



Hawthorn Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lesley Wilkinson BA(Hons)

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The Monthly Meeting of **HAWTHORN PARISH COUNCIL** was held on
MONDAY 20th July 2026 at 7.30pm in the
HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Sheila Irving – Chair

Cllr George Vest – Vice Chair

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

Parish Clerk – Lesley Wilkinson

Members of the Public - 2

1. Notice of Meeting

Cllr Sheila Irving gave Public Notice of the Meeting in accordance with Sch 12 paragraph (10)2 of the Local Government Act 1972

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wilson declared an interest in the Grant Application received from Hawthorn Community Centre as she is on this committee.

3. Presentation on behalf of East Durham Action Group

Jason Ramshaw from Easington Parish Council and Gordon Towers both members of the East Durham Action Group gave an informative presentation on BESS (battery energy storage systems), and solar farms. They are looking for parishes and communities affected to get involved in the group. They suggested the parish draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, which forms a further barrier to companies wishing to set up future BESS installations. Carr's Farm BESS application was halted at the Planning Meeting on 8th July at DCC with presentations being made by a number of interested parties including Cllr Irving. EDAG are in no doubt that the BESS applicants will appeal.

4. Apologies for Absence

None

5. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026

Agreed

Proposed by Cllr Vest and seconded by Cllr Winter

6. Matters of Information

Playpark Inspection – email received from Ian Smith indicating he can make some of the recommended repairs.

Clerk to email Ian to suggest he goes ahead with these.

Other matters of information will be circulated further at the September monthly meeting.

7. Reports

Durham County Council

No report to this meeting received from Cllr Griffiths although she had met with a member of the public (in attendance at this meeting) to discuss the issues surrounding speeding traffic on West Lane and High West Lane and both had visited the road to take a look.

No correspondence received or reply to email sent on 17 June from Cllr Rowney. Cllrs were disappointed and asked that this be brought up via the complaints procedure with DCC. Clerk to complete that form on the DCC website on behalf of the parish.

Police

No Police report.

No response from PCSO Bradley Ford to emails re meetings and issue re speeding in Hawthorn on 18 and 19 June.

Clerk to email Cllr Griffiths who it is believed has further contact information for the Police to ascertain whether a PACT meeting can be arranged

Community Centre

Cllr Wilson updated the meeting detailing summer events the community centre had planned and the proposed Macmillan Coffee morning scheduled for September 2026.

Cllr Wilson mentioned that Morven had hired the community centre on 16 October 2026 to hold a village consultation event.

She mentioned the Grant Application that the community centre had submitted to the Parish Council for the sum of £100 for prizes for a proposed Scarecrow Competition encouraging entries from both adults and children (running for 2 weeks at the end of August/beginning of September). She asked that Cllr Irving be on the judging panel.

Grant of £100 agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Vest and seconded by Cllr Adcock-Forster

Other reports

None

8. Review of Protocol between Councillors and Council Staff

Document had previously been circulated - No changes.

New review date confirmed as July 2029.

9. Public Participation

Speeding Traffic – West Lane/High West Lane. Member of the public spoke about representations he had made re B1432 Stockton Road – to Highways Agency/DCC with no further outcomes. He had asked DCC for a Freedom of Information request re traffic speeds, but the data given had been averages and as such with speed limits.

Another member of the public reported her meeting with DCC Cllr Griffiths to discuss this issue (see item 7)

PACT meetings for Hawthorn were also discussed, and the meeting were informed this is a PACT meeting at Dalton le Dale on 6th Aug at 6pm at which Cllr Irving and Curran agreed to attend. Clerk to email Cllr Griffiths to try and get some information as to how a PACT meeting can be organised at Hawthorn.

10. Correspondence

- Email from Northumbrian Water re Hawthorn sewage works.
- Email to Cllr Irving from EDG1 re piling works – due to be completed by mid August.
- Email from Stapylton Arms re use of village green on August Bank Holiday Monday for a family day involving families, adults and children
Agreed
Proposed by Cllr Vest and seconded by Cllr Adcock-Forster
- Email from CDALC detailing information re drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan – circulated to all Cllrs

11. Planning

- Cllr Wilson reported that there are no outcomes re Bellway Appeal after having looked at the Planning Inspectorate website
- Westfields Bungalow – tree removal has been taking place and although agreed it should have been delayed until after nesting season. Cllr Wilson had spoken to DCC Planning who will halt works until agreed timescales

12. Finance

• Current Account

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
03/07/2026	Parish Clerk	Reimbursement for A4 paper	-£11.99	£259.90
08/07/2026	Hugo Fox Website provider	Email addresses x 10	-£20.99	£238.91
14/07/2026	Hugo Fox Website provider	Monthly subscription	-£11.99	£226.92

Instant Access Account

DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
30/06/2026		INTEREST	£115.09	£24,845.49

Agreed

• Changes to mileage rates payable

Agreed to change rate to 55p per mile backdated to 6 April 2026.

13. Village Matters

• Public Rights of Way

Meeting agreed the Parish Council are not responsible for their upkeep at Stoney Cut/Watery Lane, but overgrown bushes had been cut back recently by Ian Smith

- **Hawthorn Round-Up Newsletter**

Cllr Curran proposed a printed version of the round-up for older residents even if this was just once a year. Cllr Vest to get in touch with Easington Parish Council to discuss how they manage their newsletter and further information to be brought to the September monthly meeting

Hawthornparishcouncil.gov.uk website is up and running but Cllrs had been having difficulty transitioning to the new gov.uk email provider

14. Any Other Business

None

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21st September 2026 at 7pm in Hawthorn Community Centre