

Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2014 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell

Present.

Councillor Mr A. Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors D. Liversidge, C.Chiverton, C.Kell, F.Long N Mills J Hall
R Todd, E Huntington County Councillors
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) 6 members of the public

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr B Kell

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 24th June 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 informed the meeting that they had received a number of complaints at the earlier PACT meeting regarding two properties in Haswell Plough; they have advised that they are working with County Councillors and the private landlords to find a solution to these problems. The following issues were raised:

- Number of dog attacks in the village
- Nuisance motorbikes in the Front Street doing wheelies
- Number of incidents at Sycamore House
- Rise in the number incidents over the past month

The police are aware of these incidents are dealing as appropriate.

The Police gave a briefing which is attached as Appendix A.

6. Warden Update

There was no attendance to the meeting and no apologies for absence.

7. Public Participation

Mr Cairns asked if they had been any update on when the old school building would be demolished as it remains an eyesore in the village as in an unsafe condition. Questions were also raised regarding what would happen to the land once the building was demolished.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Clerk would write to the Head of Education requesting an update.

8. Clerks report / correspondence

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

- A large amount of work has been undertaken with regard to the proposed gypsy site this has had a successful outcome and the site will not go ahead. Copy of the email is attached as Appendix B. The Clerk informed the meeting that the County Council had repeatedly ignored emails and requests for information and to date have still not responded to any of the questions or requests for information on the subject of the gypsy site. The Clerk also advised that this is not an isolated incident and that the County Council regularly do not respond to requests.
- Meetings have continued to attract funding for the playground project
- The Councils bid for exercise equipment from the Community Chest fund has been unsuccessful as the panel didn't feel that the bid met the brief
- Paul Levitt has successfully passed his Playground Inspectors Exam and is now a certified inspector.

Correspondence

The following correspondence has been received:

- Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places comments are invited regarding those stations currently used and any suggestions for possible alternative venues. The consultation period for the review will commence on the Tuesday 1 July 2014 and end on Friday 29 August 2014.
- Smaller Local Councils Forum is scheduled for Friday 25 July in the Parish Hall, Sedgefield, TS21 3AJ.
- Letter from the Head of Finance setting out the possible Council Tax shortfall for 2015/2016 this information needs to be taken into consideration when setting the Precept and will also be used for the Medium Term Financial Planning.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Clerk continues to bid for funding
- (ii) That the information is duly noted.

9. Finance

The monthly accounts were also circulated for Members to consider. Appendix C.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Members accepted and approved the Monthly accounts

10. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

11. Members Reports

Cllr F Long informed the meeting that a bus shelter has been damaged in Haswell Plough but has now been repaired. He also raised the issue of how properties are tenanted through East Durham Homes and the accountability the company have to the community. He also

noted that the ongoing partnership with the company to ensure the community is involved has ceased.

Cllr C Kell informed the meeting that there is still glass on the old railway after a crash on the site.

Cllr Hall informed the meeting that the land owned by the Woodland Trust remains overgrown onto the highways. He also informed the meeting that High Haswell continues to be plagued by flytippers. He reported an incident to the street wardens on the 6th July and he still has not received a response.

Cllr A Liversidge informed the meeting that he attended the Making Localism Work conference at Harrogate on the 10th July with Cllr D Liversidge and Cllr Long. He informed the meeting that the conference was extremely worthwhile and gave a short update on the topics covered. The conference highlighted that all Parishes seem to be having problems with the Principle Authorities not taking notice of what the community actual want.

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllr Chiverton will try to contact East Durham to re-establish the inspection scheme
- (ii)** Cllr Todd will report the glass on the railway line
- (iii)** The Clerk would contact the Woodland Trust and report the trees

12. County Councillors Update

Cllr Huntington informed the meeting that:

- Drugs continue to be a problem across the County and that the Police have been looking at alternative methods to deal with the problem including travelling to other European counties to discuss how they tackle the problem
- Durham Miners Gala was a huge success with over 130,000 people attending the day passed with no trouble
- International Brass festival continues and number of events are taking place across the County. The Hazelwell Centre held an event which unfortunately wasn't well attended however the feedback on the performance was excellent.
- The Government have changed the law to allow unused industrial sites and offices to be used as accommodation. There has been a proposal for the old Npower building on Shotton Industrial Estate to be turned into 35 one bedroom flats. Cllr Huntington is opposed to this and will fight to stop this unsuitable development. Cllr Hall stated that the land was owned by farmers who were only given the value of industrial land if this is to turned into residential then he stated farmers should be recompensed for the value.

Cllr Todd informed the meeting:

- There is a bus shelter replace scheme to take place in Haswell, Haswell Plough and South Hetton
- A report regarding the reorganisation of the provision of children's services has been called in by the Scrutiny Committee on 31th July. The report is proposing to realign Sure Start services across the county, it proposes to close the Sure Start building at Haswell and provide the services through another building.

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllr Todd will forward the Clerk a copy of the report
- (ii) The Clerk will write to the Head of Education asking what will happen to the Sure Start building

13. Any other Urgent Items of business

There were no issues raised.

14. Date and Time of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

Appendix A

Public order offence, Hessewell Crescent on 25/07 2x persons arrested and dealt with.

Theft of alloy wheels at Hutton Grove 14/07, under investigation.

Theft of ashtrays at the Gables 21/07 1 person dealt with.

Possession of cannabis, Haswell 1 person arrested and dealt with.

Criminal damage, Hutton grove Sky TV cable cut.

Aggravated burglary, 03/07 Hutton Grove, 1 person arrested and dealt with.

Appendix B

Dear Tracey,

Further to our recent discussions on the above matter, I am writing to confirm that following more detailed site assessments, including highway safety considerations, it is now not proposed to proceed further with the use of this site as a Temporary Stop-Over Area.

I hope you will understand however that we do need to continue to identify potential candidate sites for very short term use by Travellers. At present the Council has no sites in the East of the County and the unauthorised encampments that do occur can give rise to problems of safety and site suitability either for the Travellers themselves or for the settled community.

Enforcement alone is not the answer. Indeed, experience from last year shows that some Traveller families are moved on several times, which is wasteful of resources and does not address the underlying need for short-term accommodation. It is no coincidence that areas of the county with these Temporary Stop Over Areas have less unauthorised encampments, and indeed enforcement is more effective as there is an alternative for them to go to.

For the Haswell site, following the initial meetings with the Parish Council on 12th June, and those on site on the 16th June we have taken on board the feedback, and commissioned specialist assessments which have concluded that the site is not viable. For reasons I have identified above however we do need to continue the search for suitable locations, and any you can give in this regard would be very welcome.

I will provide a copy of the outcome also to Mr Scorer and Mr Wainwright.

Yours sincerely,

Ian

Ian Hoults

Neighbourhood Protection Manager

Appendix C

July 2014					Receipts				Payments							VAT	
Date	Details	Inv. No	Cheque No	Receipt	Payment	Precept	Football Fees	Interest	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Sec 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaim ed
1.7.14	T.Bell Postage	124.14	102474		14.88				14.88								
15.7.14	Vodaphone	125.14	102475		36.12				36.12							6.02	
22.7.14	T.Bell Printer Ink	126.14	102476		19.00				19.00								
28.7.14	D.Cahill Plant supply	127.14	102477		301.00						301.00						
					371.00				70.00		301.00					6.02	