

## **Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2015 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell**

### **Present.**

Councillor Mr A. Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors D. Liversidge, C.Kell, B.Kell, N Mills J Hall, C Chiverton, F.Long  
R Todd, E Huntington, P.Brookes County Councillors  
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) Oliver Sherratt Head of Direct Services, James Simmons Warden, David Martin, 2 members of the public

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Police, Michael Cornforth warden

### **3. Code of Conduct.**

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

### **4. Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

### **5. Police Briefing**

The Police gave apologies and advised that no briefing was available due to time restrictions.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the information be noted.

### **6. Flytipping Problem and Warden Update**

Oliver Sherratt gave an overview of the ongoing actions being undertaken by the County Council and partners to combat flytipping in the area as there has been a significant increase in the past year. He advised that the County were focussing on improving intelligence, education, access to waste sites and surveillance leading to prosecutions. Mr Sherratt that they intended to increase the use of mobile cameras to catch culprits in the act and prosecute, he advised that camera cost £1600 and they were hoping that Parish Councils and other partners would support the purchase of these to help fight crime. A video was shown which highlighted some of the footage used to capture and successfully prosecute the culprits; this will be used as a campaign to highlight and warn people to dispose of their rubbish responsibly. James gave an update on the action taken in the village over the past months. Appendix A

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the information be noted and that the Council will discuss the purchase of a camera at a future meeting.

## **7. Public Participation**

There were no items raised by the public.

## **8. Clerks report / correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the following actions had been completed since the previous meeting:

- That all items were duly reported to the relevant departments
- Further funding applications are now being drafted for the financing of the £80,000 playground project. Cllr Todd has confirmed that there was a donation of £6776 to the scheme from this year's budget from him and Cllr Huntington he has pledged £5000 for 2015/2016.
- Received a conditional grant offer of £9599 from the Big Lottery fund towards the outdoor gym equipment at Hessewelle Crescent Haswell £500 was also received from Cllr Brookes and is ringfenced for this project once the papers are signed it is hoped that confirmation will be received and the project will move ahead.

### **Correspondence**

- Letter from Grahame Morris MP regarding the withdrawal of school transport, he has written to DCC and received a response which outlines the County Council policy of no free transport for the village.
- Letter of thanks has been received from Mr & Mrs French on behalf of their parents for the Christmas hamper they were overwhelmed by the kindness particularly that of Cllrs Liversidge.
- Letter from DCC regarding Open Spaces Needs assessment and the land the Parish owns.
- DCLG are proposing to change the law with regard to the information that small Parishes need to publish the Transparency Code for Local Councils will come in force in April 2015 and will have an impact on the Clerks workload.
- New quality scheme has been launched there are now three awards which Councils can apply for depending on the amount of work the Council can commit to.
- The state of the path along Salters Lane was raised, the Clerk informed the meeting that Paul would be willing to resurface the path if the County Council supplied the roll plaining.
- A letter was received from CDALC requesting nominations for the Royal garden party on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, names will be pulled from a hat at the next CALC meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the information be duly noted.
- (ii) That Cllr Todd will investigate the resurfacing of the path at Salters lane.
- (iii) That the Chair and Vice be nominated for the Royal garden party.

## **9. Finance**

The monthly accounts were also circulated for Members to consider. Following the release of the Governments final financial settlement figure a further letter will be received from Durham County Council showing the full and final effects of (LCTS).

The official precept request form has changed. Revised payment mechanisms introduced as a result of LCTS changes now mean the net budget figure will be paid in two ways:

- Localising of Council Tax Support Grant payment from DCC and
- Precept request (which will be net of the LCTSS payment)

Both the grant and precept payments will be paid simultaneously into the bank account. There is an estimated shortfall in the Council's budget of £1062.25 due to the reduction in grant the Parish will receive from the County Council. The Clerk circulated to Members the new estimated costs needed to carry out all of the Council's functions as agreed in the November's meeting before setting the Precept for 2015/2016. Appendix B

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That Members accepted and approved the Monthly accounts
- (ii) That the Council approve the precept and the request be sent to the County Council

## **10. Planning**

Mr David Martin attended the meeting to discuss proposals to regenerate the village by building approximately 100 houses on land owned by Mr Cairns which is at the back of Kestral Way and revitalising the George and Front Street areas of the village which is currently blighted. The scheme will also include other land owners regenerating vacant land and a new retail outlet. Discussions took place regarding the merits of the scheme. The Council felt that the development of the village was a positive move and something which they would support as it is what they have campaigned for over the years. Concerns were raised regarding the access road through Kestral Way and the increase in traffic. Mr Martin advised the meeting that the road into Kestral Way was originally built wider as the intention always to extend the estate.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That Members supported the outline proposals

## **11. Proposed Alteration to Public Right of Way**

Members discussed the proposals to close part of Shadforth Bridleway 12 and footpaths 13a and 13b. Cllr C Kell had supplied a detailed response from the British Horse Society rejecting the proposals on the grounds of safety (**Appendix C**). The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr Duncan Barnes the Chair of Shadforth Parish Council had been in touch regarding their concerns regarding the proposals. Shadforth are strongly opposing the proposals on a number of grounds; safety and loss of amenities to the community are the main concerns. A discussion took place regarding the proposals and the Council felt they couldn't support this application in its current form however; they would be prepared to compromise if the proposed new footpaths were changed into Bridleways and extended.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Clerk contacts the Rights of Way Officer and advises that the Council opposes this closure in its current format.

## **12. Members Reports**

Cllr N Mills commented on the excellent job Paul Levitt is making of the rural footpaths.

Cllr F Long advised that street lights 818 814 869 were not working. He also informed the meeting that DCC planners needed to attend a Council meeting regarding developing a neighbourhood plan before any work could go ahead.

Cllr C Chiverton informed the meeting that the potholes at the back of Faraday Terrace which is an unadopted highway were now dangerous and the bin wagon is finding it difficult to gain access.

Cllr J Hall commented that the Christmas lights were excellent and he had received good feedback about the display, however he stated that the santa was large and out of proportion. He requested that a nativity scene be purchased for next Christmas. He advised the meeting that at a policing meeting it was noted that there are less than 200 officers on duty in the County at any one time. A public meeting is taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> January with the Police Commissioner. He also advised that currently flytipping fines go into a central pot however it is hoped that in future this would be changed so that the money would be used to directly combat the flytipping problem.

Cllr C Kell reported that a Durham City coach is parking on Station Street outside the home and is likely to cause an accident as it is blocking the view of oncoming traffic; three different coaches have been parked there in recent weeks. A request was also made again to Cllr Todd with regard to the lack of free transport in the village for students wanting to attend Peterlee College. The issue of decommissioning the third play area was also raised and Cllr Kell wanted to highlight the possibility to residents.

Cllr D Liversidge informed the meeting that the salt box had been removed from Station Street and requested its return.

Cllr A Liversidge informed the meeting that the Hazelwell Centre would be a polling station for the general election. He also advised that the walkway on the Haswell to Hart walkway still hadn't been repaired and only needed chicken wire putting over the boards to stop the slipping hazard.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) The Clerk would report the street lights
- (ii) The Clerk would again try and make contact with the housing provider to enquire if they would take over the decommissioned play area.
- (iii) Cllr Todd would take up the issue of the potholes, traffic problems caused by the bus, request a salt box and report the walkway. He would also contact Peterlee College regarding the free transport.

## **13. County Councillors Update**

Cllr Brookes informed the meeting that DCC had a difficult time ahead with the cuts it needs to make due to the changes in formula for grants. He advised while the north was suffering huge cuts the south were experiencing a rise in budgets.

Cllr E Huntington reiterate Cllr Brookes point and stated that the south were receiving 15 times more in funding on health than the north, the south are receiving £9 million as opposed to the north receiving only £0.8million. Cllr Huntington also advise the meeting that now was

an excellent time to apply to DCC to adopt or foster, and that culturally there are a large number of excellent productions ongoing.

Cllr Todd informed the meeting:

- George Garlick had written and advised Councillors that the County had to make £250 million worth of saving by 2019, despite £136 million being saved to date.
- Durham has introduced the living wage of £7.43
- Community Building grant is likely to be cut, a consultation is ongoing.
- CQC event to scrutinise the NHS Trust is taking place on 2.2.15 @6.30pm at Durham Town Hall

#### **14. Any other Urgent Items of business**

There were no issues raised.

#### **15. Date and Time of the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

## Appendix A

Warden Feedback from issues raised 25/11/2014 - Michael Cornforth SW13

The main issue that I took away from the meeting to deal with were fly tipping in the areas of;

\*George Street

\*Green Lane / High Haswell

Here is a summary of actions;

28/11/2014 – attended George Street and placed 2 Fly tipping signs on lampposts, requesting a clean-up for a door less fridge freezer.

3/12/2014 – Attended George Street, re-requested a clean-up for the door less fridge and also requested a large sack of builders rubble and food waste to be removed.

8/12/2014 – Attended George Street and the area was clear but did replace the fly tipping signs as they had been removed by an unknown member of the public.

12/12/14 – Attended George Street, area clear.

19/12/14 – Attended George Street, the area was still clear, replaced 1 fly tipping sign and updated Clerk via phone call. I requested that a litter pick be conducted along green lane as litter had built up and bags of dogfood and compost had been dumped.

6/1/15 – Re requested the removal of the bags of compost and dog food from Green lane

15/1/15 – attended areas, both clear.

25/1/15 – Fly tipped carpet and diy waste found dumped off Salters Lane towards High Haswell, have requested clearance as no evidence was located within.

I have also completed Ad Hoc patrols in the area which have not been noted as they were completed whilst either attending jobs in other areas using Haswell as a through road or they were clear with no action to be taken.

**Appendix B**

January 2014					Receipts			Payments							VAT		
date	Details	Inv No	Chq No	Receipt	Payment	Misc	Football Fees	Interest	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Section 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaimed
6.1.15	DCC repairs strimmer	161.14	102511		124.48						124.48					20.75	
12.1.15	DCC playground repairs	162.14	102512		580.26						580.26					96.71	
12.1.15	Zurich Insurance premium	163.14	102513		2219.17				2219.17							125.62	
12.15.15	Arco workwear	164.14	102514		127.98				127.98							21.33	
12.1.15	Northumbrian water	165.14	102515		130.04							130.04					
21.1.14	Vodafone	166.14	102516		42.79				42.79							7.13	
21.1.15	DCC repair blower	167.14	102517		22.50						22.50					3.75	
27.1.15	T.Bell postage	168.14	102518		14.88				14.88								
27.1.15	P.Levitt	169.14	102519		52.33						52.33						
	Wages		Bacs		3001.65				3001.65								
	BACS fee				10.42				10.42								
					6326.50			8.34	5416.89		779.57	130.04				275.29	
	Reserves	52389.66															
	Current as at 31.12.14	69203.64															

Appendix B  
Precept

<b>Cost Centre</b>			<b>13.14</b>	<b>14.15</b>	<b>15.16</b>
Central Services			50400	50400	53500
Public Buildings			6500	10500	10500
Horticultural			9600	9100	9100
Utilities			1200	1200	1200
Section 137			1500	1500	1500
Special Projects			3322	2186	4062
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>72522</b>	<b>74886</b>	<b>79862</b>

## Appendix C

Consultation:

Highways Act 1980 Proposed changes to public paths in the vicinity of Hill House DH6 1NL

Upgrading of part of Shadforth Footpath 14 to bridleway and creation of a new footpath in Haswell Parish

Closure of part of Shadforth Bridleway 12 and Footpaths 13a and 13b

1. Thank you for notifying me of these proposed changes thereby giving me the opportunity to comment.
2. As a member and volunteer of the British Horse Society on the County Durham Committee (Assistant Access and Bridleways Officer for East Durham) I am commenting on behalf of myself and horse riders in the area.
3. I have spoken to a local equestrian user who knows several riders in the locality and there is dismay at the reduction of off road riding by the proposed change to Bridleway 12. There are few off road routes already and this further decreases the network.
4. To ride from Shadforth to join the bridleway at the new southern entry point means a longer stretch on the road, albeit not on a major trunk road. Although on the ground it does not appear too difficult to change the eastern end of foot path 13 to bridleway (seven steps north of the property at Paradise would easily be negotiated by horses without major changes) and the rest of this pathway/ route seems perfectly suitable for use to join up with the current footpath 14, (proposed for change to bridleway), making a full off road route avoiding traffic.
5. On the ground it would appear that bridleway 12 is not currently well used, but the key factor seems to be that northern end of the route (as amended a few years ago) now emerges further east directly onto a bend of the busy road B1283 with no grass verge or pavement to afford protection for horse and rider. (Previously I would ride bridleway 12 to Sherburn Hill to join the bridleway to Piittington, but as the road is very busy with fast moving traffic this is not a very safe option now.) Also, the eastern gate on the route (i.e. 2nd gate travelling in a easterly direction) has an extremely tight catch which is very difficult to open with two hands on foot, never mind trying with one hand with the other holding a horse.
6. Regarding the creation of a new footpath in Haswell Parish from bridleway 12, it would be considerably advantageous if the proposed footpath could be considered for creation as a bridleway instead. As well as ensuring the safety of riders away from traffic it would improve the network of routes in the locality for a more 'joined up' network. I believe this is an objective of County Durham Rights of Way Department and Durham County Council.
7. Currently there are only sheep in the fields this route crosses and therefore would not require any additional fencing to make a bridleway route i.e. a fenced corridor route would not be needed.
8. Historically it seems extremely likely that a path / track was in existence here before:

8.1 There is already a stile next to the gate at the first field entrance at the western end (next to an open gate).

8.2. Pathfinder Map 572 Durham (my copy dated 1988) shows a track going from the Ludworth Tower area round Tower Hill to The Bottoms at Haswell Plough.

8.3. This seems also borne out by the fact that a ford is marked on the map at the junctions of paths 7/9/25, so it seems that this would have been a track originally with a ford to cross Shadforth Beck (rather than a small footbridge as per now).

8.4. Also on the ground it is interesting to note that where Footpath 23 north of Ludworth changes to Footpath 25 and crosses Shadforth Beck, although there is currently a stile in place, a wide bridge exists suggesting traffic previously other than pedestrians.

8.5. Bridleway 16 (running south of Ludworth) currently has no continuation to another track. However immediately across the road in Ludworth is footpath 40 which is already wide enough for use by riders, cyclists, etc. (and there is evidence of use by a variety of users now).

9. A continuation to bridleway 16 joining up the network would a great improvement for horse riders, and other users. If it is not feasible to join up via footpath 25 (although it looks on the ground as if this was previously a track) it may be more practicable to join up via footpaths 40/23/24. Although footpath 23 crosses Shadforth Beck using a metal footbridge, there would be no difficulty for horses to ford the beck slightly north of the footbridge (with removal of the stile on the other side) (cyclists could use the footbridge currently in place).

10. It would also be extremely advantageous to users if the route could be considered bridleway all the way to the end route across the fields emerging at The Bottoms at Haswell Plough (footpath 9). The exit onto the road at this point would be far preferable to the exit/entrance for bridleway 12 as per now. This part of the road is of a more open aspect, with good sighting in each direction, has a grass verge and also footpath/pavement alongside the road on the north perimeter. This is a far safer situation.

I'd be grateful if the above points can be taken into consideration when determining any changes to be made.

Thank you

Angela J. Johnson  
British Horse Society  
Assistant Access And Bridleways Officer - East Durham

26 January 2015

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