

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 6.30pm held at St Pauls Church, Haswell

Present

Cllrs C Hood (Chair), J. Cook, G. Dunstone, O. Gray, E. Major, H. Milburn, B. Ramsay & S Hartley

County Councillors: E. Huntington & I. Cochrane

In Attendance - 17 members of the public

In opening the meeting the Chair wished everyone present a Happy New Year.

1.18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor K Welch & County Councillor E Huntington.

2.18 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.

3.18 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29th November and 20th December 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of these meetings, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record subject to Councillor Hartley as being shown as in attendance at the meeting held on 29th November 2017.

4.18 Police Briefing

P.C Dean Wilson offered his apologies for not being able to attend and the Clerk gave his report verbally in his absence detailing the statistics since the last meeting. **RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.**

5.18 Warden Update

There were no wardens in attendance.

6.18 Haswell Church Street – Street Lighting Removal

The Chair welcomed Kevin Robson, Senior Project Manager, Technical Services, Regeneration and Local Services, Durham County Council and his colleague Bob Major to the meeting to discuss an SLA for these lights, (options previously considered). The background to the decision made by DCC to remove these lights was given and Members and members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions of the officers. During the discussion details of fatalities were given by residents. The Officer replied that they had no recorded fatalities within the proposed de illumination site along Church Street. DCC have the power but not the duty to provide street lighting. **RESOLVED the Officers investigate the details of the fatalities and this matter be considered further at the next meeting.**

7.18 Finance

RESOLVED the monthly accounts, as circulated, giving a total of £90,078.66 be approved and paid.

8.18 Planning

No details submitted by Durham County Council this month.

9.18 Opening Of Windsor Terrace Play Area

- i. Update on LEADER funding – variation to grant funding requested
- ii. Update of the actions taken since the last meeting – payment of the outstanding invoice to Wicksteed Leisure Limited, following approval at this meeting.
- iii. Propose an opening date – it was **RESOLVED the play area be officially prior to the Easter School Holidays and a date be confirmed at the next meeting.**

10.18 Member's Reports

Councillor Ramsay reported there was no further progress with the Quarry site pending the change in ownership.

Councillor Hartley reported that whilst the youth funding bid she had submitted had been unsuccessful she was seeking other alternative funding sources for activities. Arrangements were in hand for activities in the February holidays.

Councillor Dunstone reported on the New Year's Eve Party which had been a success with all of the 8- tickets on offer being sold and he thanked everyone involved in making it such a success with a special thanks to Ian Cairns and I Gallimore.

Councillor Milburn gave an update on the former school building which was scheduled to be demolished in the next two to three months. There would be formal consultation with the Parish Council in 2019 and the site developers/owners had assured they would keep her informed on progress.

Councillor Cook thanked County Councillor Cochrane for his help with reports made on pot holes in Mazine Terrace and fly tipping at various locations in and coming out of the village. She had feedback from residents about the residents pulling together and breathing life into the two villages. The Chair referred to the activity that had gone before and the hopes and aspirations the Parish Council had for the future and the partnerships that were being formed. He reported on the Haswells Hub Community Interest Company that had been formed to create a body for the partnership working to feed into.

11.18 County Councillor's Update Report

County Councillor Cochrane reported on a 4 day road closure that would commence on 12 February on the C15 Station Road, 10 February between the junctions of Salters Lane and Front Street. He also reported on the proposal out for comment of the re location of the county archivist and Registrar service from County Hall to Mount Oswald.

Councillor Huntington reported on the various health committees that she sat on and gave brief details of the discussions held. She reported 24,000 people had attended the Lumiere in Durham City and they had been put forward for two awards. There was interest in the Aykley heads site which it was hoped would result in over 6,000 new jobs being created.

12.18 Clerk's Progress Report

The update report from the Clerk was circulated for the consideration of Members.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) Endorsement of the action taken in renewing the Parish Council's Insurance Policy with Zurich Municipal on a three year long term agreement, be given.
- (ii) Approval be given for the Clerk to attend training relating to the Audit at Billingham on 21 March 2018.
- (iii) Approval be given for the Clerk to work an additional 20 hours maximum, (as a one off project) to back key the accounts from April 2017 to date.
- (iv) The Hazelwell Centre be advised the Parish Council were unable to take their request for funding any further at this current time, as the information requested to support the application had not been received.
- (v) Information contained in the report relating to the "Monster Mash Project" (Halloween 2017), general data protection regulations update, Spring into Action Advice and Guidance Day 23 February 2018, youth fund application, be noted.
- (vi) A further report be made on the SLA for the highways worker to a future meeting, (following further details being provided at the meeting).

13.18 Precept 2018/19

RESOLVED the precept for Haswell Parish Council for 2018/19 to be set for the next financial year at £68,501 with the LCTSS grant of £9,671 making a total income from DCC of £78,172. This represented a reduction in Council Tax Band D property of £147.60, just under 7%, a saving of £10.71 for the year. The budget detail was to be agreed. In agreeing this level of precept reduction the Clerk did advise this type of reduction and use of reserves, (amounting to £5,559.00), was not sustainable in the long term.

14.18 Public Participation

Items raised included:-

- (a) Tidiness of the village
- (b) The youth fund grant
- (c) Funding for the Hazelwell Centre
- (d) Haswell Front Street

There was considerable discussion on the funding for the Hazelwell Centre. It was stressed the Parish Council had a responsibility to residents and the public purse and could not make any grants without being confident monies were being spent responsibly and fully accountable by the organisation receiving funding. The Centre had been asked to provide information, as detailed at the November meeting. They had been unable to do and had declined to attend a further meeting with the Parish Council held on 11 January 2018. The Parish Council had made the offer to support the Centre, subject to them producing what had been requested. The Parish Council felt this was totally reasonable and in line with other organisations offering funding (regular monitoring, attendance figures, opening hours, cash flows etc).

15.18 Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED the next meeting be held at St Paul's Church Hall, Church View, Haswell, DH6 2DT on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 6.30pm.