

# **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Electors held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 6pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell**

## **Present.**

Councillor Mrs D Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors A. Liversidge, J.Hall, L Atkinson, C Chiverton, C.Kell, B Kell , F.Long  
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) 1 member of Public

## **1. NOTICE OF MEETING**

Public notice has been given in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. (as amended by) Local Government (Access to Information) act 1985

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Brookes

## **3. WELCOME**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.

## **4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

To Chair read the Chairs Annual Report to the meeting (attached as Appendix A) he then invited questions on the content.

## **RESOLVED**

(i) All information was duly noted.

## **5 PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

There were no questions on the content of the report.

Mr Cairns thanked the Chair for her work over the past year and all thanked the rest of the Council for its hardwork in trying to improve the villages. He stated that it must be sole destroying to continually try to improve the village with little reward as Haswell had received no improvement works over the past year. He stated that the village had the best groundsman in the County and he praised his excellent work. He thanked the County Councillors for their efforts however he stated that the community were not interested in what happened in other villages only their own, he also noted his disappointment at the lack of community attendance at the meeting.

## **6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be advised



# Haswell Parish Council

**The Council Office  
The Hazelwell Centre  
Windsor Terrace  
Haswell  
Co. Durham  
DH6 2DY  
Tel. 0191 5267455**

## Chairman's Annual Report 2013/ 2014

by

**Cllr. Mrs Doreen N. Liversidge** B.Sc. (Hons) Dip. App. Soc. Sc.

During the past 12 months it is fair to say that the council has made good progress to the best of its ability to try and improve the quality of life and infrastructure of the villages of Haswell and Haswell Plough. Haswell's employee, Paul Levitt has again worked hard and has been a major player in keeping the villages tidy and clean. He has received many compliments from numerous members of the community and from those visiting Haswell from other communities.

### Boundary Changes

There have been boundary changes forced upon us for which we have had consultation with the Boundary Commission. We made a good case for keeping the status quo as the two villages have traditionally been referred to as one. Despite this the Commission enforced these changes which affected the Parish Council in so much as two of the nine councillors were elected to represent Haswell Plough and the remainder Haswell. In addition Haswell Plough was moved into the Trimdon Ward as far as Durham County Council, councillor representation was concerned. Following the elections in May, 2013 Councillor Fred Long and Louise Atkinson were elected to represent Haswell Plough and Councillors Clair Chiverton, John Hall, Carol Kell, B Kell, Alan Liversidge, Norma Mills, and myself were elected to represent Haswell.

The main effect of this change was that County Councillor Peter Brookes was representative of Haswell Plough whilst County Councillors Eunice Huntington and Robin Todd continued to represent Haswell.

The cause of this change was due entirely to numbers of residents in the different wards

### Christmas Lights



Our partnership with the Hazelwell Centre has become stronger and the community has recognised and appreciated the introduction of more Christmas lights. Another Christmas tree and three reindeer pulling a sled have been purchased to complement our existing lights. These have been an incredible success as numerous members of the public have made favourable comments about them some expressing their admiration of them and some travelling from other villages just to see them.

### Environment

The council has continued to lobby the County Council to take action in upgrading the derelict of parts of Haswell. I am pleased to report there has been some success as the old Renco site has now been cleared, levelled and covered with hard core. It has also been fenced by Race

Course type fencing. There is still minor work to be carried out to complete the project. Under new legislation, the County council have placed a charge on the land with the Land Registry which will prevent the land owner selling it without paying for the cost of this work.



George Street 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2008



George Street 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

George Street (above) remains a problem area and the Parish is lobbying for this to be cleared up in the same manner and will continue to do so until the work is completed.

Quality status

The Clerk Mrs Tracey Bell has now completed and submitted the CILCA training module. This will leave training for councillors, the production, and distribution of a newsletter and the production of a parish plan in order to qualify for quality status.

### Playgrounds

In partnership with Haswell & Haswell Plough Regeneration Partnership a funding application has been made to update the existing playgrounds in the ward. As you will be well aware the equipment has been in operation for some time and is expensive to maintain. This will be a long term project to replace all the equipment in all the three play areas

Due to government cuts imposed on the County Council the inspections will become very expensive and because of this and the fact that further cuts are anticipated the County Council may not be in a position to offer this service, we have decided to train Paul Levitt in the inspection of all our playground equipment.

### Wellness on wheels

Durham County Council's 'Wellness on Wheels' vehicle, a mobile gym, has been brought to Haswell and parked on the Community Centre car park. It offers excellent facilities free of charge and available for use by all. To date it is halfway through a twelve week period and has been reasonably well used by members of the community..

I'd like to thank Mrs Tracey Bell the Clerk of the Council for the professionalism she has shown in her work, her enthusiasm, help and support she has given to me and my fellow Councillors. I would also like to express my gratitude to the help and support the council has received from County Councillors, Brookes, Huntington and Todd in their contribution and their work and support during the past year. This together with the close partnership working between the Council, the Hazelwell Centre and the Regeneration Partnership have greatly help to make this last year a successful one in many respects for our community.

On behalf of the council I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Paul Levitt for his professionalism, excellent work and enthusiasm he has put into making our two villages clean and tidy.

Councillor Doreen N. Liversidge  
26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.