

**The December Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 9th
December 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 welcome 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

None

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Maxine Smith: Item 6.4 Play Area Improvements

4 Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve: -

I. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 11th November 2024

II. Minutes of the Special Meeting held 18th November 2024

5 Matters of Information

5.1 Hedge Play area at Western Park

Now with management committee

RESOLVED

To close

No progress on the other matters.

6 Reports

6.1 DCC

No report

6.2 Police

No report

6.3 Community Centre

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave the report including: -

- Craft Fair on 2nd December had been very successful
- A grant has been received from the Members' Fund – which will go towards the theatre event later in December
- The hall has been booked for the County / parish elections next May

In addition, Cllr Sheila Wilson thanks, the Parish Council for the donations as received at the Lights Switch on event.

RESOLVED

To receive the report

6.4 Play area improvements

The Clerk said she was delighted to be able to report that both grant applications - for £5,000 from the AAP and £20,000 from the Awards4All have been successful.

RESOLVED

To begin the work in the spring.

6.5 Any other reports

The Chair, Cllr Diane Hughes gave details of the new arrangements for the Area Networks which are replacing the existing AAPs.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7 Public Participation

The Chair invited comments from the members of the public.

These included: -

7.1 Bellway Development on land adjacent to Stockton Road.

Queries were raised about the recent consultation and subsequent special meeting regarding the above.

Concerns were made regarding the need for the County Councillors to be present when the Parish Council meet representatives from Bellway.

It was also pointed out that there is already a formal application from Bellway to develop another site adjacent to the Garden Village.

The Clerk said she had taken formal advice re planning applications on land which has not been designated for development in the Local Plan. This suggested that all development should be as identified in a Local Plan but would depend on the overall development allocation within the planning authority area and could be overruled if that allocation is not being met.

It was pointed out that this formal planning application from Bellway on the site adjacent to the Garden Village would / should count towards any additional housing in the village.

The Clerk also reported that she had asked DCC if they had been in pre-development discussions with Bellway re the Stockton Road site – but had been told DCC have been in discussions with Bellway regarding the garden Village site> The Clerk has gone back to DCC regarding the second Bellway site.

7.2 Precept Increase

The suggestion was made to the council that consultation on the precept / council tax should be undertaken with residents before the precept is agreed.

8 Correspondence / e mails

8.1 Garden Party

Information has been received from DCC inviting nominations for the Royal Garden Party.

RESOLVED

No action to be taken.

9 Financial:

9.1 RESOLVED

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

Direct	04/11/2024	Amazon	Toner re newsletter	£93.46
Direct	11/Nov	Amazon	Guillotine	£11.59
Direct	11/11/2024	SLCC	Membership	£165.00
Direct	30/11/2024	Unity Bank	Service Charge	£6.00
Direct	01/12/2024	Community Centre	Rent	£240.00
Direct	02/12/2024	Tesco	Switch on event	£78.69

HAWTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

Business	£8,154.80	
Current	£936.23	
Total	£9,091.03	£9,091.03
Less u/p to date		
Receipts To date	£14,950.24	
Payments to date	£4,220.12	
U/p		
Closing balances		£19,821.15
Business	£18,418.16	
Current	£1,402.99	
Total	£19,821.15	
Less u/p to date		£19,821.15

9.2 Emptying play area litter bins: SLA DCC

The Clerk reported that DCC have now e-mailed regarding the above asking the Clerk to get in touch with them to arrange an SLA

RESOLVED

The Clerk to contact DCC and organise.

10 Precept 2025 / 2026

The Clerk had circulated details of the estimates as agreed at the November meeting.

RESOLVED

To set the precept for 2025 / 2026 at £12,100 this represents a Band D Council Tax increasing from £51.16 to £51.98 – an increase of 1.56%

11 Training

None

12 Planning

12.1 Current Planning applications

Cllr. Alan Askew circulated details of the current planning applications.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

12.2 Bellway Development

Bellway had been invited to this meeting but were unable to attend.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had asked Bellway to suggest dates in January when their representatives would be able to attend a meeting with the parish council.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13 Events & Information

13.1 Update re the Calendar / Christmas Cards

Cllr. Carolyn Winter informed everyone that all the calendars and cards have now been sold. The invoices have yet to be received.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to pay the invoices when received.

13.2 Christmas Lights Switch On

All agreed that this had been very successful and enjoyed by all.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

14 Additional Information

The Chair Cllr. Diane confirmed that she will be moving away from Hawthorn although the date is not known. This could be before the elections in May, and she would not be standing as a Councillor.

The Clerk informed members that if and when any member resigns from the council then the clerk must inform DCC who declare a casual vacancy and issue the necessary forms etc. If 10 people then sign to say they want a by-election to be held – then this is triggered and nominations invited to stand for the parish council.

However, when this occurs within 6 months of an election – no election will be held, and the parish council can begin the cooption process.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

15 Date of the next meetings:: Monday 20th January 2025

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8 pm.