

Minutes of Haswell Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2015 at 7pm in the Hazelwell Centre Haswell

Present.

Councillor Mr A. Liversidge (Presiding), and Councillors D. Liversidge, C.Chiverton, N. Mills, J. Hall

P Brookes, County Councillors

In Attendance - T. Bell (Clerk) 2 members of the public

Prior to the meeting Cllr A.Liversidge made the sad announcement that Cllr Robin Todd had sadly passed away on Saturday 23rd May 2015. Cllr Todd was a longstanding Councillor of 50 years who was sworn into the role of Vice Chair of the County Council before he passed away. There are no further details regarding the funeral at this time. A minutes silence was observed in honour of Cllr Todd.

1. Appointment of Chair for 2015/2016

Nominations were sought for the position of Chair for 2015/16. Councillor Alan Liversidge was subsequently proposed and seconded. A unanimous vote subsequently confirmed Cllr A Liversidge to be appointed Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Councillor Alan Liversidge be appointed as Chair of Haswell Parish Council for the ensuing year and he duly signed the declaration of office.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair for 2015/2016

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair to Haswell Parish Council for 2015/16. Cllr D Liversidge was nominated and seconded for the position. A unanimous vote subsequently confirmed Cllr D Liversidge be appointed Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Councillor Doreen Liversidge be appointed as Vice Chair of Haswell Parish Council for the ensuing year.

3. Apologises.

Apologises were received from Cllr C.Kell, B.Kell, F.Long and the police

4. 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.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held Tuesday 28th April 2015

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.

6. Appointments to Outside bodies

Nominations were sought to represent the Council on the following bodies:

- Association for Town and Parish Councils
- EON funding Committee
- SureStart
- East Durham Homes

RESOLVED

- (i) that Councillors Doreen and Alan Liversidge and Carol Kell be re elected to represent the Council on the Association for Town and Parish Councils.
- (ii) That Cllr A Liversidge continues to represent the Council on the EON committee
- (iii) That Cllr C Chiverton continues to represent the Council at both Sure Start until it closes in July and East Durham Homes meetings.
- (iv) That Cllr F Long be elected to the East Durham Homes meetings.

7. Police Briefing

The Police gave their apologies and left an update for the past month. Appendix A

8. Public Participation

There were no issues raised.

9. Clerks report / correspondence

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

- All defects were reported to the appropriate departments
- The bid for the play area has now been submitted to Biffa further information has been requested from the Regeneration Partnership to support the bid this work is ongoing.
- A site meeting took place with regard to the exercise equipment at the Hessewelle Crescent site, this will commence subject to no objections being received from the public.
- Thirteen Housing group have carried out a survey of the tenants in Hutton Grove information attached Appendix B. They are suggesting planting the area and possibly repainting the equipment. They have suggested working together on community events.
- Several junior football clubs have requested the use of the pitches due to the underutilisation of the pitches over the past years the move was welcomed. Fees would remain at £200 for the juniors to encourage useage.
- New petrol mower is needed for the groundsman as the old one is past its life cycle and needs a full over haul which will be as expensive as a new machine. DCC have just purchased mowers and they are a good quality machine which will be fit for purpose.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the information by noted.

- (ii) That the Clerk works with the Groundsman to look at the area and the suitability of planting and painting and make a report in due course.
- (iii) That the clubs be informed of the price of the football pitches and given the appropriate paperwork to sign.
- (v) That the Clerk purchase anew mower

10. Finance

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

RESOLVED

- (i) that Members accepted the monthly accounts for payment.

11. Planning

There were no planning applications.

12. Councillors Allowances

Members were reminded that the current level for Parish Basic Allowances was set at £500 per annum with the Chair receiving a special responsibility allowance of £1000 per annum. Members discussed the difficult financial time and thought it appropriate to freeze the allowance. Cllr D Liversidge is to investigate other Council allowances via the Association of Local Town and Parish Councils and report back in due course. This information will be fed into the budget cycle for the next financial year.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Allowance would remain the same and that the appropriate forms would be circulated.
- (ii) All details will be published on the Council notice board in accordance with the rules
- (iii) DCC will pay the allowance through the wages administration system ensuring the correct Tax and N.I contributions are paid.

13. Members Reports

Cllr D Liversidge informed the meeting that there has been graffiti damage throughout the village which looks unsightly and needs removing as soon as possible.

Cllr A Liversidge informed the meeting that:

- Residents had received the information regarding the neighbourhood planning process
- Christmas Lights switch on will be 5.30 to 6pm on Thursday 19th November 2015
- A dog fouling bin has been damaged in Hazel Court and needs replacing

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Clerk would report the graffiti damage and dog bin
- (ii) That the information be duly noted.

14. County Councillors Update

Cllr Brookes paid tribute to Cllr Todd stating he would be a sad loss, as he was a lovely gentleman who was very knowledgeable and helpful to all. He informed the meeting:

- Budget cuts will continue a further £100 million needs to be saved by 2019. By 2020 only statutory services will be provided. A budget is due in July where further cuts are expected.
- The County Council are going to judicial review over the Durham Plan which Inspectors rejected. The County Council standby their ambitious plans for the area.
- Durham Ask is still ongoing where communities can ask to run services in the community for the community which the County Council can no longer afford to run
- It is hoped that the AAP budgets will continue so that local Councillors can fund projects in their areas. Questions were raised regarding what is to happen to the SureStart building and the old school building
- Lumiere 2015 will return to Durham City in November, this attracts over 100,000 people and it is estimated that for every £1 spent £57 is generated in revenue across the area. Questions were again raised regarding the fact that everything is centred around Durham City to the detriment of the local villages, despite the fact that everyone paid the Council Tax it felt that distribution is not fair across the County.
- He is to undertake a 270 mile bike ride from Trimdon to London to raise money for Autism all sponsors welcome

RESOLVED

- (i) That the information be duly noted
- (ii) That the Cllr Brookes will find out what is to happen to the SureStart building and the land and building of the old school

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 Monday 29th June 2015 at 7pm in The Hazelwell Centre.

Appendix A

Haswell Parish Council Meeting

26/05/2015

Police Notes

Criminal Damage Other

21/05/2015 SAINT PAULS CHURCH, CHURCH STREET - The graffiti itself is not related to the church other than it is on the main road to be able to be seen by everyone. It is one of many buildings targeted within the HASWELL area and looks to be used to intimidate persons.

Burglary in a Building Other Than a Dwelling

22/05/2015 Station Street - Person enters a secluded garden area and unscrews hinges to shed before entering and removing camping equipment then make off

Theft from motor vehicle

21/05/2015 Church street - person approaches the address where the vehicle is parked, deactivates lock and enters the vehicle before removing electrical equipment

Criminal Damage to Dwellings

21/05/2015 Windsor Terrace – Offender uses object to smash front window of property

Arson not endangering life -

19/05/2015 – Windsor Terrace – offender smashes rear nearside passenger window of car and proceeds to ignite the vehicle.

Other Theft or Unauthorised Taking

08/05/2015 – **Rosemount, Haswell** - person/s approach central heating fuel tank located in rear yard to dwelling and proceed to remove 400 ltrs of central heating oil.

Appendix B

Door Knocking in Haswell

Tenants who we consulted with: no:1 , 3, 7, 8 , 9 , 11,14, 15, 17 Hutton Grove

We spoke to a variety of tenants, some who had lived there since they were built and some very new tenants.

Everyone we spoke to is really happy living in Hutton Grove. It is a very quiet area where they feel safe and have friendly neighbours. They like that they are set away from the rest of the village.

The only major issue is the road. Cars speed along and the front doors are very close to the road. The road alongside numbers 1,2,3,4 and 12,13,14 and 15 is also very fast because as soon as they get past the houses it goes to 60mph. drivers see that sign ahead and just speed up straight away. Some asked for money to be spent on speed bumps.

They are generally pleased with the play area opposite. Most have children or grandchildren who use it and they think it is adequate. There was a couple who said that it is starting to look a bit run down. They like that the grass is kept cut short and always tidy. Maybe just a tidy up/lick of paint would improve the area. No need for a major overhaul. From what they said they would prefer the park to be left there as it is than be taken away.

They were not aware that a new park was being developed in the village centre. Their main priority is road safety. Someone suggested that it would be nice to have some plants and flowers on the green area.

It was also mentioned that the football pitch and community centre is chargeable so it would be nice to have some free facilities / activities.

Appendix C

May 2015					Receipts			Payments								VAT	
Date	Details	Inv/ Rec No	Chq No	Receipts	Payment	Misc	Foot ball Fees	Int Rec	Central Services	Public Buildings	Hort	Utilities	Loans	Section 137	Special Projects	VAT Input	VAT reclaimed
6.5.15	T Bell postage	I15.15	102543		15.12				15.12								
14.5.15	TSL horticulture	I16.15	102544		54.00						54.00					9.00	
14.5.15	DCC mower repair	I17.15	102545		24.30						24.30					4.05	
26.5.15	Vodaphne	I18.15	102546		35.54				35.54							5.92	

