

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting of Hawkchurch 19th April 2016

There were 14 people in attendance including the Chairman and the clerk.

Apologies were received from Cllr P Searle and Cllr A Moulding.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Parish Council, councillor T Greenshields who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were adopted.

The chairman informed the meeting that there had been no call for an election last May, and he was pleased that all nine positions on the council had been filled. He welcomed the two new members who were already proving to be a valuable asset to the Council. The new houses in the village had now been completed, which had created another six affordable homes. The Neighbourhood Plan had now been launched and he went on to state that we need some volunteers to run the steering group. The Parish Lengthsman continues to undertake valuable works in the parish, and he asked parishioners to report any roadside problems that need attention. The community shop continues to improve its trade and discussions continue as to whether it should be located next to the village hall in the future or not. He thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their support over the year. He also praised both our county and district councillors for all their work and support over the year. The council had dealt with 25 planning applications during the year; compared with 29 the previous year.

The clerk informed the meeting that through good housekeeping we had started to build up some reserves. This was important as there could be a call on them in the future if something went wrong. Whilst parish and town councils have had to take on more responsibilities he was pleased to inform the meeting that the council had managed to keep precept increases to a minimum at present.

Councillor Hall informed the meeting that lobbying, with the support of our MP, Neil Parish, continues in relation to getting something done about the road junction at Hunter's Lodge. Hawkchurch Parish Council had been invited, and had indeed attended, all the meetings held in Axminster on this matter. It was hoped that some funding would be found to make some essential alterations at this blackspot junction. He had been pleased to assist the council with a number of planning problems and felt that this parish council works well as a team.

The clerk informed the meeting that no one had called on the funds of the Barnes Trust during the year.

Councillor J Baker had taken over the position of P3 co-ordinator. She informed the meeting that the majority of the rights of way within the parish were in good condition, and thanked everyone who had assisted with the annual survey.

The 200 club continues to support the playing field and the council had agreed to provide £40 a year towards the cost of grass cutting. The council also pays for the insurance and the annual rent of the field. The pavilion had received a makeover with some of the timber boards being replaced or repaired.

The village hall kitchen renovation had been completed. The hall is well used and is the focal point for many events. The committee are in discussion with the shop committee about the possible re-location of the shop in the future.

Our representative on the Parochial Church Council informed the meeting that he attends all of their meetings. The bell ropes have been replaced. There are some problems with the organ and the West window is being repaired. A handrail to the church tower is also being replaced.

Councillor David Marsh (Thorncombe Parish Council) thanked the council for their support in retaining the Thursday bus service to Axminster. Some 52 people had attended the meeting at the Bottle Inn at Marshwood and it was hoped to keep the bus running until at least the end of the financial year.

Trade in the community shop was up by 40%, however the shop was proving to be too small and there is a need to relocate to somewhere bigger. The lease had been renewed for a further three years at the present location.

There being no further business the chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting closed.

----- Chairman

Date -----

