

The Monthly Meeting of Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 6.15p.m. on Monday June 16th 2025 in the Community Centre.

Minutes

Present

Cllr Sheila Irving (Chair)

Cllr. George Vest (Vice-Chair)

Cllrs. Alan Askew, Barry Curran, Maxine Smith, Sheila Wilson

Members of the Public : 5

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

Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Presentation by Morven Offshore re Wind farm

The Chairman, Cllrs Sheila Irving welcomed representatives from Morven Offshore who proceeded to give a presentation and answered all questions.

A copy of their presentation will be e mailed to the Parish Clerk, and they will return with a progress report in September.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

5 Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve: -

5.1 Annual Meeting of the Council held Monday May 19th, 2025

5.2 May Monthly Meeting held following the Annual Meeting

6 Matters of Information

No new information

7 Reports

7.1 DCC

Concerns were raised over the 2 new DCC Councillors who have been invited to the meeting but had not come along.

7.2 Police

No information / report has been received.

7.3 Community Centre

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave the report which included: -

Regular weekly activities are continuing

The next major event will be linked to Macmillan fundraising

Saturday 20th September is the next large event.

7.4 Report on meeting with Solarig

A brief report on the meeting with Solarig had been circulated as below.

Present

Cllrs. Sheila Irving (Chair), Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter, Alan Askew, Barry Curran, Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk), Harry Gilham, Taylor Spencer, Andrew Dowell, Peter Collins (Solarig)

Background

Solarig had requested a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of establishing a Community Benefit Fund if and when their planning application is successful.

Main points

- a) The Community Benefit Fund is estimated at £12,500 / year – which would be divided between Hawthorn, Murton and South Hetton PCs.
- b) This would result in £2,500 / year (proportionate to Hawthorn PC), for HPC over the lifetime of the scheme – approx. 40 years
- c) The amounts will be index linked
- d) This funding replaces the S106 monies usually agreed with housing developers
- e) There would be no stipulation on how each PC spends / allocates the monies within their own parishes.
- f) If this goes ahead individual contracts with each parish would be drawn up.
- g) The funding is not depending on planning regulations etc.
- h) The planning application from Solarig is expected to be submitted in the next few weeks
- i) Solarig were made aware of the other similar applications.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.5 Report on meeting at South Hetton PC re BESS

The Chairman, Cllr. Sheila Irving reported on discussions at their recent meeting. This included: -

- a) Sixty people had been present.
- b) Re-iterating concerns about fire safety
- c) The date for submitting planning comments has been extended to 2nd July for all
- d) The template for objections has been circulated and will be included in the July Round up.

The Chair reminded the meeting that Hawthorn PC will be discussing the application at their July meeting on 21st, and DCC have agreed to accept comments immediately afterwards.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.6 Information re Hazel Solar

Leaflets have been circulated to residents. Their consultation event is June 24th at Seaton Holme. The plans appear to include 3 possible sites covering 2 parish councils.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

To report back on the consultation to the July meeting.

7.7 Play area report from DCC

This had been circulated.

Low risk items had been identified.

However, the photos from DCC do not appear to include the new equipment raising concerns that the report does not reflect the current situation / condition of the equipment.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

To clarify with DCC

7.8 Any other reports

None

8 Public Participation

None

9 Correspondence / e mails

9.1 West Lane: Traffic issues

An email has been received from a local resident expressing concerns about traffic issues, particularly on West Lane.

This had been circulated and is included in the July Round Up. (Name and address withheld).

RESOLVED

To invite the person to meet with the Parish Council to discuss areas of concern.

10 Financial:

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

RESOLVED

To approve: Extension Lead / New projector screen - £68.57

11 Training

All training information has been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

12 Planning

12.1 Current Planning applications

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

There is a rumor of a third BESS, site screening application in South Hetton

RESOLVED

The Clerk to ask DCC for confirmation

12.2 Additional Update on Bellway/3 Bess applications as received

Discussed earlier in the meeting

13 Events & Information

It was pointed out that the July Roundup will be circulated later in the week as it is advertising the Open meeting re the Hazel Solar farm on June 24th.

14 Date of the next meetings::

Monthly Meeting: Monday 21st July 2025

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.