

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Electors held on Tuesday 14th May 2013 at 6pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell

Present.

Councillor Mr A Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors D. 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

No apologies were received.

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.

The following comments were raised by Mr Cairns:

- He passed on his thanks to the Councillors for the time and effort they put into the village however he noted that the poor attendance to the meeting and the lack of interest in the election process was sad
- Cllr A Liversidge was an excellent Chair and the best man for the job

The following questions were raised by Mr Cairns:

- Why has public participation been moved to the beginning of the meeting?

The Chair advised the meeting that it was so members of the public could have their say and leave if they didn't wish to stay for the whole meeting. He reminded everyone that meeting was a formal setting to make decisions and not a surgery where problems could be discussed at

length. The Chair stated that a surgery may take place in the future to deal with any issues.

- Why does the agenda not contain the list of planning applications to be discussed?

The Chair advised that the agenda is only a list of the items which will be discussed it does not have to contain any detail.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be advised

Appendix A

Chairman's Annual Report 2012/ 2013
by
Cllr. Mr Alan Liversidge

During the pasts 12 months the Council has made satisfactory progress on a number of issues.

Quality Status - The Clerk, Mrs Tracey Bell, is continuing CILCA training And it is anticipated that she will complete this during the next 12 months. It will then be necessary to complete the necessary training of councillors, the production, and distribution of a newsletter and the production of a parish plan. We will then be able to submit our application for consideration.

Haswell Parish Council's Employee - Paul Levitt has continued to work hard and has been a major player in keeping the villages neat, tidy and clean. His work has not gone unnoticed as many compliments have been received from members of the Haswell community as well as from people visiting Haswell from other areas.

Christmas Lights - In partnership with the Hazelwell Centre the Christmas lights displayed in the grounds of the centre were well received by all. The Council purchased two new lights this year in the form of two penguins approximately five feet tall. These were a fantastic addition and made for a brilliant display appreciated by all.

Snow Plough Attachment - Following the 2011 winter the blade for the tractor was purchased and used during the last winter to the benefit of the community well over and above what was expected despite Paul having difficulties with the tractor. This will be addressed in the coming months as a new tractor is to be purchased together with the necessary winter tyres which will make snow clearing operations much better in the coming years.

Queens's jubilee Diamond Celebrations - In partnership with the Hazelwell Centre, the East Durham Area Action Partnership and County Councillor's Robin Todd and Eunice Huntington funding was obtained for this event which was celebrated by the community on Saturday 26th May, 2012. The event was organised by a committee of six, comprising of three members of the Parish Council and three members of the Hazelwell Centre's trustees. Over 400 people attended and 370 commemorative mugs were given to the children attending. There was free food, ice cream and old fashioned athletic events such as the egg and spoon race. Medals were awarded to the first three children in each event. There was also a football competition large and small bouncy castles, a bungee trampoline and a performance by Trimdon Brass Band, The weather was fine and sunny and a good day was enjoyed by all.



Olympic Torch - The torch passed through Haswell Plough on the morning of Sunday 17th June, 2012. There was a very large turn out and bunting and flags decorated Durham Road to mark the arrival and departure of the torch. There was a change over of torch bearers in Haswell Plough and a crowd of approximately 600 people attended which was tremendous for a small village. The atmosphere was electric and the event was enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended.



Infrastructure - No progress has been made in filling up the Voids in Front Street nor the regeneration of dilapidated areas, such as George Street and the

site of the old Renco building despite the efforts of the council and our county councillors lobbying the County Council. However it is pleasing to report that the derelict glass shop and the old Wayfarer public house on Front Street are in the process of renovation which when complete will greatly enhance the appearance of Front Street.

Sporting Facilities - Paul Levitt has continued to maintain the two football pitches and the Bowling Green in excellent condition for which we all should be very proud. The two football pitches were used regularly throughout the last season. Unfortunately the bowling green has not.

Finally, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs Tracey Bell the Clerk of the Council for the help and support she has given, Vice chairman Doreen Liversidge for her professionalism and support, Paul Levitt for his excellent work and last but not least my fellow Councillors for their work and support during the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Liversidge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Alan Liversidge