

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 6.30pm held at St Pauls Church, Haswell

Present

Cllrs C HOOD (Chair), O Gray, E Major, J Cook, S Hartley, H Milburn, A Wainwright & W Ramsay

County Councillors: E Huntington & I Cochrane

In Attendance – 9 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in the work of the Parish Council and attendance.

80.19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor H Milburn.

81.19 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. Councillor Hood and Cochrane declared their interest in the Haswell & District Mencap grant application.

82.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26th June 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

83.19 Police & Street Warden Briefing

The Police were not in attendance at the meeting however a copy of their report had been previously circulated and was read out at the meeting. There were no items to pass on to the Officers. **RESOLVED the report be noted.**

84. FINANCE

(a) To approve the monthly accounts The payments for August & September 2019 were submitted to Members for approval of the accounts presented for payment and a schedule of accounts already approved for payment during the recess period that were urgent.

**RESOLVED the monthly accounts, as listed below be approved and paid as presented:-
(already paid)**

Print2gogo	120.00	banners for the carnival
Lee Robinson (DJ)	150.00	Carnival
Quadrophonics	220.00	Band Carnival
Sweetie treats	400.00	candy floss, pop corn, ice cones-carnival
Party forever	105.00	balloons and helium-carnival
Floorfillers ent	150.00	face painting-carnival
Fairbairn marquees	4,423.00	marquees and tables, chairs-carnival
Northern Productions	1,920.00	stage sound and lighting-carnival
Phoenix Eye Security	1,529.88	security cover-carnival
Adventure Access	255.00	summer activities

Party time inflatables	820.00	inflatables – carnival
Kevin Mangles	475.00	children’s entertainment-carnival
Print2gogo	150.00	banners scarecrow
John F Hunt	1,237.81	generator and tower light-carnival
Mazars	480.00	audit fee
Medics Uk	525.00	medical cover- carnival
Zurich Municipal	307.45	insurance cover- carnival
Teesdale Event Services	454.00	toilets- carnival
Mencap	289.66	recharge signs and bunting (village events)
Approved at the meeting		
Cochrane’s Kelvin Travel	1,570.00	summer trips – transport
Durham County Council	150.00	lease for the noticeboard
K Tweddle	40.37	stationery
Mencap	455.00	small grant
Peter McKenzie Methodist church	200.00	small grant
Friendship Club	200.00	small grant
Billy Ramsay	213.61	recharge various (see receipt)
Wave	72.62	water charges

(b) Bank Reconciliations for July & August 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were accepted.

(c) Notice of Conclusion of Audit – External Auditor Report & Certificate

A copy of the external auditor’s report and certificate had been circulated to each member. On the basis of their review of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in Mazar’s opinion the information in Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

One matter not affecting their opinion had been drawn to the attention of the authority. “The council holds general reserves of £173,265 compared to its annual precept of £68,501 and expenditure of £67,895. The Council has no powers to hold revenue reserves for general purposes other than for reasonable working capital and should consider ear marking funds for specific purposes”. With this in mind the Clerk recommended the adoption of a Use of Reserves Policy, this to include an amount covering an average of 4 months turnover; monies to cushion any potential increase in precept, (last year an amount of £13,582 was used from reserves to achieve this), and, finally, monies to be ear marked for future capital schemes ie improvements to the Dent Close play area, Hessewell Crescent, Haswell Plough Play Area and the former bowling green site, and potentially for a new allotment site. These schemes to be costed and included in the use of reserves policy. **RESOLVED the report be accepted and the use of reserves policy be adopted.**

(d) 2020/21 Budget Planning – notification from DCC

The Clerk advised receipt of correspondence from DCC advising the LCTRS grant applicable to HPC for 2020/21 was £9,461.00 with a net position of £542.04. This information would be used in considering and agreeing the precept for 2020/21. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

85.19 PLANNING

(a) Harehill Farm, construction of dwelling (partly retrospective)

(b) 14 East Villas, proposed detached garage

Details of these applications had been sent to all Members during the recess period, and no comments had been offered. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

86.19 STAFFING – APPRENTICESHIP

Further consideration was given to the employment of an apprentice gardener in the parish. In considering this Members asked did the post need to be offered as an apprenticeship or would it be possible to offer this as a part time post. **RESOLVED a further report be awaited.**

87.19 EVENTS

(i) The Carnival

A short de brief was held and it was agreed a meeting be held after the close of the next or future meeting to discuss the 2020 event and evaluate what the event should look like. It was agreed the date be set at Saturday 15th August 2020. Members noted the reply from the resident who had sent in a complaint and they thanked her for her patience and assured the items and issues raised would be considered in the planning for next year's event.

(ii) Scarecrow Competition

The Chair advised banners were going up and the event was to run from 30th September to 4th October 2019 with a presentation event at The Hive on Friday 4th October 2019.

(iii) Pit Disaster memorial – 28th September 2019

The Chair reported other villages were joining in with their banners and there would be a small gathering afterwards at The Hive.

(iv) Halloween House Competition

The Chair asked if this was agreed once again and the council agreed to go ahead with awards being given after the next Parish Meeting. **RESOLVED a Halloween House Competition be held again.**

(v) Remembrance Sunday

It was agreed the service be held on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday to avoid clashing with other events in the area.

(vi) Winter Events, Giving Event, Christmas Trees, Light Switch on

Councillor Ramsay advised the trees had been ordered. Arrangements for the lighting of the tree were to be finalised.

(vii) Christmas Lights – request received from the Hazelwell Centre

After consideration it was **RESOLVED this request for the lights to be switched on at the Hazelwell Centre should be agreed with a suggestion that a local school child should be asked to turn on the lights, with the Parish Council organising a competition to do that, agreeing the date and time of the event.**

88.19 MEMBER'S REPORTS

The meeting received reports from Local Members.

Councillor Major reported problems with overgrown hedges and an overhanging tree. **RESOLVED the overhanging tree be reported to DCC for attention.**

Councillor Ramsay reported issues with two dog, off their leads, causing issues in an area in the village which whilst this had been reported to the Police was not included in the update report. **RESOLVED this be reported once again to the Police.** Issues were also given on a group carrying out dog training sessions on an open space picnic area in the village without permission. The County Councillor offered to take up this issue on behalf of the Parish Council.

Councillor Ramsay also reported he had been approached once again by residents regarding the unkempt and dangerous state of the former MUGA pitch. **RESOLVED the Parish Council contact the Hazelwell Centre about this issue again.**

Councillor Cook reported she had received several requests form dog owners for more dog bins in the village. **RESOLVED Members advise the Clerk of the locations and she would then submit requests to DCC for new dog waste bins.** Councillor Cook reported receipt of a request for a memorial bench, it was advised they would need to apply to DCC for this.

Councillor Milburn joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

Councillor Hartley asked about allotment provisions and the Chair advised the Parish Council were to carry out consultation on this item.

Councillor Gray gave an update on the uptake of the free dog bags which she said was going really well. She reported on her meeting with the representative with Kompan Ltd regarding the playground improvement for Dent Close. She asked if consideration could be given to having floral displays at Haswell Plough and this was agreed. She advised she was extremely frustrated there had been no progress in clearing the walkways in the village. The County Councillor assured he would chase up progress on behalf of the parish council.

The Chair asked for progress with the noticeboards which was given. **RESOLVED the Clerk be given authority to order the noticeboard for Haswell Plough.** He spoke on aspirations to make use the former bowling green site with perhaps new sports changing rooms and he suggested the parish council begin to develop proposals for developing future use for the area. He reported on Tanfield Village being awarded the best small village "In Bloom" and he would love for the Haswells to aspire to this and to make a start on improving their floral displays.

90.19 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE REPORT

County Councillor Cochrane reported demolition contract late November 2019 early December for the former school. It was agreed the Parish Council express a wish for the site to be kept "in reserve" for the possible development of a school in the future bearing in mind the increase in houses in the village. Big thanks were expressed to Alan Houghton, DCC Officer, for his efforts, support and work in the village.

County Councillor Huntington reported works on the new County Council headquarters were underway. There had been lots of cultural events on over the summer and were continuing. She has received many complaints re speeding vehicles. She spoke on Neighbourhood Funding where all requests were valid, however funds were restricted with competing demands, making allocating it very difficult. She spoke on parking issues at Our Lady of Lourdes RC School. A health service update was provided. Councillor Cochrane complimented staff at North Tees where he had recently visited. A report was given on recent training regarding the growth of right wing and fascism with radicalisation in groups, schools, armed forces, all types of organisations, need to be aware in or communities.

91.19 CLERK'S MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

The update report from the Clerk was circulated for the consideration of Members. The report covered allotment provision/consultation, improvement of the play areas, the winter bedding planting scheme, power disconnection of a street light at The Paddock, the external auditor's report and use of reserves policy, grass cutting and other grounds maintenance equipment, consideration of small grant applications and telephone contact with the parish council.

RESOLVED:-

- (a) Further consideration be given to the type of consultation to be carried out relating to allotments;**
- (b) The order for the equipment as detailed in the proposal received from Kompan at a cost of £12,552.16 ex vat, be placed;**
- (c) Improvements to the play area at Haswell Plough be included in future budget provision;**
- (d) A site meeting be held to confirm the power disconnection to a street light;**
- (e) The external auditor's report be accepted, and the use of reserves policy as detailed earlier in the meeting and in the Clerk's report, be accepted;**
- (f) Budget provisions be made for a replacement ride on grass cutter for the 2020 season;**

- (g) Small grants be agreed to Peter McKenzie Methodist Church, £200.00; The Friendship Club, £200.00; Haswell & District Mencap £455.00;**
- (h) The Manager of the Giant Steps Nursery be contacted to confirm arrangements for those making telephone enquiries to the Parish Council.**

92.19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair invited members of the public present to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest. It was asked what progress there was on the former Grey Horse and the now burnt out house. There was also concern at the empty house in Pesspool Terrace. Concern was expressed at speeding traffic and there was a suggestion of a community speed van. Fencing at the town house development being vandalised was discussed.

93.19. DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed the next Parish Council Meeting be held at St Paul's Church Hall, Church View, Haswell, DH6 2DT the next meeting would be on **Wednesday 30th October 2019 at 6.30pm with if possible, a meeting of the Events Working Party held immediately following the conclusion of the meeting with all Members encouraged to attend and be involved.**