

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 6.30pm held virtually and live on social media

**Present:-**

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

**51.20 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Hartley, J Cook and County Councillor E Huntington.

**52.20 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. Councillors Hood, Milburn, Welch and Major all declared an interest in the discussion on Mencap/Lisa Dixon Centre.

**53.20 The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**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.**

**54.20 External Audit**

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 for final approval by Council before it is sent to Auditors.

Members were asked to note the alteration to figure in Box2 – Total other receipts, increase of £224.00 representing interest from savings account now included.

**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.**

**55.20 Finance**

(a) To approve the monthly accounts payments for June/July

The payments for July 2020 submitted to Members, previously circulated, listed below three of which had already been approved for payment, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

<b>Payments to:</b>	goods/service received	Amount	£
Lloyd Ltd	blades (x3)		£114.98
Horns Garden Centre	compost and plant food		81.92
Microshade	internal audit		144.00
<b>For approval to pay:-</b>			
Durham County Council	web site supporting and hosting		736.51
GI & NR Tate	tractor fuel (June & July)		187.20
Lloyds Ltd	oil		26.12
Ramsey	various (see invoices)		
	Old Kubota	535.00	1,462.44
	New grass cutter	927.44	
Wicksteed	play area repairs		749.21
Peterlee Town Council	bedding plants		187.49

**RESOLVED** the action taken in making the payments as listed, totalling £3,689.87, be endorsed.

(b) To consider bank reconciliations for April, May & June 2020

Copes of the bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED the reconciliations be accepted.**

(c) Letter of thanks – Giant Steps Nursery

The letter of thanks was read out for the meeting. **RESOLVED the letter be accepted.**

#### **56.20 New Draft Code Of Conduct – For Consultation**

Members had been previously circulated with a copy of important consultation taking place where councils were encouraged to consider and submit any comments or suggested changes to the proposed draft nation Code of Conduct. Following consideration it was **RESOLVED no feedback be offered by the Parish Council.**

#### **57.20 Appointment Of Part Time Grounds Person**

Draft details for this newly created vacancy with the Parish Council were circulated for consideration and approval prior to it going out to advert. The Clerk outlined the process and timetable and this was discussed in detail then agreed. **RESOLVED this vacancy be advertised and Councillors Ramsay and Welch, along with the Clerk, form the selected Panel to consider applications when received.**

#### **58.20 Horticulture Plan for the Haswells**

Members were requested to consider establishing a working group being established to consider this further and start to develop a plan for the villages. Members were keen to improve the green environment of the parish and it was agreed this group would develop ideas, work out costs, what type of improvements could be made, invite members of the public to be part of the group and then report back to council for approval. **RESOLVED Councillors A Wainwright, O Gray and C R Hood make up the group for the initial meeting.**

#### **59.20 Planning**

There was one planning application received the details of which were as follows:-

- 15 Gloucester Terrace, single storey extension

**RESOLVED no comments be offered on the planning application.**

#### **60.20 Police Report**

The Police had offered their apologies to the meeting and the Clerk read out their progress report to the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

#### **61.20 Member's Reports**

Councillor Major had nothing of concern to report.

Councillor Ramsay spoke about the dangerous condition of the MUGA pitch. It was suggested contact be made with DCC re the conditions of the lease of the facility. There was discussion of grass cutting along the parish boundaries and it was agreed this be looked into further. **RESOLVED this matter be taken up with DCC.**

Councillor Wainwright gave a detailed reply on the issues he had taken up with DCC. The Grey Horse where DCC Officers were working with the owner with a view to seeing some further voluntary progress with the site; George Street where enforcement action was being taken and Front Street where the legal and environmental Teams of DCC were to carry out follow up action. Members recorded their sincere thanks for the efforts of Councillor Wainwright with these matters of concern

on behalf of the parish council. It was agreed the parish council needed to continue to press for action from DCC on these matters. **RESOLVED further progress be awaited.**

Councillor Welch asked about the former school site and whether it could be grassed over. **RESOLVED this request be made to DCC.** She reported on constant attacks of fly tipping on the road between Haswell Station and South Hetton which had the potential to cause a road traffic accident and she asked for this to be reported and a request made for further action such as CCTV/signage.

**RESOLVED this be reported and suggested to DCC.** In closing she spoke about how well the village and the various services such as the chemist, newsagents, Nursery and Lisa Dixon Centre had coped through the very difficult times during the COVID pandemic.

**At this point in the meeting Councillors Hood, Milburn, Welch and Major declared an interest in the Lisa Dixon Centre.**

There was discussion on the holiday hunger schemes and helping those in the village that were vulnerable. The parish council would usually help support the costs of various holiday activities however in the current circumstances these trips would not be happening. It was suggested the parish council make contact with Mencap/Lisa Dixon Centre to see if there was any way the parish council could help them. **RESOLVED this course of action be followed and Members be kept advised.**

Councillor Gray offered items on behalf of Councillor Cook. She reported her concerns at speeding traffic along the back street at East Villas. This would be passed on to the Police for attention. She also passed on complaints at the fence that had been put up on the site of the former mart; this had been taken up with DCC already. She also reported on flooding on the road next to the former pit, (Mazine Terrace) where the pavement was damaged. **RESOLVED these items be passed on for attention.**

Councillor Gray asked if the Council would consider a discount for the football teams that had used the pitches last year on their fees for this season as they had not been able to play all of their games due to COVID19. **RESOLVED it be agreed this season pitch fees be reduced by 50% to £100.00.**

She reported the lost tablet had not been reclaimed and she asked could a notice be placed in the new noticeboard. She asked could litter bins be provided on the parish playing fields, at the junction with Green Lane, along from the seat; and one at Pesspool Terrace/Salters Lane, along from the seat. **RESOLVED these requests be made to DCC with the offer from HPC they would finance the installation of the bins.** Councillor Gray reported on the damage being made by a large wagon parking on the path/road on the corner of Gloucester Terrace.

The Chair asked the council to look into investing in changing rooms to support the people using the parish council's playing fields. He suggested the site of the former bowling green, as discussed previously, would be an excellent location for such an investment. He suggested a two team, plus officials sized porta cabin along with a mess room facility. The Clerk asked for it to be noted it was disappointing the parish council needed to consider such improvements, considering changing rooms and facilities were already in place next to the parish playing fields in the Hazelwell Centre. **RESOLVED this proposal be costed and brought back to council for consideration. He reported on the successful application for a de fibrillator to be sited at the Lisa Dixon Centre. The Clerk reported a grant from County Councillors Neighborhood Funding Budget had been obtained in the sum of £1,398.00.**

## **62.20 County Councillor's Update Report**

The County Councillor(s) were not able to be at the meeting.

## **63.20 Public Participation**

The Chair to invited members of the public present to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest. Items were given as follows:

- A request for the Dent Close play area to be cleaned
- A request for a dog bin on the parish playing fields
- Clearing of vehicles at the Grey Horse
- Congratulations to Jodie and Johnnie on the refurbishment of the Oddfellows Arms
- The wish for a live broadcast of the meeting to continue, even when the parish could meet face to face.

#### **64.20 Date & Time of the Next Meeting**

A recess period was agreed for August 2020, and the next meeting would not be until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6.30pm it was hoped this would be in St Pauls church, in their meeting room. The Parish Council intended to maintain its live broadcasting wherever and whenever possible and agreed they would be prepared to finance the installation and internet costs if necessary to St Paul's. It was **RESOLVED the Clerk be given authority to pay any urgent accounts, in line with Financial Regulations.**

In closing the meeting the Char wished everyone a great summer and asking them to take care and stay well.