

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 18th March 2024 in the Community Centre.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)
Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Gary Thompson

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

6 Members of the Public

1 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.

2 Apologies

Cllr. Maxine Smith, Cllr. Carolyn Winter
DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees, PCSO Paul Pearson

3 Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award

The Chairman informed all that the council had received several nominations for the above and is delighted to announce that this year the Norman Hughes Award has been awarded to Mr. Ken Price for his work and commitment to Hawthorn over the years.

The Chair then proceeded to present Mr Price with his framed certificate.

4 Karbon Homes

A representative from Karbon Homes had been expected to attend the meeting and give a presentation. Unfortunately no-one had come along.

5 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

These had been circulated and made available in the Annual Report and on the website.

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

6 Matters Arising

6.1 Increase in Council Tax

Mr. Keith Robinson said he would like to express his observations on the increase of 8% in the Hawthorn Council Tax, which is higher than that for Murton and Seaham.

The Chair, Cllr Diane Hughes explained that percentages are often misleading and the increase is necessary in order to ensure there are sufficient reserves to cover election and by-election costs.

6.2 Replacement Bus shelter

Mr. Keith Robinson asked about the replacement for the bus shelter which had been demolished on Stockton Rd following an accident / collision there.

The Chair said she understood that this is now with the insurance company and it is expected the replacement will be the same as the shelter near the Pemberton Arms.

6.3 Accidents on Stockton Road

Mr. Barry Curran expressed concern over the frequency of accidents occurring on Stockton Road and the lack of action from DCC.

Mr. Keith Robinson asked if the Parish Council can erect speed signs on Stockton Road.

The Chair said the Parish Council are unable to install speed signs, but the council will continue to press DCC to take appropriate action.

6.4 The Towers

Mr. Barry Curran asked about the supply of information in connection with "The Towers" . This was a magnificent building owned by the Pemberton family, which also owned the village of Hawthorn, but after the 2nd World War, the Pemberton way of life started to crumble - as did The Towers. They eventually left, and The Towers became ruins There is nothing of The Towers to be seen today, but Mr Curran suggested some information could be made available for residents and visitors.

Mr Curran was advised to get in touch with Diane Rowe who is very interested in local history and the Clerk said the Council could prepare a leaflet with information about the village – and including the Tower which can be placed in the lectern noticeboard. The Clerk asked that all information be forwarded to her.

6.5 Flooding : North End

Mr. Keith Robinson asked if progress had been made by DCC and NWA re the flooding problems at the northern end of the village.

The Chair confirmed that DCC had been carrying out work to alleviate the situation.

7 Reports

7.1 To receive the Annual Report 2024

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

RESOLVED

To receive the Annual Report.

7.2 To receive the report from DCC Councillor Angela Surtees

There was no report.

7.3 To receive the report from the Community Centre

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes gave the report.

This included:-

- a. Fees for the centre membership are now requested
- b. The Summer fayre is 6th July
- c. Play / production is 29th May
- d. Easter event is 23rd March

In addition there will be a McMillan Coffee morning in September and a Race Night in October.

There are some problems with condensation

7.4 To receive the Police Report

The report had been included in the Annual Report.

RESOLVED

To receive the report.

8 Any other business

None

All were thanked for attending by the Chairman who then closed the meeting at 7.25 pm.