

**The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in the Community Centre.**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Cllr. Diane Hughes (Chair)

Cllr Sheila Irving (Vice – Chair)

Cllrs. Alan Askew, Maxine Smith, Gary Thompson, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

Lesley Swinbank ( Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public : 8

**1 Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council**

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Apologies**

None

**3 Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award**

The Chair presented Sara Carter with the Norman Hughes Award – for her work and time spent for the Hawthorn Community.

**4 Speaker: Solarig's Battery energy storage system proposal**

Solarig had been unable to attend – but have indicated they will attend a future monthly meeting of the Parish Council.

**5 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.**

**6 Matters Arising**

None

**7 Reports**

**7.1 To receive the Annual Report**

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Annual Report**

**7.2 To receive the report from the County Councillors**

None received

**7.3 To receive the report from the Chair of the Community Centre**

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report.

This included:-

- a) Details of the Centre's AGM which was held recently
- b) The membership campaign
- c) Looking for grants to fund a new smart tv for the centre.

Cllr. Wilson also expressed thanks from the Centre to the Parish Council for their financial aid over the past year.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the report.**

**7.4 To receive the Police Report**  
No report

**7.5 Any other reports**  
None

**8 Any other business**

This item was taken at Item 4.

**8.1 Battery Storage Application**

Residents attending said they were looking for support in regard of opposing the recent application for a Battery Storage on land between South Hetton and Hawthorn.

The application involves 160 storage units.

This is on a green field site and will have significant impact on noise, visual amenity and wildlife.

Cllr Sheila Irving said she will be attending the consultation event the following evening in Murton.

**RESOLVED**

- a) To receive the information
- b) The Clerk to request further information from DCC and also clarify the overall situation regarding planning permission etc.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45p.m.