

Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2013 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell

Present.

Councillor Mrs D Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors A. Liversidge, J.Hall, C.Kell, F.Long, N. Mills
R Todd (County Councillors)
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) 4 members of the public

2. Apologises.

Cllr C.Chiverton, Cllr E Huntington Cllr P Brookes, James Simmons (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 24th September 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. Update from Environmental Services

James Bennett and Alan Houghton attended the meeting to give an update on the level of services provided across the County. Attached Appendix A

A discussion took place with regard to the whether the levels were actually achieved in Haswell and Haswell Plough. Concerns were raised with regard to:

- Amount of flytipping incidents and the lack of response
- Standard of verge cutting carried out by a private contractor who is damaging the ground
- Drains are only cleaned at one side of the road
- Poor standard of knowledge at customer service when reporting incidents
- Poor standards with regard to weed control
- Number of prosecutions across the County and in particular in the Haswell area

It was noted that the excellent partnership working between Paul Levitt and the Clean and Green team continues to thrive.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Mr Bennett would investigate the issues outstanding and advise the Clerk in due course.

6. Police Briefing

No Police in attendance. Report attached Appendix B.

7. Warden Update

Apologies received from James Simmons.

8. Public Participation

The following question was raised:

- What is happening with the old school in Haswell? The building is in a state of disrepair and an eyesore in the village.

A discussion took place with regard to the use of the old school and the possible future need of a new school due to the continued expansion of development and the growing population.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Cllr Todd would investigate what was happening with regard to the old school building and report back.

9. Clerks report / correspondence

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

- Street Lights on the B1280 Haswell to Haswell Plough road reported
- Clerk expressed an interest to the CDALC course for 4 places
- Christmas lights purchased
- Audit notice has been displayed appropriately
- Working in Partnership with the Regeneration Partnership to access funding to the Transformational Community Chest Fund for £10000 towards exercise equipment
- Right of way has been reported to the Rights of Way Officer at DCC for investigation

Correspondence

- Thank you letter from Air Ambulance for the donation
- Playground Inspection 2 day Training course
- Consultation on the Draft Local Plan up to 2030 – Leaflets circulated
- Carol Concert Mencap 21.12.13 @2.30pm
- Letter from the Friendship fund – Annual Christmas outing and dinner
- Letter requesting funding from Hazelwell Centre for a number of forthcoming events
 - Halloween party
 - Pensioner party
 - Children xmas party
 - Panto

RESOLVED

- (i) The Clerk will investigate if the training course is accredited and proceed as appropriate.
- (ii) That Members note the information contained in the leaflet
- (iii) That a £200 donation be sent to the Friendship Club
- (iv) That a £800 donation be given to the Hazelwell Centre for the four forthcoming events.

10. Finance

The monthly accounts were circulated for Members to consider. Appendix C.
An update was given with regard to the possible costs of joining the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), whilst employers have a legal duty to offer a scheme employee still have the right to opt out of the pension scheme.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Members accepted and approved the final accounts for approval and the monthly accounts for payment.
- (ii) That the Council approve that the LGPS can be offered to employee from 1st April 2014.

11. Planning

There were no planning applications

12. Members Reports

Cllr C Kell raised:

- East Durham and Houghall College have advertised free transport to attend courses – this does not include the Haswell area.
- If hampers were to be bought for the war veterans

Cllr A Liversidge raised:

- the issue of the Renco site and George Street – notices have been served an update was requested from Cllr Todd.

Cllr D Liversidge informed the meeting:

- That a donation had been received from Mr Haswell of a large Merry Christmas sign to add to the external Christmas lights.

RESOLVED

- (i) Cllr Todd will investigate the transport issue.
- (ii) The hampers will be given to veterans.
- (iii) Cllr Todd will get an update on the Renco and George Street sites
- (iv) A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Haswell

14. County Councillors Update

Cllr Todd informed the meeting that:

- The County Council had agreed to reduce the Local Council Tax Support grant by £238,000 in 2014/15 and by £305,000 in 2015/16
- The Council will have reduced the number of posts in the organisation by 1558 by 31.3.14 since 2011
- Education grant has been top sliced from the Council's budget and is transferred directly from the Department of Education to support schools. This budget will be cut by £200 million in 2015/16.

- Ongoing problem with regard to no school patrol at Shotton Catholic school, the highways problems remain.
- Application for 80 homes at north of Windsor Terrace South Hetton, there are issues around the types of housing that will be built and also the increase in traffic.
- Financial provision has been made to Haswell history group from the AAP Neighbourhood Budget to support the banner project.

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 26th November 2013 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

Appendix A

Clean and Green schedules		
The table below illustrates the standards of services Cleansing and Grounds maintenance strive to achieve, however grass cutting schedules in particular can vary depending on weather conditions.		
Activity	Schedule	Additional information
Channel Sweeping high footfall areas such busy town centres	Daily Monday to Friday	During the autumn/winter period leaffall and weather conditions may have an affect on the schedule
Channel Sweeping less busy town centres	3 times per week	During the autumn/winter period leaffall and weather conditions may have an affect on the schedule
Channel Sweeping housing estates	5 weekly cycle	During the autumn/winter period leaffall and weather conditions may have an affect on the schedule
Channel Sweeping Industrial estates	4 weekly cycle	During the autumn/winter period leaffall and weather conditions may have an affect on the schedule
Channel Sweeping rural roads	8 weekly cycle	During the autumn/winter period leaffall and weather conditions may have an affect on the schedule
Litter picking high footfall areas such busy town centres	Daily Monday to Sunday	Normally done first thing on morning - return after lunch
Litter picking housing estates -	Weekly Monday to Friday	Some areas are litter picked twice weekly depending on locality
Dog/Litter bins	emptied on route depending on schedule	Frequency dependant On location. Most outlying bins fortnightly
Graffiti removal	Non-obscene will be removed within 3 working days of notification	Obscene graffiti will be removed within 24 hours of notification Mon - Friday
Fly tipping	Removed within 24 hours if reported during normal working hours	
Drug related waste	Collected within 2 hours of notification	
Footpath sweeping	Done as and when required	
Grass cutting - public open spaces	10 -12 day cycle	On Average open space grass is cut on 15 occasions per season
Grass cutting - cemeteries	10-12 days cycle	On Average open space grass is cut on 15 occasions per season
Grass cutting - closed churchyards	10-12 days cycle	Some closed churchyards only receive 5 cuts per season
Weed Control to Footways	2 applications per year	Commencement of application is weather dependant
Weed Control to obstacles on open spaces	2 applications per year	Commencement of application is weather dependant
Grass cutting to rural verges	twice per year	Commencement of cutting is weather dependant
Grass cutting to traffic sight lines	up to 5 times per year depending on growth	Sight lines cut as and when required
Shrub beds	4 summer visits and 1 winter visit	
Rose beds	6 summer visits and 1 winter visit	Plus pruning March and October time
Flower beds	12 sumer visits and 3 winter visits	

Appendix B

Haswell Parish Council Meeting

Police Report

22/10/2013

1 Assault

16/10/2013 Altercation at the children's home

2 Criminal Damage to vehicles

06/10/2013 Kent Terrace

16/10/2013 George Street

1 Criminal damage to dwellings

27/09/2013 Hessewell crescent

ASB

Barred persons attending and entering the Lisa Dixon Centre

Youths throwing mud balls at passing vehicles on the Front Street, Haswell.

Suspicious activity

Door to door cold callers looking to sell paintings – caller is claiming to be deaf and collecting for his daughters education.

