

The January Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 16th January 2023, in the Community Centre.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)
Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)
Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Gary Thompson, Maxine Smith, Carolyn Winter

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 2

1 Notice of Meeting

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

2 Apologies

None

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes:

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 12th December 2022

5 Matters of Information

5.1 Letter re grassed area

No response received from DCC

5.2 Local Council Award

The Parish Council has been re-accredited with the Quality Gold Status. HPC is one of only 63 in the country and one of only 2 in the County to achieve this.

Cllr. Alan Askew was thanked for printing the certificate and Cllr. Sheila Irving was thanked for framing the new certificate which is hanging in the Community Centre.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and officially thank Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk) for all the work undertaken in achieving the Award.

5.3 Consultation: DCC Waste Minerals

The Clerk informed members that she had looked to give comments on the above, however the comments were invited only on procedures and does not include Hawthorn quarry.

5.4 B1432: New Signage

It is expected that the new signage / linage will be implemented once the winter / colder weather is over.

6 Reports

6.1 Police

None

6.2 DCC

The Chairman welcomed DCC Cllr Angela Surtees who proceeded to give her report.

This included: -

6.2.1 DCC Precept / Council Tax

Cllr Surtees gave details of the proposed precept and implications.

6.2.2 Footpath – PROW near the Garden Village.

Concerns continue to be expressed about the state of the footpath – DCC are aware of the problems and are in contact with the developer.

The Chairman thanked DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees – who then left the meeting.

6.3 Community Centre

Councillor Sheila Wilson gave the report.

The recent meeting had been postponed, but the coffee mornings are starting up again.

RESOLVED

To receive the report.

6.4 Play Area Report: DCC

The DCC inspection report had been circulated

Some concerns were expressed re the log climber and the cradle swing frame.

RESOLVED

a. To receive the information.

b. To ask DCC to carry out the necessary repairs.

6.5 Norman Hughes Award

The Clerk reported that she had received 2 nominations.

These will be discussed immediately following the February Monthly Meeting and the Award presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.6 Play Area: Grants Applications and details

The Clerk reported that a further meeting had been held with Willowcrete – to look at installing a new fence. Subsequently a price has been received.

In addition, the Clerk confirmed she had submitted grant applications to the DCC Members' Fund and also Awards4All. The former has confirmed there is £7,000 available.

RESOLVED

a. To receive the information.

b. The Clerk to confirm costs etc. with DCC re the Members Fund – and also confirm acceptance of spending £7,000 with Willowcrete – which will provide part of the 3m high fencing.

6.7 Tree Week Grant

The Clerk confirmed that the grant application for the memorial tree has been approved by DCC and the monies have now been received. However, it was pointed out that this grant does not cover the £50 for the memorial plaque.

RESOLVED

- I. To receive the information.
- II. Cllr Sheila Irving to work with the contractor to arrange planting etc.
- III. The plaque to be installed nearer the Coronation.

7 Public Participation

The Chairman welcomed two members of the public. Issues / comments raised were: -

7.1 Concerns re publicity in the Community Round Up regarding covid vaccinations for the very young.

The Clerk said she had not received any information from NHS England / DCC regarding vaccinations centres for several months.

7.2 Speeding on the B1432

This had been discussed earlier – but concerns continue to be expressed about the B143 – and also parking on the road which obstructs the view for other motorists trying to exit the village. This to be pointed out in the next Round Up.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Permission re tree works: DCC

Permission for works to trees on the village green has now been given.

RESOLVED

To await information re the necessary works and possible contractors.

9 Financial:

9.1 To endorse the monies paid by the Clerk since the last meeting

RESOLVED

To approve as shown. (Using the Power of competence)

Pittington Brass Band	Switch on event	£180.00
Community Centre	Annual rent	£240.00
Printer Cartridges	Cartridges	£11.79
Horns	Christmas tree	£185.00
slcc	Subs	£158.00
Hawthorn Landscaping	Works	£2,075.00

9.2 Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED

To approve as shown

Business	£6,048.11	
Current	£3,988.92	
Total	£10,037.03	£10,037.03
Less u/p to date	£0.00	
Receipts To date	£10,486.27	
Payments to date	£6,376.42	
Closing balances		£14,146.88
Business	£7,703.17	
Current	£8,703.71	
Total	£16,406.88	
Less u/p to date	£2,260.00	£14,146.88

9.3 Earmarked Reserves

The Clerk gave details of earmarked reserves within the budgets / estimates.

Grant Received (Noticeboards)	£ 8,600	8600	
2 Solar Noticeboards	£ 3,175		
	£ 3,175		
Lectern	£ 1,000		
Installation	£ 1,000		
Total	£ 8,350	£ 8,350	
Balance			250
Transparency Code			
Grant received	£ 748	748	
Printer Nov 2021	£ 125	125	
Balance			623
Elections			3000
Total			£3,873

9.4 Bank Accounts

The Clerk reported that Barclays had been back in touch re the bank mandate – despite having this sorted in December 2021. Moreover, a further set of mandate forms have now been received. Members expressed their displeasure with Barclays and suggested moving the Parish Council accounts to another bank.

Following a vote on this.

RESOLVED

To begin proceedings to open a new Council account(s) with Lloyds.

10 Precept for 2023 / 2024

The Council had discussed the draft estimates and budgets in detail at the December meeting and agreed the precept amount in principle.

RESOLVED

To set the precept at £9,632

This represents an overall increase of 11.38% or £4.83 for Band D per year.

11 Training

None

12 Planning

12.1 Current Planning applications

There are no new planning applications.

Cllr. Alan Askew asked if the Clerk still receives notifications from DCC re applications.

The Clerk said she had not received such over the last month or so.

13 Events & Information

13.1 Walking the footpaths

Currently on hold until issues re the PROW are sorted.

13.2 Christmas tree / event

RESOLVED

a. To hold on Dec 2nd

b. To discuss details nearer the time – but these will include new music arrangements.

13.3 Summer Community Event

RESOLVED

To discuss nearer the time

14 Date of the next meeting:

This will be held Monday 20th February 2023

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