

The Monthly Meeting of the Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7pm on Monday 20th January 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 2

1 Notice of Meeting

The Chairman - 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

Cllr Maxine Smith

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve the: -

I. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 9th December 2024

II. Minutes of the Special Meeting with Belway / Lichfields: Thursday 9th January 2025

5 Matters of Information

The Clerk reported that there has been no new information.

6 Reports

6.1 DCC

No report

6.2 Police

No report

6.3 Community Centre

Cllr. Sheila Wilson gave the report.

The Christmas production had taken place in the Centre after Christmas and was enjoyed by all. The first coffee morning of 2025 takes place on Saturday.

6.4 Play area improvements: Site meeting Matthew Day Streetscape

The Clerk reported on the meeting the previous Thursday to discuss the work and new equipment for the play area now that the grants have awarded.

RESOLVED

To approve the following quote from Streetscape

SSQ15627 – Toddler items into area near cradle swing - £4995 +VAT

SSQ15628 – Repairs, replacement climbing board, new swing seats - £2625 +VAT

SSQ15629 – New play equipment following awards for all bid - £21250 +VAT

In addition the play area to be closed whilst the work takes place.

6.5 Current Government Consultations

The Clerk had circulated three current consultations and invited members to respond: -

Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England

Local audit reform: a strategy for overhauling the local audit system in England

White Paper: English Devolution

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.6 Any other reports

None

7 Public Participation

The Chair invited comments from members of the public.

These included: -

7.1 Police attending coffee mornings

It was reported that 2 members of the police had attended recent coffee mornings.

7.2 Planning application by Bellway

Comments were made on the above which is to be discussed later in the meeting. In

addition, Cllr Sheila Irving was thanked for taking the minutes at the two special meetings about the application.

7.3 Play Area

The Council was congratulated on being successful with their grant applications totaling £25,000 however criticism was made of the standard of workmanship on the solar powered noticeboards which were provided via another grant application.

8 Correspondence / e mails

8.1 County Archivist: Storing Minutes

Information has been received regarding the above. This is done by lodging them with the Durham Records Office (The Story).

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

9 Financial:

9.1 RESOLVED

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

Direct	31/12/2025	Unity	Service charge	£6.00
Direct	31/12/2025	Horns	Christmas Tree	£180.00
Direct	31/12/2025	David Dixon	Calendars	£300.00
Direct	31/12/2025	Alan Askew	Poppy Wreath	£25.00
Direct	31/12/2025	Rebecca Smith	Entertainment Christmas	£40.00

Income

01/01/2025	Unity	Interest	£123.65
31/12/2025	Awards4All	Grant	£19,760.00

Business	£8,154.80	
Current	£936.23	
Total	£9,091.03	£9,091.03
Less u/p to date		
Receipts To date	£34,833.89	
Payments to date	£4,771.12	
U/p		
Closing balances		£39,153.80
Business	£36,541.81	
Current	£2,611.99	
Total	£39,153.80	
Less u/p to date		£39,153.80

9.2 ¾ year end estimates

The ¾ year estimates had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To approve

9.3 Emptying play area litter bins: SLA DCC

The Clerk informed members that she is awaiting a price for emptying the bin and will report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.4 Donation request WAG

RESOLVED

Not to give a donation at this time

9.5 Election costs

DCC's Electoral Services have provided an average cost estimates for potential recharges for the 2025 local elections. This is approx. £2,800 for Hawthorn.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

9.6 Tree week grant

RESOLVED

To make an application to provide a couple of forsythia hedging plants in the hedge to the east of the village green.

10 Training:

The Clerk informed members of Election training for Cllrs and Clerks on Tues 18th Feb at County Hall, Durham.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

11 Planning

11.1 Current Planning applications

RESOLVED

To receive the information on the current applications as circulated by Cllr Alan Askew.

11.2 Bellway Development – Response to DCC

Application Number: DM/24/03281/FPA

Address: Land To the West of St Michaels Rise Hawthorn SR7 8BY

Erection of 81 no. homes, a convenience store (use class E) and associated infrastructure & landscaping

The Chair, Cllr. Diane Hughes gave details of the application and reminded members that the minutes of the two special meetings had been circulated and approved.

Members discussed the application in detail.

RESOLVED

To object to the application on the following grounds: -

The application is not in accordance with either the NPPF or the Durham Local Plan and will exacerbate existing flooding and highway problems.

Moreover, the loss of this important area of open countryside and the harm it will cause to the setting of the village and the Conservation Area is so detrimental to the area that should the availability of adequate housing land be an issue it would be premature to consider this site outside a full review of housing land availability within the County.

Indeed, the Parish would further argue that in such a review site which are less sensitive and would cause lesser harm in terms of landscape and impact on heritage assets ought to be considered first.

The vote objecting to the application was unanimous.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to forward the council's objections to DCC the following day and to also prepare a press release.

The Chair Cllr Diane Hughes said she wished to thank DCC Cllr Robert Adcock and also Mr. Mick Devine and Ian Forster who had shown their interest and given advise in regard of the application but expressed her and residents' disappointment that the two DCC Ward Members had not been present at the special meeting or shown interest in the application process.

12 Events & Information

RESOLVED

To discuss possible 80th Anniversary VE day Celebrations at the next meeting.

13 Date of the next meetings:: Monday 17th February 2025

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10p.m.