

## Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at 6.30pm held at held St Pauls Church, Haswell

### **Present**

CLLrs C Hood (Presiding), J. Cook, G. Dunstone, O. Gray, E. Major, H. Milburn, B. Ramsay, K. Welch & S Hartley

County Councillors: P. Brookes, I. Cochrane

In Attendance - P.C Dean Wilson, 22 members of the public

### **108.17 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from County Councillor Eunice Huntington

### **109.17 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.

The following declarations of interest on this occasion:

**Councillor G Dunstone declared an interest in the item relating to Haswell Friendship Club.**

### **110.17 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**RESOLVED** that Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Vice-Chair.

### **111.17 Police Briefing**

P.C Edson gave a comprehensive briefing to the meeting. **RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.**

### **112.17 Warden Update**

There were no wardens in attendance.

### **113.17 The Herbert Protocol**

Tim Thompson, Community Cohesion Officer, Durham Constabulary was in attendance at the meeting and he briefed the Council on the Herbert Protocol which is a scheme which will see family, friends, and other providers working together not only to prevent vulnerable adults going missing but to improve responses for locating them if they do. **RESOLVED Mr Thompson be thanked for his**

**attendance and the Herbert protocol be incorporated in The Haswells Dementia friendly Community initiative.**

#### **114.17 Correspondence**

- (i) Financial

**RESOLVED it was still not possible to process the monthly accounts presented for payment.**

- (ii) Letter from the Hazelwell Centre

A copy of the letter received from the Chairman of the Hazelwell Centre, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, was considered. The letter requested the Parish Council's support and asked them to consider making a grant of £15,000 to enable the Hazelwell Centre to operate efficiently. Cllr Cook said that there was not enough detail within the letter to show what the request would be used for. She continued that whilst the document detailed what the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre had spent, there was no forecast of what would be spent in the future. Cllr Gray said she was disappointed with the letter as it was threatening to remove public facilities if they did not receive the money. Cllr Hood suggested that the Council write a letter to the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre to request a meeting so that more information could be gathered. He continued that this would need to happen quickly as the next (January 2018) meeting was the last meeting for the council to discuss the forthcoming precept. Cllr Cook said this would be a good idea as the Council had a serious responsibility to the public's finances. **RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre to request a meeting.**

- (iii) Grant Applications

(a) The Hazelwell Centre – request for £200 towards the Pensioners Christmas Party.

**RESOLVED a grant of £200 be given to The Hazelwell Centre**

(b) The Hazelwell Centre – request for £200 towards the Children's Christmas Party.

**RESOLVED a grant of £200 be given to The Hazelwell Centre**

(c) The Hazelwell Centre – request for £200 for the Christmas Lights Switch on Event.

**RESOLVED the request be refused and no grant be made.**

(d) Haswell Friendship Club – request for £200 towards the general running costs of the Club. **RESOLVED a grant of £200 be agreed to the Club.**

Councillor Dunstone had declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion which ensued.

- (iv) The Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute

Cllr Hood gave a proposal for the council to become part of 'The Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute'

He continued that in commemoration and remembrance of the end of the Great War and the many millions who were killed or came home wounded, a chain of 1,000 WWI Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on the 11 November 2018 – a century after the guns fell silent.

More than 830 councils, communities and other organisations have already confirmed their involvement by lighting a Beacon on this seminal day. The Beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war.

The event will also commemorate the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort.

Cllr Hood summarized that he felt it would be a good thing for The Haswells to have their own beacon, so it can be part of a fitting national tribute but also in remembrance of those from The Haswells who lost their lives or were part of the Great War. This was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED that Haswell Parish Council register to become part of 'Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute.'**

(v) Information from DEFRA

Cllr Hood explained that Haswell Parish Council had received information from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) asking if the council would disseminate information regarding Avian Flu, more commonly known as Bird Flu, which could affect bird owners in our villages. A copy of the poster was shown on the big screen to those in attendance and it was unanimously agreed to disseminate the information.

**RESOLVED that Haswell Parish Council disseminate information regarding Avian Flu, more commonly known as Bird Flu, received from DEFRA.**

#### **115.17 Planning**

There were no planning details to consider.

#### **116.17 Christmas Trees for the Haswells & Parish Council Christmas Lights**

The purchase, installation and maintenance of Christmas trees and the location, lights switch on for the Haswells was discussed. Cllr Gray said that it was important to set the date so that the people of The Haswells could know when the event was going to take place. Cllr Hood suggested that the event took place after the village's Christmas Carol Service and giving event on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Cllr Ramsay said that this would also allow the installation of the tress and lights to take place over the next few days. **RESOLVED that the date for the Christmas tree lights switch on be Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

Cllr Gray also gave a report on the parish council lights which had always previously been displayed at The Hazelwell Centre. She confirmed that the parish council had not received a request from the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre to use the lights. However, after discussing the matter with the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre at their Christmas Carol Service, it was agreed that they would be allowed to display the lights on behalf of Haswell Parish Council.

**RESOLVED that the trustees of The Hazelwell Centre be contacted and allowed to display the lights on behalf of Haswell Parish Council.**

#### **117.17 Formation of Sub Committees**

**RESOLVED an HR, Events, Sports, Health & Well Being Sub Committee be established with the following Members being appointed to them:-**

<b>HR</b>	<b>Cllrs Cook, Hood &amp; Welch</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>Cllrs Dunstone, Gray, Hartley, Hood, Major &amp; Ramsay</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>No subcommittee to be formed</b>
<b>Health &amp; Well Being</b>	<b>Cllrs Gray, Hartley, Major &amp; Welch. Cllr Milburn was put forward in her absence due to her previously showing a desire to be part of this committee.</b>

#### **118.17 Monthly Financial Reporting**

Cllr Cook had requested that going forward, all monthly financial reporting should also have forecasts and actual so that expenditure can be seen against the precept. She continued that this gives greater transparency. Cllr Hood said by doing this it also allows the public to see performance as well as spending. He continued that the council was still in the process of gaining full access to the bank accounts and the new clerk would need to be added to the mandate, meaning this new reporting system will not start until all this is in place.

**RESOLVED that forecasts and actual be included in monthly financial reporting.**

#### **119.17 Parish Council Surgeries**

Cllr Welch suggested that the parish council started holding drop in surgeries at different times through the week in different locations so members of the public could meet in a more private setting if they so wished. She continued that it would be recommended that the surgeries always have two councilors.

**RESOLVED that Haswell Parish Council plan council surgeries.**

#### **120.17 New Year's Eve Party**

The reply received from the Hazelwell Centre explaining that it would not be possible for them to host a New Year Eve Party was reported. Alternative arrangements were discussed and it was agreed the Parish Council would arrange this event. **RESOLVED a New Years Eve Party be held in the FurniSHED, Burt Close, a buffet be ordered from Haswell Catering Services, the Bar be provided by the Oddfellows Arms, the disco had been offered free of charge by Kevin Mangles along with lighting from Pena Disco. Tickets would be available at £5.00 each with a limit of 80 people. Portable toilets be ordered for the event.**

### **121.17 Pitman's Parliament – Pin Design**

Cllr Hood explained that the parish council had been holding an online poll to allow the public to choose what design would go on The Haswells pin in the newly refurbished 'Pitman's parliament'. The four designs were then put on the big screen and those in attendance were asked to also vote on the design. The results were added to the online figures and the winning design was:

*"Haswell Colliery      Part of Us. Forever.      1835-1896"*

**Resolved the finalised pin design for the Haswells in the Pitmans Parliament be option 3 as described above.**

### **122.17 Charity Commission – Annual Return, The Old Recreation Ground**

Cllr Hood said that he had completed the annual return for the charity "The Old Recreation Ground" of which the councillors were trustees. He explained that as no money had been received or distributed from the charity, the process was very simple.

**RESOLVED that it be noted the completed Annual Return for the charity 'The Old Recreation Ground' had been actioned.**

### **123.17 Street Lighting – Haswell to Haswell Plough**

The Council considered the options available to the Parish Council offered by Durham County Council for street lighting from Haswell Plough to Haswell. Cllr Hood gave a presentation on the detail of the proposal and also invited former Haswell Parish Councillor John Hall to talk as he had been dealing with the issue previously.

Due to the issues of public safety and the road being the only link to amenities of the people of Haswell Plough, it was suggested that Cllr Hood and County Cllr Cochrane meet with Durham County council to discuss the issues.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Hood and County Cllr Cochrane meet with Durham County Council to discuss the issues.**

### **124.17 2018/19 Precept**

Members gave initial consideration to the income and expenditure for the Haswells for the forthcoming financial year. A first draft of the precept was displayed to the public and it was agreed that this be taken away to be considered with a view to amending or approving the precept in the January 2018 meeting.

**RESOLVED that the information be duly noted.**

### **125.17 Member's Reports**

Cllr Welch said that she and Cllr Hood had attended a training sessions on becoming 'Dementia friendly' and that she was taking a lead on the initiative for the council. She also said she was hoping

to attend an event in the near future where she was hoping to meet other communities who had completed the process.

Cllr Cook said that she had met with a new resident of Haswell Plough to introduce herself. The lady had said she has been made very welcome and was very impressed with everything that was going on.

Cllr Hartley gave a report on the review of the activities that had taken place in October 20-17. She also said that the council had submitted a bid to the AAP to fund a teenager's activity camp.

Cllr Major said that the events at Church, such as messy church and 'The Treat' had been very well attended and enjoyed by all. She also said that the day cleaning the war memorial was enjoyed by all and she passed on thanks from Rev. Anna Brooker for all the council's hard work.

Cllr Dunstone explained about an issue with one of the street lights on Windsor Terrace. A new light had been put in but there was no power to it. Count Cllr Cochrane said he would take up the issue.

Cllr Ramsay gave an update on Tuthill Quarry. He explained that there had been no further actions taken since Owen Pugh had gone into administration. However, the owners of the land, Harworth Estates, had explained to him that they were looking to sell on the land with the planning permission so they were exploring the possibility of taking over the proposal.

Cllr Hood explained that he had attended the CDALC Smaller Councils forum, and of specific interest to the council was the GDPR coming into force in 2018 which the council need to be aware of and that DCC had said at that meeting that there were DCC owned allotments within our parish which they would like to discuss with the parish council. He continued that he had investigated the request of brown street signs being installed in The Haswells at key points. He explained that the process costs £150 for each sign assessment and there was no guarantee that DCC would sign off each application as each went on its own merits.

Cllr Hood invited Cllr Karen Hawley from Peterlee Town Council to give an explanation on their initiative which Haswell Parish Council could get involved with. Cllr Hawley told those in attendance about 'Santa's Wish', an initiative to help the most vulnerable families in East Durham across Christmas. She continued that after discussions with Cllr. Hood, that it be proposed that Haswell Parish Council would be a referral point so that we could refer families to receive gifts and food, well after food banks had closed for Christmas. The council unanimously agreed to support this project.

**RESOLVED that Haswell Parish Council would be a referral point for 'Santa's Wish'.**

### **126.17 County Councillor's Update**

County Councillor Cochrane explained that he and Cllr Hood had met with the enforcement department and environmental health from DCC regarding the issues around George Street. He confirmed that they were looking at the issue with high importance.

He continued that the village had been hit by offensive graffiti again but he had got onto the Clean & Green Team and they had looked to address the issue straight away.

He said that he had attended the armistice parade in Haswell. He wanted to give his thanks to the Shotton Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade who led the parade, and also commended the council for how well the cenotaph looked.

Finally, he wanted to give plenty of notice of some planned road works which were taking place in Shotton but would have an effect on Haswell. There is 4 days of planned roadworks which will close Station Road from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018. He explained that this is obviously a main road coming out of Haswell but also a school was situated on this road meaning disruption to parents.

#### **127.17 Staffing – Appointment of new Parish Clerk**

Cllr Hood explained that Alene Ellsworth had left her position as Parish Clerk after only a couple of weeks in position. He and the council thanked her for her time with the council.

Cllr Hood then explained that a new clerk had been offered the position but the council would not be announcing their name until they returned from holiday and a contract had been given to them. He continued that they had accepted the position but wanted to ensure that they were happy with the terms and conditions before announcing. He continued that she is a CiLCA qualified clerk with over 20 years experience and is a current deputy clerk. He said that the council was very grateful to her for taking the position, that their experience would be invaluable to the council and they were looking forward to them starting.

**RESOLVED that a new person be appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council effective from 11 December 2017.**

#### **128.17 Public Participation**

The following questions and issues were raised:

Mr. Cairns asked if Haswell Parish Council would be purchasing a hamper for our last remaining World War 2 veteran, Mr. Carr. Mr. Cairns explained that he was currently in a home so the council would have to liaise with them. Cllr Gray said she knew which home Mr. Carr was living in and she would liaise. It was unanimously agreed to maintain this tradition.

Mr. Cairns also asked if Mr. Paul Levitt would be receiving a Christmas bonus as he was very well liked in the village. Cllr Hood said that council did want to give Mr. Levitt a Christmas bonus and the council would do so.

Mr. Billings asked if DCC had issued an enforcement warning on the derelict properties on Front Street. Cllr Gray said that there was people working on the properties and some windows had been put in.

Mrs. Kell said asked if anything had been done by DCC regarding the dog fouling on Blossomfield. Cllr Cochrane said that Clean & Green and the street wardens had attended 3 times, twice with Cllr Cochrane. He continued that he and Cllr Hood would speak to the lady in person if Mrs. Kell gave her details to him confidentially.

Mr. Gordon Burdon asked why some of the street lights outside his property had remained on right throughout the summer. Mr Cochrane asked Mr. Burdon to supply him with the street light numbers which are found on the base unit so he could investigate at County Hall

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the information be duly noted.

Cllr Hood thanked everyone for attending and on behalf of Haswell Parish Council wished everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. 6.30pm at St Paul’s Church Hall.**