

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 6.30pm held virtually and live on social media

Present:-

CLLrs C HOOD (Chair), E Major, O Gray, S Hartley, H Milburn, J Cook, K Welch & W Ramsey
County Councillors I Cochrane & L Hovvels

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, both Councillors and members of the public watching on social media.

1.21 Apologies

No apologies for absence had been received.

2.21 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.

3.21 The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25th November 2020 & Special Meeting held on 14th December 202

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

Matters Arising

Letter of thanks from St Paul's Church following the grant made

Members had been previously circulated with a copy of a thankyou letter received following the grant made. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

4.21 Finance

(a) To approve the monthly accounts payments for December/January 2021

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

Accounts Already Paid

zoom	standard monthly pro	14.39
Pena Pat Testing	lights on the church	300.00
O Gray	various (see receipts)	73.00
GL & NR Tate	tractor fuel	62.40
Arco	PPE	80.98
P Levitt	PPE	219.98
Amazon	power washer	103.99
For approval to pay:-		
Mazars	external audit	480.00
Ramsey	various (see receipts)	1,225.78
	Incl xmas trees 2@ £295.00	
	Tyres and repairs to tractor £315.35	
GL & NR Tate	tractor fuel	109.20
P Levitt	various (see receipts)	25.45

RESOLVED the action taken in making the payments as listed, totalling £2,695.17, be endorsed.

(b) To consider the bank reconciliations for November and December 2020

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

5.21 To consider estimates of expenditure for 2021/22 and agree the precept to be requested from Durham County Council

Members had been circulated with detail of the receipts and payment by budget heading up to the end of December 2020 and the report of the Clerk regarding the estimates for 2021/22. **Following consideration it was RESOLVED the parish council freeze its precept request to DCC at £69,755.76 with the LCTSS of £9,386.00, giving a Band D property a precept of £147.60. This would involve the use of parish council reserves to balance the budget, detail of which would be provided to a future meeting along with a detailed budget report.**

6.21 To review the Policy on Reserves and Balances, Training, Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, Publication Scheme, Council's procedure for handling request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 & Complaints Procedure

Members had been requested to review the policies and procedures listed. **RESOLVED the policies and procedures be accepted.**

7.21 Horticulture Plan for the Haswells

A verbal update by the Clerk on progress with grounds maintenance and horticulture in the village as prepared and given by the Groundstaff. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

8.21 Planning

Land to the West of 12 Grousemoor

Use of land for the siting of a max of 13 no bungalow style mobile homes to be used as residential accommodation for the over 55s

Details of this application had been previously circulated. **RESOLVED no comment be offered.**

9.21 Police Report/Update

The Clerk advised there was an addition to the Easington Team, PCSO Holly Couzens, and details of the report were given to the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

10.21 Expression of Interest – Playing Fields Haswell

The Chair and the Clerk gave a verbal update report following the special meeting held on 14th December 2020 and the Chair stressed the rolling lease offer had been made strictly on the proviso of continued community use and to acceptable terms and conditions to be agreed. The Club had asked for further details on the site re boundaries, electric water gas at the site. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED the Clerk obtain the necessary details on the land boundaries from the Land Registry, however it would be up to Durham City FC to carry out any site surveys.**

11.21 Member's Reports

Councillor Ramsey advised he would be picking up the planters soon and was happy to store them at the farm as space was an issue at the site cabin. He spoke about the pot holes in the road at Mazine Terrace, which he understood were included in an ongoing DCC work programme.

Councillor Hartley did not have any issues to report.

Councillor Major passed on the PCCC thanks for lighting up the Church over the Christmas period. She asked if requests could be made for additional grit bins at Windsor Terrace, Kestrel/Lapwing,

Gloucester and Kingston Terrace. **RESOLVED these requests be submitted and if necessary the Parish Council offer to finance this provision.**

Councillor Welch asked if it might be possible to thank and acknowledge the efforts and work of all of the key workers in the village, perhaps using a floral display/a rainbow bed. **RESOLVED this be actioned.**

Councillor Milburn reported receiving lots of positive messages for the efforts and work of the groundsmen following the recent bad weather. She gave an update on behalf of the Lisa Dixon Centre advising they were providing packed lunches during term time and hampers under the Feeding Families Initiative. She also urged residents to get in touch if they needed help or support. She asked that it be noted consultation being held with residents on proposals for the parish playing fields. She asked if the telephone support, "Helping Hands" offered during the first lockdown could be revised and she offered to be part of a rota to achieve this.

Councillor Cook wished everyone a Happy New Year. She reported on the pot holes at Mazine terrace and she said the road needed to be resurfaced, not simply filling pot holes in. It had also been suggested the trench next to the road had been filled in which may account for the recent flooding. She also reported the former pit car park needed attention also. She suggested some well being/activity posts on what to do during lockdown could be made on the Parish Council social media and it was agreed she work with the Clerk on this and pass onto the Chairman to post.

Councillor Grey joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

She thanked the groundsmen for their work during recent snowy weather; she asked if it would be possible to concentrate efforts on the junctions in the villages. It was asked if there had been any progress with the interest in the piece of land at Haswell Plough; the Clerk assured she would chase this up with DCC. She had a request from residents that the minutes be posted in the noticeboard, the Clerk said she would do that.

The Chair asked about a permanent electricity supply for the Christmas Trees. **RESOLVED the Clerk get prices and report back to a future meeting for a Christmas plan to be agreed for 2021.**

12.21 County Councillor's Update Report

County Councillor Hovvels reported there was a criteria that could be used on line for applying for grit bins. She had been in Haswell Plough recently and had experienced for herself how serious the pot holes were and she had reported them immediately. Quad bikes were causing issues and had been reported. As reported at a previous meeting there was an environment grant of £500.00 available and this was funded from the spoils of crushing cars following enforcement action taken by DCC. There was to be an 8am – 8pm use of County Hall for the roll out of the vaccine with front line staff being vaccinated. County Councillor Hovvels reported on dogs damaging farmer's livestock. She asked what are the Parish Council's plans for the next 4 years so that she can support where possible, she commented on the forthcoming elections and being at the starting gate to work with local county councillors. She made reference to a grant application submitted for the Haswell Line to the Area Action Partnership.

County Councillor Cochrane said it was a first for him to be on a virtual meeting. He spoke about an incident in Burt Close where a car went into the fence, at this point the Clerk read out a letter of thanks from the Lisa Dixon Centre following this incident, recording their thanks to the works of the Parish Council Groundsmen, County Councillor Cochrane thanked everyone that helped from the various agencies. He spoke about Station Road field house fencing becoming a "rat run" but had been reported for action. He confirmed roadworks to Mazine Terrace had been placed on the maintenance rota. He spoke on Santas Wish and NHB funding granted by him towards the cost of a de fibrillator for the villages. He confirmed the provision of grit bins worked on a points system. He reported the Methodist Church had now been closed and would be missed. In closing he thanked

everyone for their support. **Chair thanked both County Councillors for joining the meeting and for their feedback and updates.**

13.21 Public Participation

The Chair invited members of the public to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest. The public raised the following items and the Chair where possible, gave immediate feedback/support:-

Grit bins

Parish Playing Fields – the need for adequate parking

The results of the Christmas Lights competition

George Street Planning Application details – that were available on DCC's planning portal

Cycle tracks

A request to improve the play area/park at Dent Close

Real Christmas tree and lights

Snow clearing thanks to the Parish and finally

They had enjoyed the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input and encouraged everyone to stay safe and well.

14.21 Date & Time of the Next Meeting – the next meeting shall be 24th February 2021 at 6.30pm (via Zoom)