

The Monthly Meeting of Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7p.m. on Monday 8th December 2025 in the Hawthorn Community Centre.

Minutes

Present

Cllr Sheila Irving (Chair)

Cllrs Alan Askew, Barry Curran, Robert Adcock- Forster, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public : 1

1 Notice of Meeting

The Chairman, Cllr Sheila Irving 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

Cllr. George Vest

3 Cooption of the new member of the Council

The Chair, Councillor Sheila, outlined the process leading to the co-option of a new parish councillor. Following the resignation of Councillor Maxine Smith, the vacancy was reported to DCC and formally declared. Statutory notices were displayed on parish noticeboards and published on the website. As no election request was received within the required period, the council proceeded under its Co-option Policy to seek nominations.

An application has been submitted by Mr. Robert Adcock-Forster.

RESOLVED

To coopt Mr. Robert Adcock-Forster.

Cllr Robert Adcock-Forster the signed his Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Parish Council.

4 Declarations of Interest

None

5 Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 17th November 2025

6 Matters of Information

6.1 Replacement Bus Shelter Stockton Road

It is understood that the replacement shelter will be installed next Spring.

6.2 Cllr Barry Curran said he has identified a number of issues:

I. Damaged salt container near the Staylton Arms

II. Cars parked on the footpaths at the junction onto West Lane

III. Cars parked along the road/ village green – and suggestions made to ask the Staylton Arms to ask their customers to use the car park

IV. Give-way signs need refreshing at same junction

The Clerk conformed these will be forwarded to the relevant bodies.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

7 Reports

7.1 DCC

No report.

7.2 Police

Information re the Pact meetings had been circulated.

Thursday 5th February 2026 - 1800 hrs. – 1900 hrs.

Thursday 14th May 2026 - 1800 hrs. -1900 hrs.

Thursday 6th August 2026 – 1800 hrs. – 1900 hrs.

Thursday 12th November 2026 – 1800 hrs. – 1900 hrs.

It was suggested to ask the PCSO if alternate PACT meetings can be held in Hawthorn.

7.3 Community Centre

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave the report.

The Centre activities are now at a close for 2025 – whilst the Christmas Lunch is 18th December at the Staylton Arms.

7.4 Smaller Council Committee

The Clerk had circulated the report.

7.5 Any other reports

Information re the recent power cuts and the electricity supply due to massive cabling problem were outlined.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8 Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. Sheila Irving welcomed comments from the public.

Comments were raised regarding: -

- Car park for customers of the Staplyton Arms
- The Civic Pride grant
- The Garden Village and future precept
- An error on the agenda

9 Correspondence / e mails

9.1 Request for road to be gritted from Western Park to Stockton Road

A request has been made for the above.

It was pointed out that road gritting is the responsibility of DCC.

RESOLVED

To forward the request to DCC.

9.2 Open Spaces Needs Assessment: DCC

Information has been received from DCC

RESOLVED

The Clerk to complete the survey

9.3 East Durham Trust Information

East Durham Trust have requested to come to a parish Council Meeting to give information etc on their work.

RESOLVED

To invite to the January meeting.

9.4 Local Networks

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

9.5 Speeding: West Lane

The suggestion of lowering the speed limit on West Lane has now been passed to Maxine Stubbs at Durham Police.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

10 Financial:

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

The Clerk reported there have been no payments over the past month.

10.2 Calendar 2026

Cllr Carolyn Winter reported on the 2026 calendar.

10.3 Estimates 2026 / 2027

The Clerk had circulated the most recent information from DCC and in particular the withdrawal of the LCTS grant. The Clerk explained this will not have an effect as such at Hawthorn – but the additional housing at the Graden Village is substantially raising the tax base.

11 To agree the precept for 2026 / 2027

RESOLVED

To set a precept of £16,030. This will result in a Council Tax of £51.98 which is a zero increase in the Council Tax Band D.

12 Training:

Information on the current training events had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13 Planning

13.1 Current Planning applications

Cllr Alan Askew had circulated the applications.

There are no new substantial applications.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

13.2 Update on solar applications.

The comprehensive report on the recent meeting of the East Durham Action Group had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

14 Christmas Lights Event: Report

The Chairman gave the report

Whilst the attendance had not been as high as in previous years – nevertheless everyone appeared to have enjoyed it.

The Chairman expressed some concerns about the actual Christmas Tree – sourcing and size.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

To consider alternatives i.e. an imitation tree – although storage would be an issue or planting a real tree on the village green.

15 Community Recognition Award

The information / application forms have been publicized and available from the website and the Round Up. Cllr Carolyn Winter suggested also having some hard copy forms in the Community Centre.

This was agreed.

16 Date of the next meeting: Monday 19th January 2026

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.