

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 6.30pm held virtually and live on social media

Present:-

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the penultimate meeting of the current Parish Council, both Parish & County Councillors and members of the public watching on social media.

33.21 Apologies

No apologies for absence had been received.

34.21 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.

35.21 The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24th February 2021 & 9th March 2021

Matters Arising

(i) Water Bowser – to consider costs

It was suggested a water tank fitted to the rear of the trailer would be a less expensive alternative to a water bowser. **RESOLVED a water tank be purchased and this be trialled for its suitability.**

(ii) Permanent Christmas Trees

Details of costs received from DCC were provided. **RESOLVED this be re considered in June 2021.**

(iii) Traffic speed Monitoring

Advice received from Traffic Management, Durham Constabulary was considered. Reference was made to mobile speed monitoring equipment that had been funded by Councillor Cochrane to be used across the areas/villages he represented. It was explained training needed to be carried out for operatives prior to the equipment being used. It was agreed the Clerk progress a conversation with DCC as to would they be supportive of the installation of a fixed monitor and this be reported back to Council. **RESOLVED this be arranged and dates for traffic monitoring in the villages then be planned into the programme.**

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

36.21 Finance

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

The payments for January/February 2021 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
Horns	rainbow bed materials	883.78
NB North East Ambulance Service NHS AED & cabinet		1,209.60
(Grant received – payment amount reduced)		

Pena Pat Testing	fit de fibrillator	50.00
P Levitt	wood – rainbow bed	22.48
Wave	water account	174.86
A lley	plumber – various see invoice	210.00

2. For approval to pay:-

GL & NR Tate	tractor fuel	62.40
Mencap	printing	40.00
	Insurance for the de fib	32.66
	Cctv for de fib	223.20
Summer Signs	rainbow bed sign	40.00
O Grey	Easter Eggs	90.00
W Ramsay	various (see invoices)	329.86
		331.66
		457.61

RESOLVED the action taken in making the payments as listed, totalling £4,172.50, be endorsed.

(b) To consider the bank reconciliation for February 2021

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

37.21 Budget

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the draft annual budget for approval. She explained future capital projects where costings were not yet known had not been included and would be funded from allocated reserves. Members agreed the budget. In summary the budget was as follows:-

Precept	£69,755.76
LCTRS	£9,386.00

Income	£83,292
Expenditure	£88,850

Net balance (£5,558) this would be taken from reserves.

RESOLVED the budget as presented, be accepted.

38.21 Horticulture Plan for the Haswells

An update was given on progress with grounds maintenance and horticulture in the village. Residents feedback and suggestions on where floral planters should be located were invited. **RESOLVED the report be accepted.**

39.21 Planning

There were no planning details to report.

40.21 Police Report/Update

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

41.21 Member's Reports

Details were given of the Easter Programme of events being offered to the Haswells from the Lisa Dixon Centre. It was felt the activities and support being provided for families during the holidays was fantastic.

Progress was given to enquiries made into the contents of the Towns & Villages Programme prepared by DCC, it was stressed again every effort would be made by the parish council to achieve a positive outcome for the Haswells.

Concern at the instances of fly tipping in and around the villages was reported and it was asked if DCC's support in getting portable surveillance cameras be requested again. It was also asked if the Clerk would obtain costs for such equipment. The issue of litter from fast food takeaways was discussed. Litter on the road sides to and from the villages was discussed. Details were given of the fantastic community spirit shown by a local resident who carried out litter picking every day in his area.

Members spoke about the easing of lockdown and praised again the resources in the village that had supported the community during this difficult time. It was asked if the Clerk would contact DCC to find out where in the programme of highways works the re surfacing in Mazine Terrace was.

It was reported the Easter Egg Hunt that had been held that day had been a huge success with 44/45 children taking part, it had been well organised, taking into account current restrictions. The Parish Council had provided the Easter Eggs. St Paul's Church were thanked for their Easter activity packs sent out to the tots in the parish. In considering the road map out of the pandemic Members were keen to organise event(s) for the community to look forward to.

A Local Member expressed her grave concerns at the condition of the former MUGA pitch and it was asked could this be chased up again it was stressed the facility was in the ownership of the Hazelwell Centre.

Members reported on the recent installation of the de fibrillator which was an excellent resources for the villages. It was suggested a de fibrillator for Haswell Plough be investigated.

It was reported there had been excellent feedback from residents on the newly installed Rainbow Bed and it was agreed a second bed be installed at Haswell Plough.

It was reported that, as with Mazine Terrace, pot holes had been filled in at Windsor Terrace, however, again as with Mazine Terrace it was felt the road needed to be resurfaced and it was asked if this could be requested.

Issues were reported on signage at Gloucester/Hessewell which was causing a nuisance for elderly residents when delivery drivers could not locate a property properly.

The flashing lights on the chicane had been reported for repair.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and action be taken as detailed.

42.21 County Councillor's Update Report

Councillor Cochrane suggested contact be made with Shotton Parish Council about their Christmas Tree. He spoke about training for using the speed monitoring equipment. He would provide a contact for CCTV for fly tipping for the parish council. He spoke about a proposed Benner event for the villages and the Chair confirmed he had been in touch about possible financial support.

Councillor Hovvells spoke about litter issues and activities such as the Spring Clean and Civic Pride work in the community. She reported litter picking equipment was available from DCC on application via their web site. She reported on progress with quad bikes, issues following her walk

abouts in Haswell Plough. She gave information regarding the East Durham Area Action Partnership and advice on having projects prepared to apply for funding. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

43.21 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:-

Who won the Christmas lights competition

Fly tipping – suggesting signs

Mazine Terrace needing re surfacing

A community event with volunteers to carry out litter picking

Speed signs at Haswell Plough were faded

Would the training for speed watch be held out of hours

125 years since the pit closed, suggestion for a memorial

Thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council and its partners for the meeting and their work.

44.21 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

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

The Chair thanked everyone for their input, and their interest and for taking part in the work of the Parish Council. He explained that was why he and his fellow Councillors do what they do and he wished everyone a good night.

45.21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee passed the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, paragraphs 1 & 11, (contracts for services and staffing matters).

46.21 Part time Groundsman

Members noted the successful completion of the six month probationary period of the part time groundsman and it was **RESOLVED Mr T Pickles be made a permanent member of staff with Haswell Parish Council.**

47.21 HR & Health & Safety Support

To consider further services and quotes received details of which had been previously circulated. Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED that in principle the price received from Firm B, Ellis Whittam, subject to clarification on services being provided and this be confirmed at the next meeting.**