

DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 18th June 2025
at Horsehay Village Hall at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr. B Wennington (Chair)
Cllrs. K Barnes (arrived 7.03pm), S Heighway, L Parker (arrived 7.23pm),
M Rogers and S Wennington

Also Present: A Porteous and P Davies – Friends of Horsehay Pool & Environs
Three members of the public
K Ewence (Clerk)

25/23 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

25/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Z Hannington, R Mehta & I Preece

25/25 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

Chair – Friends of DHLNR

Cllr. Heighway – GDTC, Madeley Town Council

25/26 Public Session

One member of the public suggested we invite the local policing team to a meeting.
The Chair asked the Clerk to arrange this.

25/27 Minutes of the Previous Council Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May 2025 as a true record.

25/28 Councillors Reports

Cllr. Barnes: Reported that the abandoned shopping trolley has now been removed. However, concerns remain regarding ongoing incidents of fly-tipping on the Phoenix Fields. The Clerk will confirm whether the latest reported fly-tip has been cleared. Cllr. Barnes also requested the installation of a goal post on the Phoenix Triple Fields. The Clerk will liaise with Telford & Wrekin Council to explore feasibility and obtain cost estimates.

Cllr. S Wennington: Reported attendance at the Senior Residents' Summer Party held on 6th June at Horsehay Village Hall. The event was well received by attendees, with positive feedback highlighting the quality of the food and entertainment provided.

Cllr. Rogers: Enquired about actions taken by T&WC concerning the large trees at Ken Jones Close, Lightmoor. The Clerk reported that the Tree Officer has visited the site and spoken directly with the homeowner.

Chair: The Chair reported attendance at the Senior Residents' Summer Party held on 6th June at Horsehay Village Hall, where significant concern was raised by residents regarding the potential abolition of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council.

He has been actively engaging residents on the Community Governance Review, with efforts including the distribution of 2,500 newsletters across the Parish, two resident engagement sessions held on 2nd June at Horsehay Village Hall and Aqueduct

Primary School, coverage in two local press articles, and a radio interview with Shropshire Radio aired on 9th June. A number of resident responses to the review have been collected and will be formally submitted to the Telford & Wrekin Council Reviews Team at Darby House.

The Chair also attended an online Community Action Team maintenance meeting on 10th June with Aaron England of T&WC. It was noted that the newly appointed Public Realm Operative, Bill Stewart, is settling in well and made a brief visit to the Senior Residents' Summer Party to meet the Chair, Cllr. S Wennington and the Clerk.

25/29 Community Action Team (CAT)

The updated action plan for May 2025 and the newly issued plan for June 2025 were circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The contents were noted. It was further reported that, in response to seasonal concerns, a late afternoon/early evening patrol has been added to target off-road bike activity on Phoenix Fields and the Lightmoor Road mound during the warm weather.

25/30 Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) in the Parish

a) Update from the Friends of Dawley Hamlets Local Nature Reserve

Cllr. Barnes reported that an Action Day has been scheduled for work on the Manor Mound. The Chair advised that a fallen tree has caused damage to a bridge at Dawley Pools, and Telford & Wrekin Council is currently addressing the issue.

b) Funding Request for Gateway to the Pool Project

Angela Porteous, Secretary of the Friends of Horsehay Pool & Environs (FoHP&E), provided an update on the group's latest project: the creation of a formal gateway to Horsehay Pool. Partial funding for the project has been secured through a Veolia grant and the Pride Fund, the Pride Fund has been match-funded by the Parish Council.

However, a funding shortfall remains. It was **RESOLVED** that this shortfall will be met from the Parish Council's Horsehay Pool and Simpson's Pool LNR Reserve Fund. Ms. Porteous will provide a financial breakdown and confirmation of the shortfall to the Chair for approval, after which the payment will be processed.

To avoid delays with future payments, it was also **RESOLVED** that all future requests for expenditure from this reserve fund are to be submitted to the Chair for approval prior to payment.

25/31 Cllrs. Heighway and Parker and one member of the public left the meeting at 7.24pm.

T&WC Community Governance Review 2025 Proposal to Abolish Dawley Hamlets Parish Council – Resident Feedback and Council Response

The Chair provided a summary of resident feedback regarding Telford & Wrekin Council's proposal to abolish Dawley Hamlets Parish Council which was collected during distribution of 2,500 newsletters regarding the review across the Parish, two resident engagement sessions held on 2nd June at Horsehay Village Hall and Aqueduct Primary School and from attendees at the Senior Residents' Summer Party which was held on 6th June.

The vast majority of those spoken to expressed strong opposition, citing concerns over the potential loss of local identity and representation, as well as the risk of a significant precept increase—particularly affecting residents in the Aqueduct and Little Dawley wards.

Following a detailed discussion, it was concluded that the proposal did not reflect the

views of residents, would not serve their best interests, and that Dawley Hamlets Parish Council remains fit for purpose.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair will prepare a formal response to this stage of the Community Governance Review, to be shared with all councillors prior to submission to the Review Committee.

It was further **RESOLVED** to produce and distribute a final newsletter via Parish meeting points and local retail outlets to continue to raise public awareness of the ongoing review.

Cllrs. Heighway and Parker re-joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

25/32 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

- a) **Castlefields Way, Aqueduct, SID Speed Data:** The Clerk reported that Phil Lorenz had advised Highways were experiencing difficulties converting the SID data from the Castlefields Way SID into a user-friendly format. As a result, the information was not available in time for the meeting.
- a) **Relocation or Addition of SID:** A discussion took place regarding the potential relocation of the Castlefields Way SID. Consideration was also given to the possibility of borrowing or purchasing a second device to enhance speed monitoring coverage within the parish.

It was **RESOLVED** to invite a representative from Telford & Wrekin Council Highways to attend the next Parish Council meeting to further discuss matters relating to SID data, potential relocation, and the acquisition of additional devices.

The Clerk also reminded councillors that an on-site meeting regarding road safety on the Castlefields Way roundabout, Aqueduct, has been arranged at **2:45pm on Tuesday, 8th July**.

25/33 Great Dawley Breakfast Club – Annual Contribution

Councillors considered the continued financial support for the Great Dawley Breakfast Club, which provides free school holiday breakfasts to children including those residing within Dawley Hamlets Parish. The discussion took into account data provided by the Great Dawley Town Council Clerk regarding attendance figures and the residency of participants.

It was **RESOLVED** to maintain the Parish Council's annual contribution to the scheme, approving a sum of £1,500 for the period June 2025 – May 2026.

Cllrs. Heighway and Parker abstained from voting.

25/34 Horsehay Scarecrow Festival – Sponsorship Request

Representatives from the Friends of Horsehay Pool & Environs (FoHP&E), A Porteous and P Davies, were in attendance at the meeting and requested Parish Council sponsorship for this year's Horsehay Scarecrow Festival.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would provide a contribution of £100 to support the event.

The two representatives of the FoHP&E group left the meeting at 8.16pm.

25/35 Planning

- a) **The meeting considered the following applications:**

Application or enforcement number	Appeal number	Site Address	Description of proposal	▲ Date consultation received	▲ Reply by date
TWC/2025/0382	N/A	Former Phoenix School, Manor Road, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire	Erection of 140no. dwellings and 72no. bed retirement living complex and associated allotments, public open space, play area facilities, access and landscaping works	04/06/2025	25/06/2025
TWC/2025/0365	N/A	37 Bridgnorth Road, Aqueduct, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 1BZ	Erection of a single storey rear extension and single storey side extension including partial garage conversion into habitable space	23/05/2025	14/06/2025

b) The following permission was noted:

Full Granted:

Application number	TWC/2025/0322
Site address	5 Stainburn Road, Lawley Village, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2FS
Description of proposal	Replacement of 9no. timber windows and 3no. timber doors with UpVC

25/36 Finance & Administration:

a) Budget Monitoring Report & Bank Reconciliation Statement

The Parish Council was asked to consider the latest budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation statement which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

RESOLVED – to approve the budget monitoring report and bank reconciliation statement.

b) List of Payments Presented for Approval:

The Council was asked to consider the following online payments, which were presented for approval prior to the meeting.

Payee/Reason	Payt Method	Date	Net	VAT	Total
Staff Costs	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	1,438.56	0.00	1,438.56
HMRC Tax & NI	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	331.87	0.00	331.87
SCC Pension Fund	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	493.50	0.00	493.50
Staff Costs - Travelling Expenses	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	185.90	5.38	191.28
Reimbursement - stamps, printing, party refreshments	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	469.89	47.02	516.91
SKE Direct - Councillors id badges	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	34.98	7.00	41.98
SSE - Christmas tree electricity Dec 24/Jan 25	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	163.73	8.19	171.92
MW Medics Ltd - party first cover	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	60.00	12.00	72.00
Grant Awarding - Telford Steam Railway	Bank Transfer	17 June 2025	300.00	0.00	300.00
			3,478.43	79.59	3,558.02

RESOLVED - to approve these payments.

c) Internal Audit Services For 2025/26

The Clerk reported that an expression of interest had been received from the current internal auditor, SDH Accounting, to undertake the Parish Council's internal audit for 2025/26 at the same fee as 2024/25.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint SDH Accounting as the Parish Council's internal auditor for the 2025/26 financial year.

25/37 Correspondence:

The Clerk reported having received two public enquiries regarding allotments.

25/38 Items for the next agenda

Horsehay Horticultural Society show sponsorship

Invite T&WC Highways to attend

Invite the community policing team to the September meeting

Councillors were asked to submit any additional items to the Clerk ahead of the agenda deadline.

25/39 Date of the next meeting – 16th July 2025 at 7pm at Aqueduct Primary School

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman