

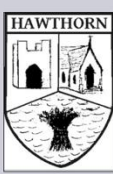


## Hawthorn Parish Council

Chairman : Cllr. Diane Hughes

Parish Clerk : Lesley Swinbank BSc MBA, Fellow SLCC  
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LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
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# Annual Parish Meeting 7pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## AGENDA

1. Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council
2. Apologies
3. Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award
4. Speaker (To be confirmed)
5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024
6. Matters Arising
7. Reports
  - a. To receive the Annual Report
  - b. To receive the report from the County Councillors
  - c. To receive the report from the Chair of the Community Centre
  - d. To receive the Police Report
  - e. Any other reports
8. Any other business

*Cllr. Diane Hughes*

Chairman  
Hawthorn Parish Council  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2025

***All local government electors for the Hawthorn Parish are  
entitled to attend and speak at the meeting.  
Light refreshments will be served from 6.45pm***

**Thank you for attending the Annual Parish  
Meeting of the Parish Council.**

**The Monthly Meeting will follow on immediately after  
this meeting at approx. 7.30 pm**

## **Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for Hawthorn.**

This report includes the Agenda for the Parish Meeting together with the Parish Council's Annual Report and draft Annual Accounts which will be presented at the meeting. The report covers the activities of the Parish Council over the past year .

Our aim is to give residents information about their Parish Council and what we do, how we are rising to the challenges ahead, and how we will focus on community needs for the next year.

### **General information**

The Parish Council looks after and serves the village of Hawthorn. This is a total population of about four hundred and twenty. We are the first tier of local government and have 7 Councillors.

The Parish Council has recently been re-accredited with Quality Gold Status – only 1 of 63 in the country – and which demonstrates that it is efficient, effective and meets all standards expected of a local council.

The council produces a minimum of 2 newsletters each year and these are distributed to each house whilst the electronic newsletter is produced monthly and forwarded to all residents who have signed up to receive it. The agenda for each meeting is posted at least 5 days before the meeting on the two village noticeboards and on the Parish Council website at [www.hawthornparish.co.uk](http://www.hawthornparish.co.uk)

Our council meetings are open to all; everyone is very welcome to come along and give their views and comments during 'Public Participation' on what we are doing and what we are trying to achieve for Hawthorn.

The Parish Clerk is Lesley Swinbank who can be contacted by e mail on [clerk@hawthornparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@hawthornparish.co.uk). Full information on all aspects of the council's work is on the website at [www.hawthornparish.co.uk](http://www.hawthornparish.co.uk). You can also register on our Hawthorn Round Up and receive regular communications and information from us in regard of council information, planning applications, events etc. E mail the Clerk as above and you will be added to the circulation.

The Parish Council website at [www.hawthornparish.co.uk](http://www.hawthornparish.co.uk) is continually updated. This includes the agenda for the next meeting, minutes of previous meetings and all council policies, protocols and financial information. It also includes a Community Page and all groups and organizations are able to have their information / details posted on this.

## Chairman's Report

### Thank you for attending our Annual Parish Meeting.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the Community Centre for the Annual Parish Meeting of 2025.

Last year we had another successful Christmas tree switch on which was well attended and enjoyed by all. We had made the decision to hold the music section indoors this year. It was much better than standing around outside in the cold and wind. The music was more upbeat and many more people joined in. Many thanks to Rebecca Smith for leading that once again and also for entertaining us during the July event held on the green, through some very wet weather.

The sand pit section of the play park has been upgraded by removing the sand pit and adding more accessible facilities for younger child and also refurbishing the swings. This has been made possible from grants that our clerk has sought on our behalf. Adventure trail equipment has been added for older children and the horizontal ladder refurbished. As more grants become available the rest of the equipment will be considered for upgrade.

The Parish Council has been focussed on the proposed building development off Stockton Road. No decision has yet been made on planning but we will continue to support the village in this matter. Objections include : the speed of traffic on Stockton Road; the effects on wildlife. The size and structure not being in keeping with the rest of the village and potential increase in flooding issues at the north end of the village ( and more)

In addition we have continued to address the various other issues which have arisen over the year.

Boundary changes will come into force after the May local elections. Hawthorn will then be served by Murton District council instead of Easington. I'm sure people will have noticed our two potential representatives amongst us, attending the special planning meetings, parish council meetings and Christmas event , and also coffee mornings. We look forward to Working with them

And finally, my thanks to my fellow Councillors, particularly Cllr Sheila Irving, the Vice Chairman of the Council, for their help and support and Lesley Swinbank our Parish Clerk for the time and work she gives for our community.

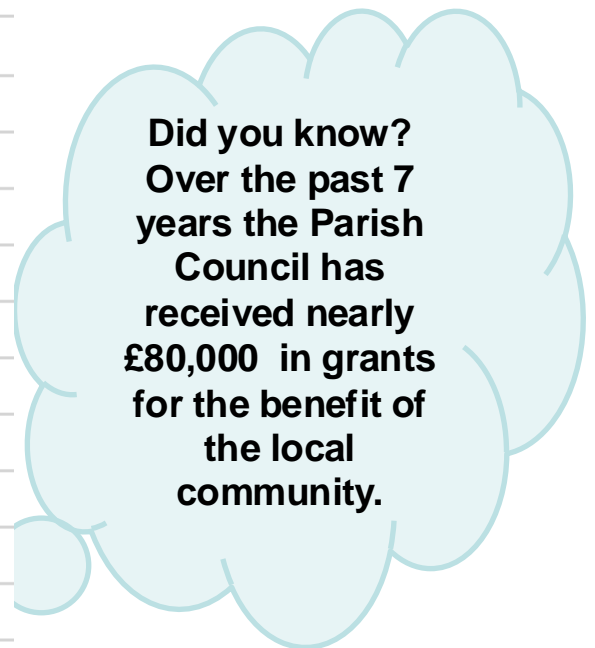
*Cllr Diane Hughes*

Chair Hawthorn Parish Council

## Finance

Hawthorn Parish Council has a turnover of <£25,000 and is subject to the statutory Transparency Code. This ensures all information including accounts are published on the council's website. This includes the full accounts to date for 2024 / 2025 and previous years, including the Annual Returns, and all income and expenditure. The draft unaudited accounts are shown below and give an idea of the overall balances etc.

<b>Receipts and payments</b>	
<b>Year ending 31st March 2025</b>	
<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>9,091</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Precept	10,629
LCTSG	11
Interest	387
Grants / other	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,027</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Administration	1,967
Capital	29,296
Chairman's Allowance	25
Community and environment	577
Donations	450
Open Spaces	3,326
Salaries	3,342
Training	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,982</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,982</b>
<b>Closing Balances</b>	<b>6,136</b>



The precept for 2025 / 2026 is £12,100 - this represents a Band D Council Tax increasing from £51.16 to £51.98 – an increase of 1.56%

(It should be noted that the Parish Council receives no contribution from the business rate or other contributions from central government unlike the County Council.)

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July
- c. Play / production is 29<sup>th</sup> May
- d. Easter event is 23<sup>rd</sup> March

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

There are some problems with condensation

HAWTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

### 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.