

# Hawksworth Parish Meeting

## 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm

**Chairman: Chris Bradwell (CB)**

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

**Present:** Fi Barton, John Brydon, Chris Clayton, Elaine & Gary Cooke, Anne Dunn, James & Rosie Counsell, Fi Grant, John Hadfield, Sarah & Steve Hadfield, Bill Hammond, Alistair Henderson, Eric Holden, Jen Hollingshead, Christine & Graham Izatt, Pedella & Robert Monk, Andy Matthias, Colin Tompkins

**Non-Voting:** Cllr Sarah Bailey (Rushcliffe Borough Council)

**Apologies:** Brian & Margaret Asher, Paul & Sue Bramley, Jane Clayton, Diana and Ron Edmunds, Richard Flynn, James Hollingshead, David & Jenny Parr, Les and Stephanie Shaw, Pauline Smith, Alan Smyth, Geoffrey Spence, Krys Szpakowska,

**Welcome to Sarah Bailey – Rushcliffe Councillor**

**Main reasons for the meeting:**

- Set the precept / parish tax
- Update on lease negotiations with Southwell
- Agree major projects
- Discuss Social Calendar for 2017

This was a meeting to set the precept not an AGM so therefore there were no accounts to approve. However, to be able to discuss setting the precept the state of our finances and clear plans are required.

### 1 INTRODUCTION OF CLLR SARAH BAILEY

Chris Bradwell welcomed and introduced our new RBC Council representative Cllr Sarah Bailey.

Cllr Bailey updated the meeting on developments are RBC

- Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council – Allen Graham
- RBC has been shortlisted for the Entrepreneurial Council 2018 in the LBC Awards for investments in property giving services / facilities to local people as well as returns above interest rates.
- West Bridgford Wire is an online news service for Rushcliffe – this can be found at <http://westbridgfordwire.com/>

### 2 BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018

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. It 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 c£49,000.

Excluding the precept income and any project costs we expect this to be reduced by c£4,000 in the next financial year for our normal annual costs. Leaving a healthy balance of c£45,000.

### **Potential Projects**

- Village Hall lease renewal (Steve Hadfield)
- Churchyard wall along Town Street ( cost up to £12,000) (Colin)
- Repairs to church hall – large crack to South East corner, window
- Organ Restoration (grant aid available but some funding required from village) total cost £16,000
- More effective church heating £6,000 to £30,000
- Church floodlighting – faculty for digging shallow wiring ducts £2-3,000
- Tympanum on south wall is getting badly eroded – proposal to make a copy for the outside wall and bring the original inside.
- Defibrillator for the Village - £500 max subject to grants.

Potentially these projects could soak up all the balance of funds and more.

### **Decision:**

It was unanimously agreed to keep the precept at the 2015/16 level (c £9,950). This was justified by the number and cost of potential projects. Proposed R.Monk, Seconded C. Clayton.

***NS to advise Rushcliffe BC.***

## **3 VILLAGE PROJECTS**

It was decided we should concentrate our limited resources completing a few critical projects before the AGM in May. Key projects were agreed to be the Churchyard Wall, Church Heating, Church Interior (crack in SE wall and hole in window), Tympanium, and defibrillator. We can then revisit the project list.

### **a. VILLAGE HALL LEASE FROM THE DIOCESE**

Steve Hadfield updated us on the latest discussions with Southwell Diocese. The Diocese has now agreed with Steve that we had an ongoing lease, with guaranteed security of tenure as provided by the Landlord & Tenant Act. This does not guarantee that rent will not increase, however there are restrictions that it cannot rise above a commercial rent which considered guidance suggests is peppercorn.

**Steve** to provide written confirmation of ongoing lease to support grant applications applicable.

No further action required. The meeting thanks Steve for his work on the lease renewal. It will now drop off the future agenda.

### **b. CHURCHYARD WALL**

Colin updated the meeting on planning/authorisations required for the wall repairs. These were now almost complete and work could start in March 2018.

8 supporting piers will be constructed to stop further movement (leaning) of the wall. These will have steel cores and brick/stone skin to match the wall.

Latest Cost Estimate £12,000.

**Decision:** Agreed that this work should be progressed asap, with desire to be complete by AGM in May. Further approval from village required if costs escalate above £13,000. Approval will be done by circulating the village, it does not have to wait until May. ***Colin to lead.***

### **c. CHURCH HEATING**

Chris summarised the findings from the recent supplier visits. There are two ways to provide warmth, convection (warm the air and surrounds), or radiant (warm the surfaces including those of the people). In general it is better for older buildings to be kept at a constant (moderate) temperature with a slight raise when the building is in use. However, given the infrequent use of the Church it was felt this would be extremely costly to run. Most rural churches which have

upgraded their heating have chosen “instant” infra red solutions.

Options:

- i. Gas Central Heating System with Radiators – Capital Cost c£25,000  
Bottled gas supplied boiler, floor level radiators
- ii. Electric Radiators ( modern version of storage heaters / dimplex )
- iii. Infra Red – Off white wall plaques mounted just above head height to walls and pillars.  
Two options with Capital Cost c £6,000 to £8,000
- iv. Infra Red chandeliers and plaques – Capital Cost £23,000

For an electric supply option the electricity supply would have to be checked but it was felt this would have sufficient capacity however the distribution board etc needs investigation.

**Decision:** Agreed to progress this project immediately. We should not scrimp on cost, we have the funding to provide an elegant solution, which we expect to last 25+ years.

**Colin** to arrange advice/guidance from consultants on church heating solutions

**Chris** to arrange reference site visits for all options – invites to be sent to village for the visits.

#### d. CHURCH HALL REPAIRS

**Decision:** Now the lease has been resolved it was agreed we should address the repairs to the church hall.

- i. The window pane to be replaced
- ii. Door knob to be installed on the side door (used as entrance in cold weather) to allow door to be opened from both sides when unlocked.
- iii. Large crack on South East corner to be investigated with proposals including quote for works to be presented to May meeting.

**Chris Bradwell to lead i & ii, Colin iii.**

#### e. TYMPANIUM

Anne summarised the project to remove the Norman (c mid 1100s) tympanum / dedication stone from the exterior wall of the church tower and re-site it inside the church to protect it from further deterioration due to exposure to the elements. The exterior wall would be made good with a detailed copy.

The diocese supports this plan and grant applications will be considered to fund the project. Some of the funding may need to be provided by the village. A fully costed project will be presented to the village before any funds are committed. This is likely to include the moving of the Tympanum and renovation of the beatitudes to the left of the main door.

The conservation report and method statement from the stone specialists which, together with the beatitudes restoration documents will be used to get a faculty (equivalent to planning permission) from Southwell Diocese. This is due in March

Anne suggested the cost could be in the region of £6,000 to £10,000. Alistair volunteered to investigate funding grants. Around a third of the cost might be obtainable from Notts Historic Churches Trust and the Lady Hind Trust.

**Decision:** The meeting approved the project in principle. A more detailed project plan and costings will be circulated once received. Formal approval to be sought at May meeting.

#### f. DEFIBRILLATOR

Several people have indicated an interest in getting a defibrillator installed in the village. The capital cost of the installation including training will be up to £5,000 but lottery funding is available to cover most of this. Ongoing maintenance costs can be minimised if we take responsibility to maintain the equipment alternatively this can be provided for £165pa

#### Decision:

It was agreed to progress the acquisition of a defibrillator for installation in the Phone Box on Town Street, with clear signage from Main Road. Approval to spend up to £500 capital cost, further approval required if any additional funding required from the village

**NS to progress** asap with objective of installation before May meeting.

#### g. LIGHTING EXTERIOR OF CHURCH

The meeting approved in principle flood lighting of the church tower during the winter months (similar to the lighting over the Christmas period). Further discussion at May meeting.

#### h. OTHER PROJECTS

A number of other projects were discussed and agreed not to actively progress at the current time, allowing resources to be focussed on the above projects.

- i. Organ Restoration – Total cost up to £16,000. Not urgent but will be required sometime.
- ii. Peace Memorial to commemorate 100 years of the end of WW1. Sub group to be created to develop ideas for discussion at May meeting. **Anne to lead**
- iii. Proposal to replace 1918 crockery was not supported.

### 4 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Hawksworth's current applications approved since last meeting

Mr & Mrs Matthias – New access from road

Ms Dunn – Single storey extension to Orchard Cottage

Mr & Mrs Henderson - Single storey extension to Belvoir

Note: Appeal on Stonecroft has been dismissed

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

Chris B spoke to Michelle Dunn at RBC today who reported that there has been a reserved matters application for first phase residential development between Margidunum and Bingham. This is for 315 dwellings, part of 1050 dwellings allocated to the site.

RBC also noted the application to site 6 static caravan and 6 touring caravans for gypsy travellers on Flintham Lane, Screveton. This was discussed at some length and the meeting unanimously agreed to object to this proposal:

*The Hawksworth Parish Meeting is very supportive of retaining the open rural nature of this part of Rushcliffe and in principle is against development outside the curtilage of residential areas in this environment. This proposal represents an intensive development of an open rural field, with 18 constructions (caravans or utility buildings), and residential landscaping of the remaining parts of the plot. Concerns were also raised that*

*development has already taken place on this site before planning applications are decided. In addition to the above this will increase demand for services where there is little or no provision within the immediate vicinity.*

## 5 BROADBAND UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped with pressure on BT to provide Hawksworth with a fibre based connection. This work is almost complete, please let us know if BT have not yet got you connected.

## 6 HAWKSWORTH HISTORY DOCUMENTS

Anne Dunn set out a proposal to take the extensive collection of old Hawksworth photographs and documents to Nottinghamshire Archives for safe keeping and easy access / research.

By giving it to the Archives all the photos & papers will be stored in the correct conditions of temperature and humidity and the general public will be able to access the information via the electronic indexes.

**Decision:** It was agreed we should look at a village website as the means to hold digitised copies of the collection. This would also be useful to collate other key documents for the village. **Fi Grant, Gary, and Anne** to progress with costed proposal at the May meeting.

**Decision:** It was also agreed to produce a book to capture the work. Norwell had done something similar. Anne, Fi and Gary to progress with this ahead of May meeting.

## 7 SOCIAL EVENTS

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with our Social events especially Jane and Kelly for the Christmas Fayre and Fi, Alistair and Lynn for the Burns supper. Since the summer we have raised well over £1,000 for the village funds even after donations to charity of over £600.

We are now looking for ideas for social events for 2018. Robert and Pedella have kindly offered us a Marquee at the Manor on the Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August for a social event.

A social committee to be set up to manage the event. **NS** to circulate the village for volunteers and Chair

## 8 OTHER ITEMS

The issue of dog fouling around the village, and particularly on verges around the edge of the village and around the water works. It is believed most of this issue was people from outside the village, many of whom park by the water works. It was agreed we would all be vigilant and clear up after our dogs. We will revisit this in May. **NS** to send note round the village.

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