dogs etc . for the entrance to the Dene.

**RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to forward the information / wording to Cllr Sheila Irving who will obtain prices etc for discussion at the next meeting.**

# Speeding : West Lane (SI)

Cllr. Sheila Irving reported that she had been approached by a local resident re the problem of speeding on West Lane. The suggestions included requesting DCC s widen the Lane to provide parking bays.

It was pointed out that the existing cars being parked outside residents’ houses reduces the speed of passing cars and that the suggestion was not feasible.

**RESOLVED**

**To take no action**

# Dates of the next meetings:

**RESOLVED**

**The dates for the next 2 monthly meetings will be Monday 16th November and Monday 14th December (one week earlier than normal due to Christmas events often being held in the week leading up to Christmas.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50 pm