

The Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held following the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 14th April 2025 in the Community Centre.

MINUTES

Present

Cllr. Diane Hughes (Chair)

Cllr Sheila Irving (Vice – Chair)

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

Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public : 8

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

Cllr Maxine Smith

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Presentation from Solarig re Battery Storage

The Chair, Cllr Diane Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Harry Gillam and colleagues from Soilarig who proceeded to give a detailed presentation on their proposed Battery Energy Storage System BESS.

These systems store electrical energy in batteries, allowing it to be released later when needed. They are needed for integrating renewable energy sources like solar and wind, which are intermittent, and for stabilizing electricity grids. In particular BESS captures electricity during periods of high production (e.g., when the sun is shining) and stores it for later use.

They help balance supply and demand by releasing stored energy when needed, preventing overloads and under-supply and enable the efficient use of renewable energy sources by storing excess energy for later use when solar and wind power are not available.

It was pointed out that there has been some confusion with a separate application from Wendell which is within Hawthorn Parish.

Details of both projects were given including overall size, land, location etc.

It is expected a formal application will be made to DCC Planning within the next couple of months and a decision taken before the end of the year.

All questions were answered by Mr. Gillam and colleagues, who were thanked for attending by both members of the council and local residents.

5 Minutes

RESOLVED

- I. To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 17th March 2025
- II. To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 17th March 2025

6 Matters of Information

6.1 Footpath Diversion

DCC have now responded to the question regarding the proposed surface of the new footpath. 'The bridleway will be completed with a surface which will be compacted which can be easily cycled along and ridden along with a horse. In addition to this it is my understanding that the development will contain a number of shared user routes which will roughly follow the original line of the bridleway for those living within the estate. This route would not be a recognised public right of way hence the diversion of the existing bridleway.'

RESOLVED

To receive the information but clarify the end resulting footpath.

7 Reports

7.1 DCC

No report was given.

7.2 Police

No report was given.

7.3 Community Centre

Councillor Sheila Wilson gave the report.

The Easter coffee morning was held the previous Saturday morning, and the new chairs are expected later in the week.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.4 Spring Clean

Cllr. Carolyn Winter reported that the recent litter pick had been very well attended and thanked all who took part.

Cllr Winter was thanked for coordinating the event.

7.5 Any other reports

None

8 Public Participation

8.1 Replacement Bus shelter

Members were informed that DCC is looking to replace the brick bus shelter on Stockton Road with a new glass shelter.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9 Correspondence / e mails:

9.1 E mail re Area of green / verge

An e mail has been received from a local resident who is concerned about the grass verge in front of their house which is regularly churned up by tractors and large vehicles trying to pass each other on the road and seeking the parish council's support to carry out some minor works to a narrow strip between the road and verge.

RESOLVED

To respond that the grass verge is not owned by the parish council and whilst the parish council appreciate the problems, they are not able to give permission for any works. Members suggest that the resident contact the new ward County Councillors after the county elections in May and ask they move this forward with the county council.

10 Financial:**10.1 RESOLVED****To endorse the monies paid by the Clerk since the last meeting / Bank reconciliation.**

Direct	18/03/2025	Unity	Service Charge	£6.00
Direct	19/03/2025	Amazon	Printer toner	£66.85
Direct	28/03/2025	Mazars	Audit fee 2023/2024	£252.00
Direct	31/03/2025	Unity Bank	Service Charge	£6.00

Business	£8,154.80	
Current	£936.23	
Total	£9,091.03	£9,091.03
Receipts To date	£40,333.72	
Payments to date	£45,460.08	
Closing balances		£3,964.67
Business	£3,241.64	
Current	£723.03	
Total	£3,964.67	
Less u/p to date	£0.00	£3,964.67

Plus

CDALC: Subscription:	£105.26
ICO: Fees.	£52
Gordon Fletcher: Internal Audit	£100

10.2 Lloyds Bank

The Clerk informed members that she has received two texts from Lloyd's bank re unauthorized overdrafts.

It was pointed out that there had been no monies transferred to Lloyds due to the excessive time taken for them to open a n account for the council – and the parish council had instead opened an account with Unity Bank.

RESOLVED**To contact Lloyds with this information.****11 Annual Accounts / AGAR**

All accounts had been circulated to members.

The Clerk informed members that as the income / expenditure had exceeded £25,000 due to play area grants, the council would be subject to external audit.

The Clerk confirmed she had balanced off the accounts and these and the AGAR had now been internally audited by the Internal Auditor.

Once approved by the council the AGAR and associated information will be forwarded to Mazars.

RESOLVED**To approve: -****11.1 Balance Sheet / Statement / Bank reconciliation and associated accounts****11.2 Governance Statement****11.3 Accounting Statement****11.4 Internal Audit report**

In line with legislation, the Public Right to View notices will be posted on the website from June 2nd.

The Clerk said she would bring all the accounts etc to the June meeting – and would be made available from 6.30p.m.

12 Training

New Councillor / welcome training is being provided by the CTP both by Zoom and in person.

The Clerk will also provide Induction training for all members on Monday 19th May starting at 6.15p.m.

In addition, the CTP are providing specific training re: -

Register of Interests by Zoom: Wed 14th May

Code of Conduct by Zoom: Thurs 19th June

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13 Planning

13.1 Current Planning applications

Cllr Alan Askew had circulated the current planning applications.

There are no new significant applications.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13.2 Battery Storage Screening: Wendell

No additional information has been received.

13.3 Bellway Development – Update

No additional information has been received.

13.4 Morven Off-shore

Cllr Sheila Wilson informed members that Morven have booked the Community Centre for a consultation event on 26th June.

14 Events & Information

None

15 Date of the next meetings::

15.1 Annual Meeting of the Council: Monday 19th May 2025

15.2 Monthly Meeting: following the Annual Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.