

## **Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell**

### **Present.**

Councillor Mrs D Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors A. Liversidge, J.Hall, F.Long, B.Kell, C.Kell N.Mills  
R Todd, E Huntington (County Councillors) James Simmons Gary Parsonage (Wardens)  
In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) 6 members of the public

### **2. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr L Atkinson, Police due to not being on shift.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 emailed a briefing which is attached as Appendix A.

### **6. Warden Update**

The wardens gave an update of the activity across the area and handed out a copy of the monthly newsletter which covers the whole of the area. Actions occurring in Haswell over the past month were 3 untidy garden notices and 3 incidents of Anti-social behaviour.

### **7. Public Participation**

The lights between Haswell and Haswell Plough were reported as not working again.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Clerk would again report this fault.

### **8. Clerks report / correspondence**

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

- There has been a problem with the parish email being hacked. This meant the email was out of action for 2 weeks it is back up and running now.
- Number of communications with the County regarding the Precept Request and LCTSS payment. Details of how the increase would be shown as 6.5% instead of 3.26% were explained.

- That the nominations for the Royal Garden Party were submitted unfortunately the Council was unsuccessful.
- Additional information has been supplied regarding the funding application submitted to Community Chest Grant for £10000 unfortunately the Partnership have been unsuccessful. An appeal will be submitted in due course.
- All highways and flooding matters were reported
- Discussions have taken place with the Environmental Services team regarding the fencing at Mazine Terrace around the monument. DCC have agreed to replace the whole fence as it is rotten. Paul will undertake the remaining repairs where necessary through the village.
- Letters will be sent to those parking their vehicle on DCC land who are damaging the verges. Further action will be sort if no improvement is seen.
- A number of meeting have taken place with regard to the play area and new plans are being drawn so that funding can be sort.
- Places have been booked for the Data Protection Course at Shotton Hall
- Letter was sent to Youngs accepting the compensation

### **Correspondence**

- Draft Legislative Reform Order (LRO) which repeals s.150 (5) of the 1972 Act has been approved by Parliament which means the two signatory rule no longer applies to Councils subject to proper accounting practices being adopted.
- It has been confirmed that parish and town councils will not be subject to any council tax capping or referendum procedures for 2014/2015. However this gives a warning shot that for 2015/2016 certain parish councils may be affected. It is expected that councils setting a council tax band D charge of above a Government determined de – minimus range (possibly a council tax band D charge of over £160 or £170) may be capped for 2015/2016 and subject to a referendum if for example they wish to impose a council tax increase of more than say for example 2%.
- Letter from Mencap regarding Victory ball on 22/03/2014 at Rainton Meadow Arena Houghton tickets are £30

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Clerk resubmits information to the Community Chest Grant fund.
- (ii) That the information be noted.

### **9. Finance**

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

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that Members accepted and approved the monthly accounts .

### **10. Planning**

There were no planning applications.

## 11. Members Reports

Cllr A Liversidge informed the meeting that:

- The rengo site has finally been cleared and levelled, hard-core has been applied to the surface it will be grassed over in due course. George street however is still in a bad state of disrepair.
- Wellness on Wheels bus will be visiting Haswell from the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 until the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014 this is a mobile gym facility and will be situated in the car park at the Hazelwell Centre. It will be open from 10am to 7pm.

Cllr Long reiterated the earlier point regarding the poor state of the grassed verges and that no action in the short term would lead to greater problems in the long term. He also praised Paul for the fantastic work he is carrying out in the village.

Cllr J Hall asked the County Councillors what the policy is with regard to potholes around the County. Cllr Todd stated that all potholes would be repaired any larger repairs would be programmed into a schedule of works.

Cllr C Kell reported that:

- a number of fridges had been dumped along the C64
- A concrete slab has been reported at Windsor terrace playing field near the goal post

She also asked the County Councillors:

- What would happen if the Sure Start building closed?
- What will happen to the land when the Mencap building is demolished?
- What happened at the meeting the County Councillors had with the Education Department regarding having a new school in Haswell?

Cllr Todd informed the meeting that he had received a report from the Education department and a new school wouldn't be built due to the current economic climate and the fact that all children are currently accommodated in other schools. A discussion took place regarding the education provision of the village and how the community wanted a school reinstating.

## RESOLVED

- (i) That Clerk reports flytipping and has the Groundsman investigate the concrete slabs at Windsor Terrace.
- (ii) That the County Councillors find the answers to the questions raised and supply a copy of the report from the Education department.
- (iii) That the County Councillors continue to lobby for a new school.

## 12. County Councillors Update

Cllr Huntington informed the meeting that:

- The Government has suggested that hospital treatment be stopped for anyone who is not contributing to society due to age or disability. This has been rejected by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). There are also proposing to be able to close hospitals without community consultation.
- The Ambulance service is having problems due to the introduction of the 111 number which is staffed by call centre personnel who are not medically trained this is leading to the ambulances being dispatched inappropriately.

- The area unemployment figures are currently reported at 2500 however these figures are not a true record as there are a large number of unemployed who do not qualify for benefits and are therefore not included in the statistics.
- There have been a number of reports to the police regarding drug activity in the village; this is currently being dealt with.
- 5 food parcels have been distributed in the village
- Roundabout near Shotton Catholic school will be altered by the developer
- There continues to be a problem with off road bikes and dog fouling across the area.

Cllr Todd informed the meeting that:

- A £80 has just been issued in South Hetton for dog fouling
- The Council Tax for 2014/2015 will be approved at a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. A band A property in Haswell will set at £1134.41, Shotton will be £1106.03 and South Hetton will be £1127.95.
- A proposal has been made to merge the three Arm's Length Management Companies (ALMO's) which run the housing provision across the County. The aim of the exercise is to allow the company to raise capital to invest in the properties. A huge deficit of £60million was taken on by Easington District Council when they took over the running of Peterlee Housing Corporation. Only £15 million was recovered from the Government which meant that the state of the whole housing stock suffered due to no investment. The government cap the amount of debt at the value of the property by joining the ALMOs this will allow capital to be raised.

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

Appendix A

**Police Report 25/02/2014**

Apologies for the non-attendance the Parish meeting has unfortunately fallen on another rest day.

20/02/2014 - Store Farm Area – Suspicious activity from males in a Black Renault Clio NM02AZC, vehicle registered to Brandon near Durham – any further sightings of vehicle acting suspicious please contact 101

23/01/2014 - Richmond terrace - Damage to front door. Thought to be from a heavy item thrown. Not believed to be with a view to gain entry.

23/01/2014 - Hutton Grove – Theft from M/V - Items stolen from vehicle overnight – No signs of forced entry, money stolen and various other small items.

ASB

17/02/2014 - Grey Horse inn - Person Failing to leave premises upon request of landlord.

Statistics

Reported ASB down 37% for the month

Crime is down 62% for the month and down 8% year to date.

The next PACT meeting is 25 March 2014 @ The Hazelwell Centre

Appendix B

February 2014				Receipts			Payments									VAT	
Date	Details	Inv No.	Chq No	Receipt	Payment	Misc	Football Fees	Interest	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Section 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaimed
4.2.13	P. levitt petrol& fasteners	175.13	102430		37.13						37.13					6.19	
4.2.14	DCC repair equipment	176.13	102431		21.60						21.60					3.60	
4.2.14	Arco equipment	177.13	102432		83.87				83.87							13.98	
12.2.14	Arco equipment	178.13	102433		25.08				25.08							4.18	
12.2.14	DCCPlayground Insp Jan	179.13	102434		64.80						64.80					10.80	
12.2.14	Football fees			20.00			20.00										
12.2.14	Vodaphone	180.13	102435		34.96				34.96							5.82	
	Interest	BACS															
	Wages	BACS			2,529.98				2,529.98								
	Fees	BACS			10.36				10.36								
25.2.14	Zurich Local council advisory service	181.13	102436		114.00				114.00							19.00	
25.2.14	T.Bell Ink Cartridges	182.13	102437		25.97				25.97								
				20.00	2,947.75		20.00		2,824.22		123.53					63.57	
	as at 31.1.14																
	Reserves	52340.71															
	current	47431.14															

