

**The April Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was at 7pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Community Centre.**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present**

Cllr Diane Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr. Sheila Irving (Vice – Chairman)

Cllrs. Alan Askew, Maxine Smith, Gary Thompson, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

**Officer:** Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

### **2 Members of the Public:**

#### **1 Notice of Meeting**

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes, welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Sch 12 paragraph 10(2) of the LGA 1972

#### **2 Apologies**

PCSO Paul Pearson

#### **3 Presentation: Morven Offshore Wind**

The Chair, Cllr Diane Hughes, welcomed Mr. Matt Olly (Morven Offshore) and Mr. Stuart Barnes (EBNW) to the meeting. Both then continued to give a presentation and detailed information regarding developing an offshore wind farm. This would be through the ScotWind leasing arrangements in the North Sea and whilst in the early stages of development, Morven is expected to have a generating capacity of 2.9GW, sufficient to power the equivalent of around three million UK homes every year.

As in the case with all offshore wind farm developments, Morven will need to connect to the UK's National Grid network. The National Grid Energy Systems Operator (ESO) undertook the first phase of Holistic Network Design (HND) as part of the Offshore Transmission Network Design Review (OTNR) in 2022 to ensure UK offshore windfarms benefit from a single, integrated system that supports the delivery of electricity generated from offshore wind. Based on the recommendations of this work, Morven's first connection to the National Grid will be at Hawthorn Pit in the Northeast of England.

It was explained that there are currently 'search' areas which will house the underground cables, and also a possible site for the convertor station. However, details have yet to be finalized.

Morven are intending to extend their consultation with more parish councils and residents in the area and said they will be returning to Hawthorn and carry out more extensive community consultation. Both Mr. Olly and Mr. Barnes answered all questions from the Council and members of the public – and said they would forward their presentation to the Clerk.

They were thanked for attending by the Chair and they then left the meeting. The Clerk said she would add the slides to the website and include some information in the next Round Up.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

None

**5 Minutes:**

**5.1 RESOLVED**

To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**5.2 RESOLVED**

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**6 Matters of Information**

No additional information has been received.

**7 Reports**

**7.1 DCC**

None received.

**7.2 Police**

PCSO Paul Pearson sent a written report. There have been no incidents reported in the Hawthorn area in the last month although there continues to be an ongoing issue with off road bikes travelling through Hawthorn and this will continue to be monitored and any bikes caught will be given warning or seizure notices.

**7.3 Community Centre**

The Chair, Cllrs Diane Hughes gave the report. This included details of: -

- I. The Annual Meeting – when all officers were returned.
- II. Details of forthcoming events – including the theatre event and the race night.

**7.4 Any other reports**

None

**8 Public Participation**

**8.1 Morven Offshore**

Comments were expressed about the proposals.

The Chair said all consultation is to be welcomed and we await more precise information.

**8.2 Sand Pit in the play area.**

Comments were made regarding the removal of the above.

The Chair said this was a s a result of cats messing in the sand – and also the danger found there with broken glass.

**9 Correspondence**

**9.1 Guest Speaker from an Estate Planning company called Silvertime.**

Information and the offer to attend a parish council meeting has been received from Silvertime, which specialises in wills, trusts and the importance of lasting powers of attorney, managing care fees and touch on sideways disinheritance in case of remarriage.

**RESOLVED**

**To pass the information to the Community Centre Management Group.**

**9.2 Traffic Calming**

Cllr Alan Askew said he had been approached by a resident on West Park re the possibility of traffic calming at the junction onto West Lane.

Members felt that DCC are not in the position of installing such, and it was also stated that often these measures are not welcomed by all residents.

**RESOLVED**

**To ask the PCSO to look at the situation.**

**10 Financial:**

**10.1 RESOLVED**

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

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Direct	03/04/2024	ICO	Renewal Fee	£40.00
Direct	08/03/2024	Gordon Fletcher	Internal Audit	£100.00
Direct	03/04/2024	CDALC	Subs	£81.95

<b>Hawthorn Parish Council</b>	<b>2024 / 2025</b>	
Business	£8,154.80	
Current	£936.23	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,091.03</b>	<b>£9,091.03</b>
Less u/p to date		
<b>Receipts To date</b>	<b>£14,686.88</b>	
<b>Payments to date</b>	<b>£221.95</b>	
<b>U/p</b>	<b>£14,686.88</b>	
<b>Closing balances</b>		<b>£8,869.08</b>
Business	£8,154.80	
Current	£714.28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,869.08</b>	<b>£8,869.08</b>

In addition, the Clerk said she had received the quote from Clear re the annual insurance for the council.

This amounts to £507.18 and is due on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**RESOLVED**

**This was approved in principle.**

**10.2 Precept 2023 / 2024**

The Clerk informed members that DCC had not paid the precept for 2024 / 2025 – as this had been forwarded to Barclays Bank rather than the new Unity Account – this was despite having the new bank details on the precept form.

DCC have apologized and are looking to resolve the situation.

**10.3 VAT Claim**

The claim for the vat incurred in 2023 / 2024 has been made to HMRC and has been received.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**11 Annual Accounts / AGAR**

All accounts / statements as below had been circulated to all Members. In addition, the accounts had been sent to the Internal Auditor who had completed his report.

The Clerk pointed out that because the expenditure had exceeded £25,000 (the transparency code threshold) in the 2023 / 2024 financial year – the accounts now need to be forwarded to Mazars who are the external auditors, and this will incur a charge.

**RESOLVED**

**To approve: -**

**11.1 Balance Sheet / Statement and associated accounts**

**11.2 Exemption Certificate**

The Clerk pointed out that this is not necessary this year as the threshold has been exceeded and the accounts need to be externally audited.

**11.3 Governance Statement**

**11.4 Accounting Statement**

**11.5 Internal Audit report**

Both the AGAR Internal report and the more detailed report had been circulated.

In addition, the Clerk informed Members that the required Public Rights to View the accounts notice will be posted on the website in June as required

**12 Training:**

None

**13 Planning: Current Planning applications**

Details of all current applications had been circulated by Cllr Alan Askew.

**RESOLVED**

- I. **To receive the information.**
- II. **No objections re Application No: DM/24/00516/FPA**  
**Proposal: Side extension with 2no dormer windows**  
**Address: Grange Cottage Sunderland Road Hawthorn Seaham SR7 8RU**

**14 Events & Information**

**14.1 Spring Clean**

Cllr Carolyn Winter said the event had not been held due to the very windy conditions on the day.

The Clerk reported that she has asked DCC to pick up the equipment.

**15 Dates of the next meetings**

**RESOLVED**

**To approve: -**

**15.1 Annual Meeting of the Council /May Monthly Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

**15.2 June Monthly: 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**15.3 July Monthly: 15<sup>th</sup> July**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.