

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 6.30pm held at St Pauls Church, Haswell

**Present**

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

County Councillors: E Huntington & I Cochrane

In Attendance – 13 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**106.19 Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**107.19 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 Cochrane declared an interest in the item relating to Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

**108.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Matters Arising

Minute Number 103.19 Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School - Request for financial support

Further consideration was given to this request. Councillor Cook advised that when she was involved in the meetings with DCC when the Haswell School was to close, she was given verbal assurances that no children in the Haswells would need to pay for transport to school. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED at this point in time no contribution be given to Our Lady of Lourdes School towards the cost of hiring mini buses to take children of the Haswells to school.**

**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.**

**109.19 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. **RESOLVED the report be noted.**

**110.19 FINANCE**

(a) To approve the monthly accounts The payments for October 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)**

Mutts Butts	22.45	dog bags
Cash	80.00	scarecrow comp prize money
P Levitt	111.40	various (see sheet)
J Cook	20.65	bunting village events

Approved at the meeting:

Durham County Council	425.03	pitch marking and 2 grass cuts
GL & NR Tate	62.40	tractor fuel

(b) Bank Reconciliation for October 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, was accepted.

(c) Budget Planning

Members were asked to advise the Clerk of any schemes or proposals they hoped to carry out in the next financial year to assist with budget setting. It was confirmed the Council wished to improve the villages' planting schemes. **RESOLVED this be included in the estimates of expenditure being prepared by the Clerk.**

### **111. 20 Council Tax Base, Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant Allocation and Request for Precept 2020/21**

Members were advised of a receipt of a letter from DCC relating to this matter. The net position for Haswell Parish Council is £1,212.72 and the parish council were asked to determine its precept requirement for 2020/21 for no later than 24 January 2019. The Clerk asked for permission to move the meeting in January for ward a week, this year and for future years to make sure the parish council had agreed the precept for this to be communicated to DCC in good time. This was agreed.

### **112.19 PLANNING**

There were no planning details reported. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

### **113.19 MEMBER'S REPORTS**

The meeting received reports from Local Members. Councillors Major reported there had been incidents of people being on the parish council playing fields shining torches into the house and she asked for this to be reported to the Police.

Councillor Ramsay reported the directional sign at the crossroads along to Easington/Shotton had been interfered with and was giving false directions to motorists.

Councillor Milburn had asked that the issue of the community bonfire be discussed at the meeting. The annual bonfire, organised by the community, had always taken place without incident, however this year it had seemed to have been out of control, with at one point allegedly 5 commercial vehicles turning up and putting tyres on the fire. The fire had become toxic and dangerous. There had also been one organised at Haswell Plough which had also been out of control. Councillor Wainwright advised he had reported these to DCC and he suggested that Public Space protection Order be requested from DCC for this and other open green areas in the village. Councillor Milburn had been extremely disappointed at the negative comments made on social media and it was agreed this item be considered further at the Events Working Party to be held in January 2020.

Councillor Wainwright reported a resident had approached him about the development at George Street and he had taken this up on their behalf with the Planning Department DCC.

Councillor Gray reported there had been another incident of fly tipping at the top of Mazine Terrace. It was asked if DCC could be requested to put mobile CCTV in place as this was a constant problem. It was also suggested the parish council look into the purchase of a mobile system, however it was noted there were privacy issues associated with this. The take up of dog bags was going although it was felt it was being abused at some locations and it was suggested that this be highlighted on the parish council's social media sites. She reported on the new items installed in the play area.

The Chair gave an update with the noticeboard advising it was to be delivered the following week. He spoke on how keen he was to get the part time vacancy advertised and he asked that progress be made with this. He asked that efforts be made to get support from DCC to improve the picnic area

and pit memorial area as it was suffering from repeated fly tipping and was being neglected. He spoke on wishes to improve the planting schemes in the village with a short and long term horticultural plan and increase in the budget. He gave an update on the Grey Horse. He expressed his huge disappointment that it seemed the Haswells were being constantly let down by Durham County Council and whilst the Parish Council were working hard to improve the villages and provide community facilities and events, the lack of investment and attention and almost a decade of neglect were obvious. It was suggested a representative of DCC be invited to attend a future meeting to speak to the parish council about their concerns and how we could work together to tackle issues. In closing he invited everyone along to the tree lighting on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30 and 7.00pm. **RESOLVED an invitation be extended to an Officer from DDC to come along to a future meeting.**

#### **113.19 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S UPDATE REPORT**

County Councillor Huntington reported she had met recently with some young eco warriors and was extremely impressed with their feedback, comments and ideas for change. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted**

#### **114.19 CLERK'S MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

The update report from the Clerk was circulated for the consideration of Members. The report covered Dent Close Play Area, the new noticeboard and events. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

#### **115.19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair invited members of the public present to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest.

Residents of George Street expressed their frustration with fly tipping in their area and he asked could the area be hi lighted for mobile CCTV cameras by DCC.

Progress on the demolition of the former school was requested.

It was suggested funding be applied for by the Parish Council to the wind farm fund.

It was reported there had been fly tipping a High Haswell where roads had been blocked as a result.

#### **116.19. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 with a meeting of the Events working party being held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 6.30pm.**

In closing the meeting the Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas.