

Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2013 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell

Present.

Councillor Mrs D Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors A. Liversidge, J.Hall, C.Chiverton, C.Kell, F.Long, N. Mills
E Huntington (County Councillors)
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) PC Wilson, James Simmons, Gary Parsonage Street
Wardens 5 members of the public

2. Apologies.

Cllr R Todd, Cllr P Brookes.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 30th July 2013

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 a briefing which is attached as Appendix A.

6. Warden Update

James Simmons introduced himself as the designated warden for the area. He advised the meeting that due the shift patterns the team worked a presence at the meeting would not always be possible. James gave an overview on the role of the street wardens and how their work is prioritised and responded to. A discussion took place on the events that have happened in the Haswell area. James distributed leaflets explaining all of the issues that were discussed.

7. Public Participation

The following issues were raised:

- Overgrown hedge at Snippersgate Farm which is owned by the woodland trust this is encroaching onto the public highway and preventing access.
- Street Lights on the B1280 Haswell to Haswell Plough road are out.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Cllr Huntington report the hedge to the appropriate department for action
- (ii) That the Clerk reports the street light problem

8. Clerks report / correspondence

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

Contact has been made with DCC Pensions department and some information has been received, information is outstanding from the wages department regarding the actual costs based on salaries. This will be brought at a future meeting for a decision to be made.

Responses to Cllr Hall queries which were raised at the last meeting:

- Removal of asbestos - we have staff trained to identify and collect cement bound asbestos as we have always had. Street Scene has never removed blue or brown asbestos as this is specialist work. Should brown or blue asbestos be fly tipped we would employ a specialist removal contractor. The most common asbestos fly tipped is white cement bound corrugated sheets which we can collect
- Ragwort - we will deal with ragwort if there is a specific problem.
- DCC have not changed any service standards regarding grass cutting. Rural verges have always been cut twice per annum. If the PC wishes to have a meeting to discuss this I am happy to meet

Correspondence

- Letter of thanks from Hartlepool Hospice for the donation
- Letter from the Great North Air Ambulance requesting a donation
- Letter from Director of Finance regarding a further reduction in Council Tax Grant final figures are yet know however it is estimated that this will result in a potential loss of £1645.
- One day training course on Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act to be held in March 2014 at Shotton Hall, CDALC are asking for expressions of interest to check the course viability

RESOLVED

- (i) The Clerk will continue to liaise with DCC to ascertain the costs of the pension scheme to the Council.
- (ii) That the Clerk invites James Bennett to the meeting to discuss his responses.
- (iii) That a £150 donation by sent to the Great North Air Ambulance
- (iv) That members note the information regarding the Council Tax Grant
- (v) That the Clerk expresses an interest to the CDALC course for 4 places

9. Finance

The monthly accounts were circulated for Members to consider. Appendix B.

A discussion took place regarding the purchase of external Christmas lights from Blanchere the specialist lighting company a special offer and discount have been offered for a 4 metre long sleigh and three reindeers at the cost of £2720 excluding VAT. These are ex display models which is why there is a significant reduction in price, they have never been used outdoor.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Members accepted and approved the final accounts for approval and the monthly accounts for payment.
- (ii) That the Council approve the purchase of the lights.

10. Planning

Cllr N Mills declared an interest in the planning application and took no part in the discussion.

The monthly planning applications were circulated for Members to consider. Appendix C There were no objections. The Council were also informed that application PL/5/2013/0243 for a wind turbine at 8 East Villas Haswell which the Council objected to has been refused.

11. External Auditors Report

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors were satisfied with the Final Accounts and had raised no queries.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Clerk displays the appropriate notification of the completion on the Parish notice board.

12. Playground Provision

The Clerk informed the meeting that a successful consultation process has been ongoing over the summer period with the children of Haswell through the various play schemes taking place at the Hazelwell Centre, Sure Start and Lisa Dixon centre. This has been carried out through the AAP. Over 100 children have given their feedback to questionnaire, this is a viable sample set to allow the Council to go ahead with the next stages of the process.

A discussion took place regarding the outcomes of the consultation and the next steps to be taken regarding funding. Transformation Community Chest grant is currently available for projects up to £10,000.

Members of the Council wishes to express their gratitude for the work carried out to date by Julie Bearpark from the AAP, Caroline Stephens from DCC and the Clerk.

RESOLVED

- (i) That funding should be sought from the Transformation Community Chest
- (ii) That the Clerk continues to work in partnership to progress the play scheme project.

13. Members Reports

Cllr N Mills reported overhanging hedges along the B1280 main road heading towards the Pemberton Arms.

Cllr J Hall reported that the B1283 road at Tuthill Bridge is crumbling which is causing the traffic to use the wrong side of the road.

Cllr F Long informed the meeting that grass cutting in Haswell Plough was not every 10 days as per the schedule. The open space between 48 and 56 Gloucester Terrace Haswell has large holes in the ground which are a hazard.

Cllr C Kell informed the meeting that:

- the church is planning to mark the centenary of the start of World War 1 and would be looking for support with the project.
- The chemist refurbishment in Front Street is an excellent job and an asset to the village.
- The photo project supported by the Council is nearly complete.

Cllr A Liversidge reported that:

- the Council would not be required to cut the grass at Hazel Court as alternative arrangements have been made.
- Haswell History has been unsuccessful in their funding bid toward the Haswell banner project from the Coalfield Regeneration Fund, £4500 has been secured from the Co Durham Foundation. Cllr Todd has pledged £2000 towards the project. Additional funding is currently being sought. Central Electricity Company, RJB Mining and the Coal Authority were all suggested as possible funding streams.
- The Littleton to Haswell Plough Right of Way is overgrown.

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllr Huntington will report the overgrown hedges and the highway issues
- (ii) The Clerk will report the right of way blockage.

14. County Councillors Update

Cllr Huntington informed the meeting that:

- Work is ongoing with Dr Chandy to reinstate the Chiropody service in Shotton, and to utilise the empty rooms at the Community hospital in Peterlee.
- Government has allocated a large amount of funding to the NHS to cope with the increase of patient through the winter months; no funding has been allocated to Durham County despite it having some of the worst health in the country.
- A further 16% cut need to be found in the budget by 2016. Over a quarter of a billion pounds will have been cut from DCC budget by the end of 2016.
- Flytipping continues to be a problem across the County which is leading to the increase of rats.
- New roundabout at Shotton is causing problems with local residents and the Catholic school due to worries regarding safety.
- Travellers have attempted to access land in Shotton to set up camp this has been stopped.
- Problems have arisen with the Decent homes renovation project due to an issue with British Gas not turning up to carry out the planned works.
- The Food bank scheme is still ongoing and available to help those in genuine need, if anyone knows of a worthy cause they need to contact Cllr Huntington for assistance.

Cllr A Liversidge asked what was happening with regard to the issue of double taxation in the County and how the County Council were going to address the unfairness to those affected?

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllr Huntington stated that she would investigate the double taxation issue and report back.

15. Any other Urgent Items of business

There were no issues raised.

16. Date and Time of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd October 2013 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

Appendix A

Police Notes

24/09/2013

Violence against a person	2 incidents
Burglary	0 incidents
Suspicious activity	4 Lamping incidents
Theft and Handling	1 incident
Criminal Damage	1 incident
Theft of vehicle	0 incidents
Theft from Vehicle	0 incidents
ASB	
	Nuisance - 3 incidents
	Personal – 7 incidents (5 from one address)
RTC	2 incidents

Points to note

Extra patrols on an evening have been carried out on the front street due to the current pact priorities.

Mobile pacts have been carried out throughout the area regarding the regeneration of the recreational facilities.

Next Pact meeting 26th November 18:00pm @ The Hazelwell Centr

August 2013					Receipts					Payments							VAT	
Date	Details	Inv No	Chq No	Receipt	Payment	SLA	Football Fees	Interest	Misc	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Section 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaimed
21.8.13	SLA DCC			4220.00		4220.00												
25.8.13	Wages	BACS			4161.00					4161.00								
	BACS fees	BACS			10.36					10.36								
	Interest	BACS		10.83				10.83										
	No Cheques written due to postage problem																	
					4171.36	4220.00				4171.36								
September 2013					Receipts					Payments							VAT	
Date	Details	Inv No	Chq No	Receipt	Payment	Precept	Football Fees	Interest	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Section 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaimed	
13.9.13	DCC July/Aug Playground Insp & Repair to Strimmer	I39 I40 I41	102347		223.25						223.25					37.21		
13.9.13	Vodafone Sept 13	I42.13	102348		38.46				38.46							6.41		
13.9.13	T. Bell refund for Aug Phone bill	I43.13	102349		32.01				32.01							5.33		
24.9.13	P.Levitt Petrol	I44.13	102350		34.99						34.99					5.83		
					328.71				70.47		258.24					54.78		
	bank account balance as at 31.8.12																	
	current	67617.66																
	reserve	52340.71																

Appendix C

CE/13/00850/FPA	Mr D Butters	Greenacres Farm Salters Lane Haswell Durham DH6 2AW	First floor and two storey rear extensions	Shotton Haswell	Mr Tim Burnham Delegated
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