

Hawksworth Parish Meeting
26th January 2021 at 7.30pm
Via Zoom

Chairman : Chris Bradwell (CB)

Parish Clerk : Neil Smith (NS)

Present (online) : Fi Barton, Jane Baker, Chris Clayton, Gary & Elaine Cooke, James & Rosie Counsell, Steve & Sarah Hadfield, Alistair & Trisby Henderson, Robert Monk, Doug & Lyn Ross, Colin Tompkins

Apologies: Geoffrey Spence

Main reasons for the meeting:

- Set the precept / parish tax
- Agree major projects
- Planning Update

This was a meeting to set the precept not an AGM so therefore there are no accounts to approve. The accounts attached are draft and are for information purposes to allow us to plan.

1 Meeting Organisation

This meeting was held via Zoom due to the Corona Virus restrictions. The village thanked Colin Tompkins for arranging the Zoom meeting

2 BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2020/21

Each year a sum of money called a **precept** is collected from the parish through the Council Tax. In Hawksworth this money is used to fund the running costs and repairs to the community hall/church. The precept is charged against all households in Hawksworth by Rushcliffe Borough Council - as part of everyone's Council Tax. The amount is decided by this Parish Meeting. The actual amount paid per household is pro rata according to the Council Tax Valuation Band.

Net village funds (all three village bodies – Parish Meeting, HCA, and PCC) stand at **£29,351**

This is considerably less than previous years as we have completed a number of projects in 2019 and 2020.

In the current times it is difficult to forecast with any accuracy for any events or activities. The budget attached assumes we have limited release from lockdown in 2021.

Excluding the precept income and any new project costs we expect this to be reduced by c£4,500 in the next financial year for our normal annual costs. Leaving a balance of c£12,800 net of a contingency. The contingency, unchanged for several years is £12,000.

Potential Projects

- Tympanum on south wall is getting badly eroded – proposal to make a copy for the outside wall and bring the original inside. Estimated cost £20,000 but grants are available.
- New Projects? No one had any suggestions

Other Financial Matters for Consideration

- Proposed increase in Parish Share from Southwell Diocese
Steve Hadfield outlined the current proposals for the Parish share including the division of the Cranmer Group amounts between the local parishes. There is not, as yet, any definite proposals.

The meeting agreed that the financial organisation of Hawksworth should not influence the amount of the Parish Share paid. No further support will be provided to the Hawksworth PCC by the

Hawksworth Community Association until concrete proposals are put forward and agreed by Hawksworth Parish Meeting.

– Income for 2021:

Steve noted that donations received in 2020 were inflated by donations for repairs to the organ and the chancel handrail. There are no projects likely to attract funding in 2021 so total income across the village without precept and fundraising event is unlikely to be much above £2,000.

– **How much precept do YOU want to raise for 2021/2022?**

Current year from April 2020

The parish meeting last January decided to increase the precept by 5% on the previous year in order to help replenish reserves after a heavy project in recent years. A precept of £10,400 was raised from the parish rates. This means that currently for 2020/21, Band D properties are paying £154 per year and Band H properties are paying £308 for the year.

For your information, as previously pointed out, this is the highest band tax rate in Rushcliffe but as we have a small number of households, the precept raised is not the largest. This decision has been agreed in the past as the most cost-effective means of running the village hall/church.

Next year from April 2021

The meeting needs to set the precept.

These are some example figures for Hawksworth based on this year's Tax Base figure of 66.9, using the calculation Band D = Precept/Tax Base.

Option 1 To raise the same sum of money as last year:

If the total sum required for Hawksworth stays the same as last year at **£10,400**.

This means Band D will pay approx £154pa and Band H will pay £308 pa.

Option 2 To reduce the payments to 50%:

To reduce the band payments by about half, for Band D to £77 and Band H to £154 pa, the precept raised would be c£5,200. This would cover our annual running costs.

Option 3 To increase the amount raised by 5% as last year

To increase the band payments by 5%, for Band D to £162 and Band H to £324 pa, the precept raised would be c£10,920.

Decision: Option 1 was proposed by Chris Clayton, seconded by Doug Ross and unanimously agreed by the meeting

3 **PROJECT UPDATES**

a. **Projects Completed in 2020**

Repairs to internal wall SE corner, redecorate internal wall of church, new water heater

b. **Tympanum**

Update attached from Rosie.

The meeting last year agreed in principle to move the original inside and replace it with a suitable replacement. No action required from this Meeting until grant funding is finalised.

4 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a. Applications awaiting approval
 - Two storey rear extension at The Granary (Suzzie Sowka)
- b. Applications approved since last meeting (Jan 20)
 - Conversion of Garage at the Sawmills to ancillary dwelling. (Kate Storey) Approved on appeal
 - Single storey rear extension at No.2 New Road (Kay & Mike Smith)
 - Conversion of Garage at the Manor Farmhouse to ancillary dwelling. (Sallie Lloyd)
 - Single storey rear extension at Yew Tree Farm (John & Sue Brydon)
 - Single storey rear extension at Dolphin Cottage (Alison and David Clarke)
- c. Hawksworth's application declined on appeal:
 - Plot south of Ivy House – application to build house (Mrs & Mrs Burns)
- d. Applications withdrawn prior to decision
 - Conversion of equestrian barn to permanent dwelling at the Sawmills
 - Construction of new gates etc on access track to rear of The Manor
 - Chicken Farm between Thoroton and Hawksworth
- e. RBC planning update: The Chair spoke to Greg Sharman today, who was not aware of any other planning matters that are likely to be of interest to Hawksworth. He advised that the very large potential development between Orston and Elton is a very long way from any potential formal application. Rather, this became known because of a review document and it may be considered in the future for classification as an allocated site.

This is an opportunity to just remind you that the established procedure of the Parish is to only call a meeting concerning a planning application if someone in Hawksworth requests a meeting.

5 **PURGE the VERGE**

Thank you to everyone who is clearing our verges whilst out on their walks. I am sure we are all proud to see how clear our verges are compared to surrounding villages.

Unfortunately this work never stops and can we please encourage everyone to pick up litter when out walking. This doesn't mean a total clearance, if we all picked up one piece every time we went out the verges would remain clear.

Neil Smith will call a litter pick if one is required in March.

6 **SOCIAL EVENTS**

In these strange times our social events ground to a halt in 2020. Many thanks to Nigel and Margrete for making our VE Day celebrations such a great day, and to Steve, Sarah and the new Vicar for our socially distanced Carol Service.

We have another first for the village this weekend with the zoom Burns Night, thanks to Alistair and Colin for arranging

It was also agreed to arrange a Zoom quiz evening for the village in due course.

7 **Gratitude**

Neil and Steve were commended for their continuous hard work and efforts for the village.

8 **OTHER ITEMS**

Village Directory Update is due – if you have any changes let Neil know.

- 9 The Chair thanked everyone for their assistance with this historic event for Hawksworth – our first ever virtual Parish Meeting. Well done to everyone!