

# **Hawthorn Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

**7pm**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome by Chairman of Hawthorn Parish Council**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Presentation of the Norman Hughes Award**
- 4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2021**
- 5. Matters Arising**
- 6. Reports**
  - a. To receive the Annual Report**
  - b. To receive the report from DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees**
  - c. To receive the report from the Community Centre**
  - d. To receive the Police Report**
  - e. Any other reports**
- 7. Any other business**

*Diane Hughes*

Chairman

Hawthorn Parish Council

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

**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 council produces a minimum of 4 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 that we are back in the Community Centre for this Annual Meeting. The 2020 meeting was cancelled as we were then in lockdown but we were able to hold the 2021 meeting via Zoom.

The Council elections were held last May and for the first time that anyone can remember we had a contested election in the village. The new Council met and elected Cllr George Vest as Chairman. Councillor Alan Askew stood down as Chairman after several years. Unfortunately Cllr. Vest resigned from being a Cllr in October due to family reasons, but our thanks to George and to Alan for all the work and time they have given over the years. I feel privileged to have been elected as chair and thank everyone for their support. I aim to fulfil the role to the best of my ability.

Again, for the first time we had a by-election – which was held in January and we welcome Cllr. Gary Thompson to our 'team.' Unfortunately the cost of the by-election – which at the time of writing we understand to be about £3,000 ( which is about 36% of our total income) and will have a significant effect on our precept. This is our 'demand' – which we make to the County Council and will result in an increase in the Council Tax for 2022/2023.

Whilst we were unable to have some events over the past couple of years due to the covid pandemic , we were able to hold our Big T in July. This was courtesy of a grant from the National Lottery and which we used to fund an afternoon tea with entertainment. This proved to be very successful . We are, therefore , working with the Community Centre to arrange a similar event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will include a variety of activities for all our residents including a Big T with entertainment on the Green. There is no charge, just come along with your picnic and enjoy the afternoon.

Over the past year the Council has continued to work with our County Councillor and have focussed on the speeding limit on the B1432 and flooding at the north end of the village. In addition we have continued to address the various other issues which have arisen over the year.

We were delighted to win one of the DCC Environmental Awards last year in recognition of our Parish Council being one of the few paperless councils in the country.

And finally, my thanks to Cllr. Angela Surtees for coming along to our meetings and taking back issues to DCC, 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 for 2021 /2022 and previous years, including the Annual Returns, and all income and expenditure. The draft unaudited accounts are shown below. These don't include the anticipated costs of the recent by-election which was held in January and estimated to be about £3,000. The capital expenditure includes the provision of the new solar powered noticeboards - provided via a grant from Awards for All.

<b>Receipts and Payments Statement</b>		
<b>Year ending 31st March 2022</b>		
<b>Brought Forward</b>		<b>£22,542.89</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Precept	£8,228.00	
LCTSG	£253.00	
Vat	£297.97	
Interest	£0.83	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,779.80</b>	<b>£8,779.80</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Administration	£3,763.71	
Capital	£7,497.60	
Chairman's Allowance	£45.00	
Community and events	£601.32	
Donations	£0.00	
Open Spaces	£3,087.69	
Salaries	£1,323.36	
Training	£20.00	
VAT	£1,647.85	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,986.53</b>	<b>£17,986.53</b>
<b>Closing Balances</b>		<b>£13,336.16</b>

**Did you know?  
Over the past 5  
years the Parish  
Council has  
received nearly  
£27,000 in grants  
for the benefit of  
the local  
community.**

The Precept for 2021 / 2022 was £8,228. In addition a grant of £253 was received from DCC in respect of the LCTSS ( local council support grant).

This was the same as for the previous year. (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 precept for 2022 / 2023 is £8,516 and Council Tax for Band D will be £42.50 which represents a 3.6% increase.

## Community Events

**Unfortunately the Parish Council were unable to hold several events in 2021 / 2022 due to the covid restrictions. However the Big T was able to go ahead in July courtesy of a grant from the National Lottery. Arrangements are now underway for a similar event to be held in June to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.**

**Watch out for information on the Noticeboards, Website and in the Hawthorn**

**Community Round Up**

## HAWTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7 pm on  
Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 using ZOOM.

### MINUTES

#### Present

Cllr. Alan Askew (Chairman)

Cllr. George Vest (Vice- Chairman)

Cllrs. Maxine Smith, Sheila Irving, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter, Dianne Hughes

3 Residents and 1 visitor

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

#### 1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone observe a minute's silence in respect of the recent death of HRH Prince Philip.

#### 2 Apologies

DCC Cllr. Angela Surtees

#### 3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2019

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting 2019**

#### 4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising due to no meeting being held in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

#### 5 Reports

##### 5.1 The Annual Report

The Clerk was thanked for producing the Annual report.

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the Annual Report**

##### 5.2 The Community Centre Report

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report from the Community Centre.

Cllr Wilson said it had been a very difficult year due to covid and the only successful event had been the Pumpkin Trail in October. However the Centre has undergone repairs and refurbishment whilst closed for use and it is hoped to reopen in May in time for the elections.

**RESOLVED**

**To approve the report.**

### **5.3 Police Report**

There was no report.

## **6 Any other business**

### **6.1 Boundary Wall : Wheel House**

Mr. and Mrs Thompson said they had been disappointed to learn that issues had arisen over their refurbishment of the wall around their property at Wheel House. They had recently moved into Hawthorn and whilst not intending to carry out works to the wall, had found this was very necessary. However they had only learned of the Parish Council's concerns through the Parish Council minutes.

Mr. and Mrs Thompson had taken up the opportunity to write a short explanation of the situation in the Community Round Up.

Members said it was unfortunate that this had marred their first few weeks living in the village and hoped that they would enjoy their new life in Hawthorn.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.35pm