

**The Annual Parish Meeting of Hawthorn Parish Council was held on
Monday March 16th at 7pm in the Community Centre.**

Present

Cllr Sheila Irving (Chair)

Cllrs George Vest (Vice-Chair)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Barry Curran, Robert Adcock- Forster, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

Lesley Wilkinson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public

7 in attendance

1. Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council

Cllr Sheila Irving welcomed all to the meeting

2. Apologies

Jane Bradley-Harding – Police Community Support Officer

Julie Griffiths – County Councillor

3. Presentation of the Community Recognition Award

Cllr Sheila Irving thanked those who gave nominations and presented this year's Award to Lesa Blenkinsopp. Lesa received a framed certificate and a voucher for £25 and was commended for her work often unseen within the Hawthorn community. Cllr Alan Askew took some photographs. Lesa thanked the Parish Council and commented that she is part of a team

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Approved

5. Matters Arising

None

6. Reports

a. To receive the Annual Report

Resolved

b. To receive the report from the County Councillor

Nothing received – Apologies received from Julie Griffiths

c. To receive the report from the Community Association

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave her report

AGM was held on 2nd March 2026 – the Community Centre committee reported a good year involving as many of the community as possible

She reported that membership figures had previously dropped – recruitment campaign resulted in a total now of 133 members which is an improvement on last year. Leaflet campaign was mentioned by Cllr Barry Curran and he thanked villagers who subscribed but there is still more scope for people to join the Community Centre

Cllr George Vest asked Lesa Blenkinsopp about East Durham Trust involvement in the Community Centre and she said Caitlyn from there to come to April coffee morning to talk to members. Cllr Vest suggested some extra communication be placed in the Hawthorn Round-up for this. Leaflets are available as are links to their website. Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that £80 a month may be available but this would need to be finalised. Leesa volunteered to be involved and can network and report back

Monthly Coffee morning and Easter raffle at end of this month

Main expenditure replacement of chairs (25% covered by a grant)

No major repairs – one window was replaced

d. To receive the Police Report

PCSO Bradley-Harding could not attend the meeting but will attend the Monthly Coffee Mornings when she can and merge the PACT meeting with this. Cllr Curran thought this a good idea. PCSO Bradley-Harding provided the meeting with the following information of incidents for the period Dec 25-Mar 26

Criminal Damage – 1

Vehicle Crime – 2

ASB- 2

Suspicious Activity – 1 – ask what this is

e. Any other reports

None

7. Any other business

Meeting closed