

The November Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 13th November 2023, in the Community Centre.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)
Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)
Cllrs. Alan Askew, Gary Thompson, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

Officer: Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Member of the Public: 2

1 Notice of Meeting

Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Sch 12 paragraph 10(2) of the LGA 1972

2 Apologies

PCSO Carole Hutton

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes:

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 16th October 2023

5 Matters of Information

No new information.

6 Reports

6.1 Police

The following information had been circulated to Members.

16/10/2023 - Report of 2 x off road bikes coming from Hawthorn Dene/Quarry and back. Officers attended and bikes had made off prior to officers' arrival

23/10/2023 - Road Traffic Collision Sunderland Road

I think it's also important that I mention the traffic prior to Halloween, visitors to the pumpkin patch. My colleague and I attended the area looking for offroad bikes and were met with traffic queues and obstructions leading to the patch. We did speak with the organiser with regards to this as it would appear they weren't prepared for the influx of visitors.

We will also continue to patrol the area with regards to off road bikes

6.2 DCC

No report was given.

6.3 Community Centre

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes gave the report.

Cllr Hughes said the recent race night was well attended and enjoyed by all and had raised £269 towards the Christmas event.

In addition, the Craft Fayre had also been successful.

The next event is the Christmas pantomime – tickets must be paid beforehand and will be prioritizing local residents.

6.4 Recent accident B1432 / Replacement Bus shelter (DH)

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes reported on the recent accident on Stockton Road which had also obliterated the brick bus shelter.

DCC Cllr Angela Surtees has said the replacement will be via the bus company but is not likely to be like for like and will most likely depend on the advice from the insurance company. However, DCC were very quick to make safe the area and tidy up.

6.5 Any other reports

The Clerk informed members that the new printer has now stopped working. The Clerk had contacted Xerox who have confirmed it is beyond repair and will send out a replacement under warranty.

In the meantime, the Clerk is unable to do any printing – and thanked Cllr Sheila Irving for printing out notices, agendas, minutes etc.

7 Public Participation

7.1 A resident commented on the following: -

a) Bus shelter

He stressed the need for a like for like replacement bus shelter particularly as a brick one fits in with the overall appearance of the village.

It was pointed out that the replacement is the responsibility of DCC.

b) B1432

He pointed out that some new signs requesting a reduction in speed have now been installed although concern was expressed that some are not in the correct position.

c) Health and safety

He commented on a DCC employee who was cutting a sign down without wearing safety glasses.

It was pointed out that this is not a matter for the Parish Council.

7.2 A second resident commented on the following: -

a) Accident on B1432

He asked if anyone was injured in the recent accident. The Chair confirmed there were no injuries.

b) New Road sign on Eagle Hall Bank

He suggested that trees/branches will cover the new sign and asked DCC be requested to cut the trees back to ensure the signs are visible.

c) Halloween

Members were informed of some incidents on Halloween including the theft / damage to pumpkins in front of some properties in the village.

It was suggested a reminder could be put in the appropriate Round Up next year.

8 Correspondence

8.1 Temporary closed footpath: DCC

The Clerk had circulated information from the Rights of Way Officer at DCC re the temporary closure of the footpath near the Garden Village Development and assuring the parish Council that they are monitoring the situation.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8.2 Morven Offshore Wind: Introduction Letter

Information has been received from the above company regarding their development of several offshore wind projects with a combined potential generating capacity of 5.9 gigawatts and in particular their development of a partial grid connection offer from National Grid ESO to connect 1.5GW of its capacity into Hawthorn Pit Substation.

It was pointed out that this is not within Hawthorn Parish – but to ask Morven to keep the Parish Council informed of progress etc.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9 Financial:

9.1 To endorse the monies paid by the Clerk since the last meeting / Bank reconciliation.

Due to the bank closure of accounts – there have been no payments.

9.2 Changing bank accounts: Progress report

The Clerk reported that despite further calls to Lloyds – there has been no progress. As a result, in line with the decision taken at the last meeting – the Clerk has now applied to Unity bank to open a new account.

Unity have been in touch and the Clerk is 'hopeful' the new account will be open very quickly as the Council is unable to pay any invoices at present.

It appears that Hawthorn Parish Council is not unique in this and both NALC and SLCC are continuing to pursue problems and issues with Barclays.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.3 Initial discussions: precept 2024 / 2025

DCC have now indicated they will pay a reduced amount of the LCTSG – amounting to £11, reduced from £238. The Clerk had prepared and circulated initial estimates and asked that members bring back comments for the next month meeting in December which will discuss the precept in detail – and formally set it at the January meeting..

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

10 Draft Climate Change Information

The Clerk had circulated the draft policy.

RESOLVED

To approve.

11 Flooding: North End

The Clerk had circulated details of a flooding incident to the north of the village during the recent exceptional rainfall.

It appears that some of the contributory factors are fallen leaves blocking drains and gullies.

The two residents who were present suggested that volunteers could help clear these leaves.

RESOLVED

To include in the next Round Up and also place posters on the noticeboards.

Still need some work

12 Training:

The Clerk has circulated current training.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13 Planning: Current Planning applications

The current planning applications had been circulated.

13.1 West Field bungalow – additional dwelling

RESOLVED

To receive the information

14 Events & Information

14.1 Switching on lights: Dec 2nd

The action plan had been circulated.

Cllr. Sheila Irving confirmed that the Christmas Tree is now on order. The Clerk said she had picked up the Christmas lights which will be pat tested the next day. In addition, the Clerk informed members that she had ordered Santa's gifts.

Cllr. Carolyn Winter reported that we now have a replacement Santa.

14.2 Christmas Card Competition

The Clerk confirmed this has been publicized and judging will take place at the Christmas Event.

RESOLVED

4 prizes of 'celebrations' to be bought as prizes.

14.3 Hard copy newsletter

The Clerk had been able to print 200 copies of the newsletter before the printer stopped working. These to be delivered in the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

15 Dates of the next meeting: Monthly Meeting of the Council: Monday 11th December 2023

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.