

# Hawksworth Parish Meeting

## 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm

**Chairman : Chris Bradwell (CB)**

**Parish Clerk : Neil Smith (NS)**

**Present:** Brian Asher, Jane Baker, Paul Bramley, Chris Clayton, Gary Cooke, James Counsell, Steve Hadfield, Alistair Henderson, Eric Holden, Nigel Madison-Rowe, Andy Matthias, Robert Monk, Doug Ross, Geoffrey Spence, Greg & Pam Stevens, Colin Tompkins

**Apologies:** Tim Baker, Fi Barton, Iain Cooke, Rosie Counsell, Di & Ron Edmonds, Sarah Hadfield, Les & Steph Shaw, Pauline Smith

**Main reasons for the meeting:**

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

### 1 BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

Each year a sum of money called a **precept** is collected from the parish through the Council Tax. In Hawksworth this money has been 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 **£34,389** an increase of £5,603 on January 2021. (Draft Accounts were presented to the meeting for information)

In the current times it remains difficult to forecast with any accuracy for any events or activities. The budget attached assumes we revert to normal church activity after the lockdowns of the last two years. It does not include any benefit from fundraising activities.

Excluding the precept income and any project or significant building repair costs we expect this to be reduced by c£6,200 in the next financial year for our normal running costs. Leaving a balance of c£28,000 net of a contingency.

The chair noted his business was experiencing 100% increase in raw material costs, and it is unlikely the official inflation figures will stay in single figures.

#### Potential Projects

- The only project currently in hand is the Tympanum on south wall which 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. Steve Hadfield advised that we are still awaiting the diocese appointed stonemason to report, so unlikely to be a major expenditure in 2022/23.
- It was agreed there were no other significant projects likely to exceed our resources in 2022/23.

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

### Current year from April 2021

The parish meeting last January decided to keep the precept at the same amount as the previous year. A precept of £10,400 was raised from the parish rates. This means that currently for 2021/22, Band D properties are paying £156 per year and Band H properties are paying £312 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. It was agreed again that the precept is the most cost-effective means of running the village hall/church.

### Next year from April 2022

Options for the precept set out below were described to the meeting:

These are some example figures for Hawksworth based on this year's Tax Base figure of 71.6, using the calculation Band D = Precept/Tax Base. Neil Smith advised the meeting the Tax Base had risen from 66.9 last year.

#### **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 £145pa and Band H will pay £290 pa.

Each household pays 7% less due to the increase in the Tax Base

#### **Option 2 To keep household payments the same as last year**

To keep the band payments the same, for Band D to £156pa and Band H to £312 pa, the precept raised would be c£11,200, an increase of 8% due to change in tax base.

#### **Option 3 To reduce the payments to 50%:**

To reduce the band payments by about half, for Band D to £78 and Band H to £156 pa, the precept raised would be c£5,600. This would cover our annual running costs.

#### **Option 4 To abolish the precept for this year**

**Decision:** Option 2 was proposed by Steve Hadfield, Seconded by Chris Clayton, and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

## 2 PROJECT UPDATES

### a. Tympanum

The meeting last year agreed in principle to move the original inside and replace it with a suitable replacement. There has been no action as we await the "approved" stonemason to produce the report. The meeting questioned if we should take unilateral action to protect this ancient object. Steve Hadfield noted that as the church was Grade 2 listed, planning would be required, and that would not be forthcoming without an approved stonemasons report.

### **b. Quinquennial Survey**

Steve H advised that the 2021 noted a soak away was required along the south side wall. The meeting agreed with Steve this should be ignored as the soak away would have to be so deep to clear the wall it would create more problems.

Other points in the report were minor and have been addressed.

### **c. Glass Screen(s)**

The heating is now working effectively, but there remains a significant loss of heat whenever the main door or side door are open. Steve Hadfield noted that a number of other churches have installed glass screens inside the doors to create an "lobby". It was agreed that we should investigate the possibilities and costs for these screens

Action: **Steve Hadfield** to organise for meeting in May 2022

### **d. Wi-fi**

Colin Tompkins raised the issue of poor internet connectivity in the church. Given it is used for a number of events, some of which require connectivity for either the activity or for payments to be processed, it was agreed to investigate the options and costs for a wi-fi installation.

Action: Neil Smith to arrange for meeting in May 2022

## **3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. Applications approved since last meeting (May 21)**

- Single storey rear extension at Manor Cottage, Main Road (Paul & Sue Bramley)
- Remove and replace existing fencing and front boundary at Ivy House ( Celia Harris )
- Alterations, remodelling and extension of Stonecroft, Main Road ( The Gale Family )
- Alteration to previously approved garage at Ivy Farm Barn ( Andrew Matthias )

### **b. Applications approved on Appeal**

- Conversion of equestrian barn to permanent dwelling at the Sawmills (Kate Storey)

The chair tried to contact the head of planning four times to learn whether there were any unannounced applications coming up. There was no response."

This is also 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.

## **4 PURGE the VERGE**

Thank you to everyone who is clearing our verges whilst out on their walks. I am 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.

## 5 SOCIAL EVENTS

Our social activities remained curtailed in 2021 but at least we managed some events. Many thanks to Robert and Pedella for a great Fun Day in the summer and bonfire party, and to Steve, Sarah and the new Vicar for another socially distanced Carol Service.

For 2022 there is The Queens jubilee – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June is pencilled in for a Street Party. Please get involved in the organisation, we will be putting the call out for volunteers in the next few weeks.

Hopefully we are over the mayhem of the last couple of years and we can get back to the social events of old. The meeting requested some ideas for the early Spring and late Summer to get us started.....

a. **International Rugby at Orston 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Chris Clayton invited the village to join him and Alistair at the Durham Ox, Orston on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February to watch the rugby internationals.

b. **Pop Up Pub**

Alistair Henderson & Colin Tompkins resurrected the “pop-up” pub in the church idea. After the success of the fishing lakes night last year it was agreed to have a go at doing this in the church at the end of February.

c. **Safari Supper**

It was agreed we would plan this in for the summer

## 6 OTHER ITEMS

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

## 7 AOB

a. **Christmas Decorations & Remembrance Day Flag**

The meeting thanked Chris Bradwell for the above.

b. **Replacement Tree on Town Street**

It was agreed to purchase a Cherry Tree to replace the dead one removed in the autumn.  
Neil Smith to chase council, or purchase replacement.

**Meeting Closed at 8.30pm**