

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 6.30pm held virtually and live on social media

Present:-

CLLrs C HOOD (Chair), E Major, O Gray, S Hartley, H Milburn, A Wainwright & W Ramsey
County Councillor I Cochrane

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

15.21 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors J Cook and K Welch.

16.21 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. None were received.

17.21 The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20th January 2021

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.

Matters Arising

Christmas Lights Competition

The Clerk advised the most creative house was awarded to a resident in Kestrel Way, they kindly donated their prize to the Lisa Dixon Centre/Mencap. The brightest house was awarded to a resident in Faraday Terrace. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted and the action taken in awarding the prize of £15.00 per house, be endorsed.**

18.21 Finance

(a) To approve the monthly accounts payments for January/February 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
Zurich Municipal	insurance premium	2,495.60
Mazars	external audit	480.00
Land Registry	search fee for docs	77.82
Kestrel Way	Most creative Christmas Lights	15.00
Faraday Terrace	brightest lights	15.00
For approval to pay:-		
GL & NR Tate	tractor fuel	62.40
K Tweddle	various (see receipts)	58.08
Rialtas	accounts software support	148.80
North East Ambulance Service	NHS AED & cabinet	1,209.60
P Levitt	rainbow bed	69.98

RESOLVED the action taken in making the payments as listed, totalling £4,646.67, be endorsed.

(b) To consider the bank reconciliation for January 2021

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

19.21 Additional Local Council Tax Support Grant for 2021/22

The Clerk reported there had been an offer from DCC of a one off payment to Town & Parishes where the tax base had been reduced and this had been accepted. The Clerk was recommending to council they treat this £243.84 as an additional one off unbudgeted income next year and this course of action was agreed. **RESOLVED the action taken in this regard, be endorsed.**

20.21 Neighbourhood Funding Grant Application - Changing Rooms, Haswell

The Clerk provided an update that an application had been made for NHB grant funding of £10,000 from County Councillor Cochrane. The cost of the cabin for use as changing rooms was approximately £50,000, plus the costs of ground works and the supply of utilities to the unit. Whilst other sources of grant funding would be pursued the Clerk sought Council approval to match fund/provide the shortfall of funding with this proposal. **RESOLVED the Parish Council agree to match fund or if necessary finance the shortfall of this project.**

21.21 Horticulture Plan for the Haswells

An update was given on progress with grounds maintenance and horticulture in the village in the notes of the Haswell in Bloom Meeting held on 17th February 2021. There were several items which required further consideration and discussion. One of the items was the purchase or hire of a bowser to water the bedding plants. A Local Member suggested he would get a price for this and it could be considered at the next meeting. Progress on the Rainbow bed was being made and feedback was positive. It was suggested the tyres on the rims that had been organised to be used for planters should also be put out as planters if they could be painted bright colours. It was felt this could perhaps be a community project. It was suggested there be tree type planters placed at junctions and the entrances to the villages and the front street needing colour. Whilst supporting this idea a Local Member asked if other options could be considered and it was asked if a planting scheme package could be considered of types and locations of planting. Local Members were also encouraged to provide their ideas and suggestions. **RESOLVED the Clerk, in conjunction with the grounds staff and councillors, prepare a proposal/Horticulture Plan for Council to consider and agree.**

22.21 Planning

Land to the East of North Pesspool Farm, Pesspool Lane

Erection of 1No 2 storey dwelling with detached garage and 1 No bungalow

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

23.21 Police Report/Update

The Clerk read out the update report for the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

24.21 Expression of Interest – Playing Fields Haswell

The Clerk had obtained the necessary details on the land boundaries of the playing fields from the Land Registry, and they had been forwarded to Durham City FC. They were to meet and look into the next steps of site surveys and finding out where they/the Parish Council can or could not build

for the changing rooms, and they felt this may be a lengthy process. **RESOLVED progress be awaited.**

25.21 Member's Reports

Councillors Major, Wainwright and Hartley had no items to update/report on.

Councillor Millburn expressed her concerns about speeding in the village following the serious incident at Station Road. She asked if a request could be made by the Parish Council for speed surveillance by Durham Constabulary, and the Clerk assured she would do this. A Local Member asked if costs could be obtained for speed monitors. She said she had never seen as much dog dirt on Faraday Terrace, and the public that had joined the meeting were reminded the Parish Council provided dog bags free of charge, and also encouraged to report it to DCC if they saw someone not picking up after their dog. Councillor Milburn made reference to the roadmap out of COVID and the re opening of the local public house, where the owner had improved and invested in the establishment. She spoke about the Towns and Villages Plan and her disappointment about several inaccuracies in it which she felt discredited the Plan; she only hoped finances allocated to the villages would be still spent there and she would push for a good outcome. She spoke about quad bikes being ridden dangerously at Haswell Plough.

Councillor Grey made a report following her site visit around the Haswells. She was really pleased with the end result of demolition of some of the garages at Dent Close which she said was a great improvement. All of the race course fencing had now been repaired by DCC. Unfortunately there were still outstanding issues relating to the wagon parking at Gloucester Terrace and the damaged brick wall which looked unsightly at Haswell Plough. The Chair reported on a new Team at DCC called "Fix it and Mend it", who ambushed an area to improve it, and he said he would take these items up with them. She reported on issues with a quad bike with potential danger to both motorists and pedestrians making a short cut across the junction at Haswell Plough. She reported on issues with drain covers and road surfacing. It was asked if progress would be requested from DCC on the Grey Horse and the burnt out house. She spoke about areas being identified for race course fencing and it was asked if further information would be gathered on Public Space Protection Orders. The speed of vehicles coming into the village from South Hetton was a concern and it was asked if a speed indicator/and or rumble strips could be requested from DCC. Finally she reported on the footpath between the Haswells being very uneven and needing repair, it being the main access route for pedestrians.

Councillor Ramsey reported the repairs that had been carried out at Mazine Terrace were in his opinion poor and issues had re appeared. He asked if re location of the gym equipment at Haswell Plough could be investigated.

The Chair reported the Parish Council were aware of the possible sale of the Methodist Chapel and efforts were being made to try and keep it in community use. Fly tipping at Mazine Terrace was reported and the seriousness of the situation in terms of public safety and environmental health was stressed. He assured prices were now being obtained for improved lighting to the Christmas Trees in the Haswells. **RESOLVED the information given be noted and the reports and action be taken as detailed.**

26.21 County Councillor's Update Report

County Councillor Cochrane thanked Councillor Grey for her support with a recent site visit. He gave an update with roadworks at Richmond and Mazine Terrace. He was disappointed the grit bin requests had been refused, he said the Dent Close Garage site was a great improvement. He reported on Easter activities being supported by the East Durham Area Action Partnership. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

27.21 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:-

The footpath between Haswell and The Blue House

Fly tipping issues

Haswell, Hart to South Hetton walkway

Thanks for the Parish Council's support with a memorial seat

Relocation of the gym equipment

Flooding at the play area at Hessewell Crescent

Grit bins

Thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council.

28.21 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting would be 31st March 2021 at 6.30pm (via Zoom)

The Chair thanked everyone for their input, reporting at one point there were 48 people watching the meeting live via facebook. He encouraged everyone to take care and look after each other and to stay safe and well.