

The Monthly Meeting of Hawthorn Parish Council was held at 7p.m. on Monday October 20th, 2025, in the Community Centre.

Minutes

Present

Cllr Sheila Irving (Chair)
Cllrs Alan Askew, Sheila Wilson, Carolyn Winter

Lesley Swinbank (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public : 3

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 were approved from: -

Cllrs George Vest, Barry Curran

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held 18th September 2025

5 Matters of Information

No additional Matters of Information.

Cllr Alan Askew raised an issue re the state of a footpath. This information to be forwarded to the Parish Clerk.

6 Reports

6.1 Council Vacancy: Verbal report

The Clerk reported that following the September meeting, Cllr Maxine Smith had resigned as a Cllr. DCC had then been informed and a vacancy declared. Following the requisite time, no election had been requested, and the Parish Council can now coopt a new member onto the Parish Council.

The Council have a cooption policy which the Clerk is now following. Notices have been prepared and will be placed on the noticeboards, in the next Round Up and on the website.

People are invited to apply using the official form and it is suggested that all applying be invited to a special meeting to be held immediately before the December Monthly Meeting.

RESOLVED

To affirm the above.

6.2 DCC

No report.

Cllr. Sheila Wilson reported that DCC Cllr Mark Rowney had held a surgery the previous week in the Community Centre, and which had been quite well attended.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.3 Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jane Bradley-Harding to the meeting.

Ms. Bradley-Harding said she was delighted to be back in Hawthorn – having previously lived in the village for some time, and she then proceeded to give a report on recent issues, although she pointed out that there are very few crimes in Hawthorn itself.

Ms. Bradley-Harding was thanked for attending by the Chairman and left the meeting.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.4 Community Centre

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave the report.

Since the last meeting the Macmillan fund raising event had raised £400. The next event is November 8th which is the autumn craft fair.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.5 East Durham Action Gp

A comprehensive report from the Chair, Cllr Sheila Irving, on the meeting had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the report and add the report to the website and signpost it in the November Round Up

6.6 Meeting with Police and Highways re West Lane / Junction to Stockton Road

The meeting with Maxine Stubbs (Durham Police) and Deborah Arnold and Colleague from DCC Highways had been held on site at the junction of West Lane and Stockton Road.

A comprehensive report on the meeting – written by the Chairman, had been circulated.

This included issues around parking along West Lane and problems exiting West Lane onto Stockton Road.

As a result, DCC have forwarded proposals for parking restrictions around the junction which would help all drivers visibility when leaving the village.

RESOLVED

I. To receive and approve the proposals

II. The full report to be added to the website and signposted from the Round Up

6.7 EGL Community Fund Webinar

Cllr Sheila Wilson gave a report on the above which she had recently attended.

This included details of their proposals and the associated community fund – with grants up to £20,000, Details awaited.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.8 Any other reports

None

7 Public Participation

The Chairman invited comments from the public.

These included: -

a) West Lane Issues

The report on the site meeting re West Lane and request to add the report to the noticeboards

b) East Durham Group

The cost of the leaflets being produced by the group was commented on. It was pointed out that the cost of the centre hall hire for the meeting of the group was paid by the Parish Council.

c) North End Traffic Lights

It was reported that there have been some repairs by Northumbria water to drainage problems in this area.

8 Correspondence / e mails

8.1 CDALC AGM

The Clerk had circulated details of the forthcoming AGM on Sat 25th October 2025 10am at Shildon Civic Hall.

In addition, the next Forum meetings will be on Thurs 20th Nov 2025.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8.2 Morven Offshore – details of public consultation

This is Monday 3 November, 14:00 – 15:00,

Glebe Centre, Durham Place, Murton. In addition it was preported that a further consultation is Tuesday 4th November in the Community Centre.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8.3 East Durham Committee

The Clerk informed members that a new meeting date has been set for Monday 24th November 2025 at 1.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

Members also discussed the questions which have been asked of the constituent councils and confirmed that the council wish to continue to be part of the group and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council will continue to be the Council's representatives on the east Durham Committee.

RESOLVED

To confirm the above.

9 Financial:

9.1 RESOLVED

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

Direct	17/09/2025	Community Centre	Hire for BESS meeting	£20.00		
Direct	17/09/2025	Parkers	Snowdrops	£101.00		£16.83
Direct	18/09/2025	Amazon	Paper	£43.12		£7.19
Direct	30/09/2025	Unity	Service Charge	£6.00		
Direct	30/09/2025	Eectrician	Pat test	£20.00	£20.00	

Business	£3,241.64	
Current	£723.03	
Total	£3,964.67	
Receipts To date	£18,272.90	
Payments to date	£4,306.36	
Unpresented	£20.00	
Closing balances		£17,951.21
Business	£16,556.54	
Current	£1,394.67	
Total	£17,951.21	
Less u/p to date		£17,951.21

9.2 ½ year accounts

The ½ year estimates had been circulated and were discussed.

RESOLVED

To approve the estimates

10 Training

Information on various training courses had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

11 Norman Hughes Award : Recommendations

The Clerk had prepared and circulated draft recommendations – including changing the name to the Hawthorn Parish Community Recognition Award.

RESOLVED

To implement the recommendations.

12 Litter: Permanent signage for entrance to the Dene

Cllr. Carolyn Winter commented on the increasing number of plastic bottles and overall litter particularly near the entrance to the Dene and suggested permanent signage – ‘Take your Litter Home’.

RESOLVED

- a) **The clerk to look int costs etc**
- b) **To contact Durham Wildlife who manage the Dene – for their thoughts.**

13 Open Spaces / Play area Report

The recent report on the play area had been circulated. In addition, the Clerk had drawn up and circulated a work schedule re the open spaces work.

RESOLVED

To discuss and confirm the work schedule at the next meeting.

14 Planning

14.1 Current Planning applications

Details had been circulated by Cllr. Alan Askew. There are no new applications.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

14.2 Update on Bellway Appln

The Chairman, Cllr Sheila Irving said she was delighted to announce that DCC have turned down the application from Bellway for the 81 houses.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

14.3 Update on BESS Applications

The Chairman, Cllr Sheila Irving, reported on recent meetings of the East Durham Action Group.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

15 Christmas Lights Event: Action Plan / Presents for Children

The action plan had been circulated.

Members were informed that Robert Adcock-Foster is Santa again, but Rebecca Smith is now unable to lead the singing in the Centre.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

The Clerk to order tambourines for Santa’s gifts.

16 Date of the next meeting: Monday 17th November 2025

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.