**The December Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 13th December 2021 in the Community Centre.**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Sheila Irving, Maxine Smith, Carolyn Winter

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

2 Members of the Public

# Notice of Meeting

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

# Apologies:

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

# Declarations of Interest

# Item 11: Planning: Cllr. Sheila Wilson

# Minutes:

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held November 15th, 2021**

# Matters of Information

## Trees on Village Green

The DCC Tree Officer is to be invited to look at the trees on the village green in January.

## Wildflowers on Verges

Awaiting a response from the DCC Officer.

## Damaged fence at Glencot

Awaiting a response from Believe

## New solar powered noticeboards

The fitters visited the area but questioned the need for planning permission and also issues with the proposed sites. The Clerk also informed Members that the cheque payment had been turned down by Barclays re not fulfilling the requirements of the mandate.

In addition, the Clerk informed members that a new cheque has been issued and she had requested the fitters return in the second week of January (not the Friday). Cllr Sheila Irving to ensure the sites (the two existing sites – plus the new lectern will also be placed on the village green adjacent to the new solar one) are ready.

# Reports

## Police

There was no Police report – but the Clerk had circulated the response from the Police Inspector re the monthly Police reports.

**Monthly Reports**

* Unfortunately, the Police aren’t really able to give more detail.  I.e., modus operandi and street location etc but this is covered by GDPR, and they can’t give anything out other than the crime type and general area.
* The Police cannot give out any details of domestic violence incidents or safeguarding incidents as often (especially with a small community) it would be quite easy to be able to identify potential persons involved and these matters are very sensitive.  As a result, seeing a police vehicle in the village and then nothing on the police report corresponding to it which is basically because it isn’t something they can report on.
* Hawthorn is very fortunate in so much as very little tends to happen in Hawthorn so there isn’t very much to be able to report on (which is why the report might seem somewhat sparse compared to a busier area) which is a real positive.  That said the Police aware of the burglaries experienced over the past few days and working hard to try and find the culprits.
* On the detection side, again this isn’t something the Police would report on because crimes don’t just sit with the Neighbourhood Team, they sit with Response Officers, CID, safeguarding etc and as such research on each individual crime for a result (often investigations take months).  This is just too time consuming and a great deal of work to pull together when office time could be better spent.
* All are urges to sign up to “In the Know” which is a system that each individual member can select what messages they receive from police.  This could be as an example a crime prevention message as a result of a spate of burglaries etc and it’s a good way of finding out local news.  It is how the Force are starting to push messages and information out to the wider community now.
* All the Police need is a list of names and e-mail addresses.  They can also add if they have cctv and we can map this on the system so as an example, if we have a spate of burglaries, we will already have available and mapped relevant households who have cctv and know who we can approach.   Hawthorn Parish members can be signed up as a group and from the 1st of December (new system goes live) and relevant messages can be pushed out bespoke to that group.

**Attending the monthly meetings**

* Some time ago when CC Mr. Barton was in post, he stopped the Police attending Parish Council meetings.  This was because they cover so many Parishes that demands placed on attending each one meant that officers got little work done for attending them.  On most occasions, they occur in the evening, and some clashed with others meaning the designated officer couldn’t be in two placed at the same time and it also meant a lot of officers were having to stop and work back on overtime to attend them or come in on their Rest Days.
* This decision remains and is still the case with our current Chief Constable.  However, I know that the link with the Parish Councils is important but also that it isn’t necessary for an officer to be there at every meeting as it just isn’t a good use of officer time.
* The Inspector has decided that locally that the designated PCSO for the area can attend 1 Parish Council meeting per year, maximum of 2 so that the officers name and face is known to the parish members and so they know who their link is.  This is actually still a considerable number of meetings given the number of parishes the police cover as a Neighbourhood Team though it may not seem as such from an individual parish perspective. However, the Inspector confirmed that they will look to have either Dylan or Sharon (our new POCSO for the area) or both to the meeting in March.

## DCC

No report

## Community Centre

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave the report and gave details of forthcoming events in the Centre.

## Smaller Councils Meeting

The report from the Chairman – who attended the meeting had been circulated.

**Resolved**

**To receive the report.**

## By-election: Information

The Clerk reported that she had just received information that the election has been contested and will be held on January 13th in the Community Centre – which she understood has now been booked.

DCC electoral services have indicated a possible maximum cost of £3,000 - £3,500 which will need to now be included in the estimates – to be discussed later in the meeting.

## Any other reports

None

# Public Participation: Comments on items on this agenda

The Chairman invited comments from the public

## Public Participation

Mr. Eric Hubbuck commented on the response e mail from the Parish Clerk in respect of his e mail which had pointed out an error in the spelling of his name and the link to the minutes on the website not working. In addition, he suggested the Public Participation information sheet appears to be ambiguous on what can be brought up in Public Participation.

## New noticeboards

Mr. Hubbuck asked for confirmation of the siting of the new noticeboards.

# Correspondence

None

# Financial:

## RESOLVED

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 101096 | 01/11/2021 | Signscape | Cancelled | £0.00 |
| 101097 | 15/11/2021 | British Legion | Poppy Wreath | £25.00 |
| 101098 | 16/11/2021 | Brother | Printer | £124.99 |
| 101099 | 21/11/2021 | SLCC | Subscription | £157.00 |
| 101100 | 03/12/2021 | Community Centre | Hire of Hall | £140.00 |
| 101101 | 03/12/2021 | Signscape | Solar noticeboards | £4,435.13 |

Plus

1. £2,415 for work throughout the year on all open spaces to Hawthorn Landscapes
2. £170 Horns for the Christmas Tree

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Business | £10,749.03 |  |
| Current | £11,793.86 |  |
| Total | £22,542.89 |  |
| Less u/p to date |  | **£22,542.89** |
|  |  |  |
| **Receipts To date** |  | **£8,779.52** |
| **Payments to date** |  | £8,110.61 |
| **Closing balances** |  | **£23,211.80** |
|  |  |  |
| Business | £11,047.55 |  |
| Current | £12,676.23 |  |
| Total | £23,723.78 |  |
| Less u/p to date | £511.98 | **£23,211.80** |

## Draft estimates for 2022/2023

The Clerk explained that it had been expected to set the precept for 2022 / 2023 at this meeting

However, due to the impending by-election, the cost of this (anticipated to be a minimum of £1,000) will have considerable effect on both the current year – as only £200 had been allocated.

Monies are in the balances but there is now the need to include similar amounts in the next and forthcoming years.

Based on an estimate of £1,000 in the 2022/23 year then this will result in an increase of about 8% in the Council tax Band D.

**RESOLVED**

1. **The Clerk to circulate revised estimates for 2022 / 2023**
2. **To set the precept at the January meeting**
3. **The Council to distribute a hard copy newsletter in February which explains the increase in the precept**

# Training

None

# Current Planning Applications

## Application No:  DM/21/03993/FPA: Resubmission of DM/21/02386/FPA for the erection of a dormer bungalow

Details of the amendments had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To make no comment**

# Events & Information

## Christmas – Lights Switch on

It was agreed that the event had been very successful and enjoyed by all.

**RESOLVED**

**The 2022 event to be held on Saturday December 3rd.**

## Snowman Competition

The Clerk said entries are now welcome – to be emailed to the Clerk.

# Date of the next meeting: Monthly Meeting: Monday 17th January 2022

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.40 pm