

Hawksworth Parish Meeting

7th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Chairman : Chris Bradwell (CB)

Parish Clerk : Neil Smith (NS)

Present : Jane Baker, Paul Bramley, Anne Dunn Sarah Hadfield, Steve Hadfield, Alistair Henderson.

Apologies: Tim Baker, Fi Barton, Chris & Jane Clayton, Diana & Ron Edmonds, John Hadfield, Trisby Henderson, James & Jen Hollingshead,

Main reasons for the meeting:

- Set the precept / parish tax
- Agree major projects
- Planning Update
- Discuss Social Calendar for 2020

This is a meeting to set the precept not an AGM so therefore there are no accounts to approve. The AGM, when we review accounts, is in the spring. However, to be able to discuss setting the precept, the state of our finances and clear plans are required.

1 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. 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 £37,488.

This balance is considerably less than previous years as we have completed a number of projects in 2019. These have principally been the heating, the Town Street side churchyard wall, the village book, and Organ restoration.

Excluding the precept income and any new project costs we expect the nett village funds to be reduced by c£10,000 in the next financial year for our normal annual costs and necessary maintenance. These costs include

- Parish Share to Diocese £3900 and Group Share (Cranmer Group) £500
- Electricity c£70 mth/£850pa – increased by new heaters
- Insurance £1500
- Fire extinguisher maintenance £150
- Quinquennial survey £400

In addition the final payment for the heating (£6,650) is outstanding

Leaving a balance of c£23,000 – the lowest for over 5 years.

Potential Projects

- Repairs to the church – large crack to South East corner and gulley / drains on south sides
- Decoration to Village Hall: Specialist renovation pointing, plastering, breathable paint.
- Tympanum on south wall is getting badly eroded – proposal to make a copy for the outside wall and bring the original inside.

How much precept do YOU want to raise for 2020/2021?

Current year to April 2020

The parish meeting decided to keep the money required for expenses at a similar level as the previous year in order to help finance the church repairs. A precept of £9,920 was raised from the parish rates. This means that currently for 2019/20, Band D properties are paying £148.28 per year and Band H properties are paying £296.56 for the year, similar to the year before.

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. Before the use of the precept, annual finance was raised by incessant coffee mornings etc. Those that remember these times tell us that tiny sums were raised from very hard work. No one disputes that this village has moved forward substantially as a result of raising money through the annual precept.

This year from April 2020

We are free to keep the precept at the same rate as the last few years, to raise it, or to lower it. In the last few years this meeting has agreed a precept that has brought £9,920 to the village. This is not free, but is paid by Council Tax payers in the Parish in varying amounts, dependant upon the band of Council Tax paid by any particular person in the Parish. This comes directly to the village, not other bodies (eg Rushcliffe or Notts CC)

Following 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 **£9,920**.

This means Band D will pay approx £148pa and Band H will pay £296 pa.

Option 2 To raise the precept by 50%:

If the total sum required for Hawksworth increases to **£14,880**.

This means Band D will pay approx £222pa and Band H will pay £444 pa.

Option 3 To reduce the payments to 50%:

To reduce the band payments by about half, for Band D to £74 and Band H to £148 pa, the precept raised would be c£5,000. This would cover our annual running costs.

Option 4 To abolish the precept for this year

Decision : After much discussion and in light of the reduction in funds (as result of projects), and the ongoing project requirement it was agreed to increase the precept by 5% to £10,400. This is the first increase since 2011, and as a result of the new properties in the village the precept paid by each property will remain below that of 2011/12.

Proposed: Alistair Henderson, Seconded: Anne Dunn. Unanimous approval.

Action : NS to notify Rushcliffe.

2 PROJECT UPDATES

a. **Projects Completed in 2019**

Heating, wall, village book, and Organ restoration. The meeting thanked those involved and the meeting registered a special note of thanks to Colin Tompkins.

b. **Tympanum** – (Cost c£10k which may be reduced by grant funding)

Anne updated the meeting on the frustration in getting action from the approved supplier to quote for the works, and the actions already taken to try to move the project forward.

Decision: It was agreed unanimously that we needed to protect the Tympanum at the earliest opportunity to prevent further erosion. Anne agreed to approach alternative suppliers – the meeting agreed that the copy from an alternative supplier may not be of the same quality but the main objective is to preserve the original.

Anne handed over the documentation for the project which will be required for grant applications etc going forward.

The meeting thanked Anne for the work already completed on this project.

c. **Repairs to Church**

Steve Hadfield to update on the latest input from quinquennial survey (the five year review conducted by the church authorities) –

– Archway over Chancel, within next 12 mths c £2k

– Gulley/drain repairs before decoration c £8k

– Repointing in next few years in approx. 4 areas – not massive but before decoration.

Decision: It was agreed unanimously that this work should be carried out as soon as practically possible. **Steve Hadfield** agreed to progress with **Colin**.

d. **Church maintenance / decoration** – (Cost dependant on the amount of work by us)

It was agreed this is overdue but is not worth doing before repairs are complete.

e. **Lease**

Steve Hadfield confirmed that our formal tenancy agreement ran out in 2017, however as it is an old lease pre 1997 it is an “assured tenancy”.

“An **assured tenancy** is a legal category of tenancy in English land law. Statute affords a tenant under an assured tenancy a degree of security of tenure. A tenant under an assured tenancy may not be evicted without a reasonable ground in the Housing Act 1988 and, where periodic^[n.1] changes in rent are potentially subject to a challenge before a rent assessment committee”

Steve has the necessary documentation to support any funding applications.

No further action required.

f. **Churchyard and Verge**

Steve confirmed work was in hand to “manage” large trees to the south of the church (soon to be complete), and to reseed the verge under the wall (in the Spring).

3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. Applications approved since last meeting (May)
 - Agricultural building for sheep (Sally Lloyd) – land south of the Willows
 - Track Improvements to rear of The Manor – from waterworks on Thoroton Lane.
 - Creation of wildlife pond behind The Manor
 - Change of storage building to a dwelling at The Glebe.
- b. Hawksworth's current applications – both gone to appeal:
 - Plot south of Ivy House – this application was rejected but the owners (Mrs & Mrs Burns) have gone to appeal. Hawksworth and Rushcliffe's statements were submitted to the Appeals Inspector before Christmas. No decision yet received.
 - Conversion of Garage at the Sawmills to separate dwelling. (Kate Storey) Rushcliffe's statement was submitted to the Appeals Inspector just before Christmas. No decision yet received.

Reminder to the Parish Meeting that the established procedure of the Parish is to only call a meeting concerning a planning application if someone in Hawksworth requests one.
- c. Chris spoke to Greg Sharman at RBC today who reported that there are no new planning matters in our area that are likely to be of interest to us.

4 VILLAGE BREAK IN

On Saturday (4th Jan) afternoon, or early evening, a Hawksworth house was broken into. Entry was gained by breaking in through a closed window. Various things were stolen. The Police are investigating. A strange vehicle was noted outside the property by an eagle eyed passer-by and the registration number has been passed on to the Police. It was a false number plate.

The household has expressed their appreciation for the observation and STRONGLY wishes to remind us all to take note when we see something that is not normal. Virtually all of us carry phones. Take a snap of anything that is out of the ordinary. **This is NOT intrusion**, it is our community helping each other. If it looks wrong then dial 999! Chris has done so on a number of occasions and every time the Police have been highly receptive and grateful – don't hesitate!

5 HAWKSWORTH HISTORY DOCUMENTS

Anne Dunn has produced electronic files for all the village documents including a fantastic archive of photographs of the village and immediate surrounds dating back to the early 1900s. The meeting thanked Anne for these.

Chris, Steve, Neil and Alistair have copies of these files which are available for you to borrow. Please contact either of the above for access.

We also encourage you to add any photos / images to this great archive. Please pass these to Neil.

6 PURGE the VERGE

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

7 **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with our Social events. Before we get into events for 2020 can we ask you all to get involved in "organising" some of these events. This isn't a big commitment, and the "get togethers" to plan the events are great fun. Look out for the mails to ask for help.

Coming up we have

1st February – Burns Supper

14th February – Valentines Night Pop Up Restaurant – Book through Kelly

A few ideas for socials have been put forward:

- a. **Monthly Coffee Mornings**
- b. **Monthly Pub Night**
- c. **Charity Ball**

The meeting supported these ideas. Neil to contact those interested to get them up and running.

The meeting also encouraged more social events and will support suggestions.

8 **CHARITY FUND RAISING via SOCIAL EVENTS**

Several people have asked about the funds raised at our Social Events. In the past we have raised funds for the big projects we have had in the village (Wall, Heating etc). Now these are complete, we don't want to stop having fun, but raising money for the village has less resonance, especially for people outside the village.

One option suggested is to share the proceeds between the village and a chosen charity. If we were to follow this idea then we could select a charity each year, or for each "big" event.

The meeting agreed it was a good idea to share proceeds between the village and charity. Rather than decide at village level it was agreed the organisers of each event decide which charity should benefit.

9 **OTHER ITEMS**

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

10 **AOB**

- a. Road Quality: Paul Bramley raised the shocking state of roads in the parish and wider locality, and the poor quality of repairs which had been undertaken. The meeting discussed how we can get more action on this issue.

Chris advised it is up to us all to report these issues via the NCC Highways Dept.

Chris agreed to make first contact with Highways to discuss how we can get action on our road surfaces. See below:

Post Meeting Note: The Highways department is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council but this has been outsourced to a commercial company “Via”.

The key contacts are: Laura Trussler – Head of Department, and John Buxton – Inspector.

They can be contacted at:
VIA East Midlands Ltd,
Bilsthorpe Depot,
Eakring Road,
Bilsthorpe,
Nottinghamshire, NG22 8ST

Telephone: 0115 8042100 email: contactus@viaem.co.uk

Online at : <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/roads>

Candidly they admitted that action is taken on the volume of demand for work to be carried out. Orston had an orchestrated “attack” over several months to get Smite Lane resurfaced. This involved direct requests to Via (phone, letter, email, online), letters/email to NCC and NCC Councillor, and enlisting support from Rushcliffe councillor, and other interested parties (eg OSB Events for the triathlon).

Immediate issues are being addressed (see yellow markings around worst holes) after this initial contact, although no definitive date on repairs being done. This will not resolve the poor surface dressing along Main Road in front of the church nor the collapsed road edges outside the village.

Once these initial repairs are complete (or if they are not complete by end February) we will enlist the whole village in a campaign for road improvements. Watch this space.