

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 27th October 2021 at 6.30pm held in the meeting room, Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell

Present:-

CLLrs C R HOOD (Chair), E Major, O Gray, S Hartley, H Milburn & W Ramsey
County Councillors L Hovvels, J Miller & C R Hood

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Parish Council.

128.21 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A & J Wainwright.

129.21 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. Councillor Grey declared an interest in the item relating to the Sports Changing Rooms and Councillor Welch in the planning application relating to 47 Kestrel Way.

130.21 The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29th September 2021, were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

(i) **External Audit, minor scope for improvement – Bank reconciliation**

On checking with Rialtas Support they suggested that one of the reports from the software system had not been sent to the external auditor, the Cash and Investment reconciliation. **RESOLVED this report be sent with the bank reconciliation in future to avoid this issue.**

(ii) **Sports Changing Rooms – update**

The Clerk reported the Architect was out of the country and would not be back until early November and she would make contact then and keep the Council updated. **RESOLVED further details be awaited.**

(iii) **Winter Wonderland – further information**

It was advised that unfortunately there was no availability for this year for the Winter Wonderland however it was agreed a price be obtained and this be considered as soon as possible to book/reserve for Winter 2022. **RESOLVED dates and prices be obtained and this be considered for Winter 2022.**

(iv) **Land at Gloucester Terrace/Hessewelle**

Members were asked to endorse the action taken in confirming the Parish Council would contribute one third of the cost, £1,1779.00 towards this scheme. **RESOLVED this action, be endorsed.**

131.21 To welcome Joy Allen, Police & Crime Commissioner to the meeting

Ms Allen offered her apologies to the meeting and confirmed she was able to attend in March 2022.

132.21 Police Report/Update

PC Dean Wilson attended the meeting and went through his report, a copy of which had been circulated, as below:-

Total calls - 33

ASB – 1, Personal – 1, Nuisance – 0, Environmental – 0

Burglary - 4

- 18/10/21 – East Villas – Garage burglary with pedal bike and tools taken – Open investigation
- 18/10/21 – Lapwing Court – Shed burglary with various items including a pedal bike and tools taken – Open investigation
- 18/10/21 – Kestrel Way – Garage burglary with X2 pedal bikes taken – Open investigation
- 18/10/21 – Hessewelle Crescent – Attempted garage burglary – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspects identified.

Criminal Damage- 1

- 13/10/21 – Plough Motors – Arson not endangering life – vehicle set alight which then has set alight 3 further vehicles and damaged a number more – Open investigation.

Theft and Handling- 2

- 08/10/21 – local farm – Scrap metal taken from land – Open investigation
- 15/10/21 – local farm – metal footpath gates X2 removed from field – Closed, full investigation complete and no suspect identified.

Vehicle- 0

Other –

- A mobile Pact meeting was held on Saturday 23/10/21. The next mobile pact meeting for Haswell will be on Saturday 20/11/21 – details to follow on ‘Keep In The Know’ and on the Seaham and Easington Police Facebook page nearer the time.
- On Saturday 9th October Community Speedwatch was conducted in the Haswell area with traffic warning letters delivered to drivers found to be over the limit at the time. This is an educational tool and figures are recorded for Police Traffic Management.
- Easington NPT now have access to a long lens camera which can be used to view things which are of a distance away from officers. We hope that this device will be useful when trying to identify riders of off-road bikes.
- On 05/10/21 neighbourhood officers took part in a Farmwatch operation (Op Checkpoint) working into the early hours of the following morning patrolling the rural areas

The Chair thanked PC Wilson for his attendance and the report.

133.21 Finance

(a) To approve the monthly accounts payments for October 2021

The payments for October 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:-

Tyne & Wear Play	RPII Operation Inspector Renewal	200.00
Ramsey	tractor service & media for oil	477.38
Horns Garden Centre	barrel planters & bedding plants	225.93
Microshade	Internal audit for year end	114.00
Tates	tractor fuel	72.00
Paul Levitt	cable ties for the poppies	37.00 (paid)

RESOLVED approval be given to the payments presented to be paid.

(b) To consider the bank reconciliation for September 2021

A copy of the bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting. **RESOLVED the reconciliation for September 2021, be accepted.**

134.21 Planning

(i) Tuthill Quarry – Progress/update from R & K Wood Planning LLP

Contact had been made by R & K Wood Planning LLP, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. **RESOLVED the contents be noted.**

(ii) 47 Kestrel Way, single storey side extension

RESOLVED no comments be offered on this application.

FURTHER RESOLVED representations be made to DCC Planning Section about the increase in the length of time being taken to determine applications.

(iii) Acquisition of the Former Tuthill Railway South Hetton

It was reported DCC were dealing with the acquisition of this site and details had been forwarded to the Parish Council for feedback/comment. It was **RESOLVED that as long as the transfer was carried out correctly with the cycleway being properly maintained, the Parish Council supported this proposal.**

135.21 HR & Health & Safety Support from Ellis Whittam

(i) Health & Safety Policy, Handbook & Statement

(ii) Competent Person

(iii) Action Plan

All documents had been circulated previously for Member's consideration and feedback. Members accepted the documents however they asked it be made clear the Chair was acting on behalf of the Parish Council in signing the Health & Safety Policy. **RESOLVED this be amended to reflect this and then the Policy Handbook and statement be issued to the staff.**

136.21 Speed Humps Pesspool Lane

Consideration was given to an – e mail from the MP sent to him by a resident of Haswell asking for these speedhumps to be removed. Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED Mr Morris MP be advised the Parish Council felt the speedhumps should be retained as speeding traffic was a massive issue in the village and therefore they were not willing to agree to the removal of any traffic calming measures that were currently in place in the village.**

137.21 Member's Reports

Councillor Welch had nothing of concern to report.

Councillor Hartley reported positive feedback from residents on the lamp post poppies, although they maybe went out a little early. **RESOLVED in future the launch date provided by RBL be used as a guide of when the poppies should be displayed.**

Councillor Milburn expressed her worries with crime and she encouraged the community to look after each other. She also had received very positive feedback on the floral displays and the lamp post poppies. She reminded everyone about Halloween events to be held in the village.

Councillor Grey had carried out a drive around site visit with Councillor Cochrane. Several items they had seen such as fly tipping and untidy gardens had been attended to immediately by County Councillor Cochrane. She reported again about the condition of semi repaired footpaths in Windsor and Faraday Terrace. Councillor Grey reported a letter of thanks from the Friendship Club for their grant towards a trip. She asked if a request could be made to Believe Housing to paint the garages at Dent Close. She reported some of the race course fencing at the former pit site was rotten and

needed replacing. Councillor Grey asked if a rubbish bin might be installed next to the new seat and planters at Haswell Plough and also if it would be possible to have some type of cladding/stonework on the wall. She was worried at the dilapidated condition of the Hazelwell Centre.

Councillor Ramsey asked if there was an update for the road re surfacing at Mazine Terrace and it was hoped this would take place on 22 November 2021. He had recently used the Horden Waste Centre and had a negative experience and commented that this was perhaps why there was so much fly tipping as users were discouraged from using the correct waste disposal methods by their operatives. It was agreed six 5-6foot Christmas Trees be obtained for the villages and two 18 ft trees for the usual sites and Councillor Ramsey's offer to source and erect them be accepted. He asked if a letter of thanks could be sent to Mr Cairns for his continued interest in matters in the Parish and supporting the Parish Council. **RESOLVED the reports be accepted and actions listed be carried out.**

138.21 County Councillor's Update Report

County Councillor Miller provided his update report as follows:-

“The AAP application for the fencing and flowerbed at Gloucester Terrace has been sent out to Believe.

- Thank you for agreeing to split this cost 5 ways.
- Just wanted to clarify that when I mentioned Chris would be contributing, I meant Cllr Chris Varty and not Cllr Chris Hood.
- I'll keep Members updated on the progress of the application and the work being done.
- We continue to deliver food parcels in Haswell Plough and will continue to do so.
 - If anyone is aware of anyone who is in need of help and support then please make us aware and we can do what we can.
- I still haven't heard back from the Police regarding the speed watch
 - The last email I received was that one will be scheduled.
 - Please ask people to continue to report it into myself, or the parish and I will chase it up with the police.
 - Thank you Kay for sending me the police details over.
- The petition end date is the end of November, so if it is full I can take it off you now or I will collect it when it has ended.
- We have written a letter to Chief Constable Jo Farrell and PCC Joy Allen regarding the anti-social behaviour in the area and issues with quadbikes.
 - We will keep members updated.

County Councillor Hood, as well as providing his report, had requested two items be considered – pit car park & station field gate. He put forward the cost of removing the fence, soil and seed the area and install a gate at £2,247.22. During discussions it was felt the car park area should be maintained whilst considering the anti social behaviour that was happening there. It was agreed the car park needed resurfacing at some point in the future. The Station Field gate proposal would cost £516.00 and it was asked could this be considered further at the next meeting and in the meantime Members visit the site to consider the proposal.

“Please find below my monthly report for the October 2021 Haswell Parish Council meeting. As always, I am privileged to be working in partnership with this parish council and the residents of Haswell.

Since my last report, and on behalf of Haswell, I have:

- Offered to purchase 50 Lamppost poppies from the Royal British Legion for Haswell Parish Council from my County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget. Thank you to Haswell Parish Council for purchasing an extra 100 poppies to total 150 poppies. I would also like to thank parish clerk Kay Tweddle for all her hard work on this project.
- Organised a free boxing session for young people from South Hetton, Haswell and Shotton Colliery as part of my Youth Voices project pilot for the ward. I was delighted that many young people from Haswell were able to attend and give their views on their future and that of their village.
- Met with Seaham Neighbourhood Police Team, which covers Haswell, to discuss residents' issues and their proposed actions in the village.
- Met with officers from the neighbourhood protection team and clean and green teams to discuss actions and source prices regarding Haswell pit car park and a new gate at the station field (details to be discussed).
- Liaised with police and DCC regarding the dumped fridge that was on Pesspool Lane when entering from Easington. This was collected within the hour.
- Met with Nigel Strike, Projects Coordinator – Unpaid Work the Probation Service, regarding working in Haswell and painting the racecourse fencing as requested.

On behalf of all three villages, I have also:

- Attended the full Durham County Council meeting for October 2021, which took place at Spennymoor Leisure Centre.
- Chaired the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday 27th September 2021.
- Attended the Durham County Council Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 29th September 2021. Issues discussed included: Leisure Transformation New Build Site Selection Update, Review of Durham County Council Headquarters, Review of Durham Light Infantry (DLI) Museum and the Quarter One, 2021/22 Performance Management Report.
- Attended the East Durham Area Action Partnership 'Maintaining the Social Fabric of our Communities' Covid Recovery Priority Group meeting on Wednesday 6th October 2021.
- Attended the DCC Highways Committee meeting on Thursday 7th October 2021.
- Attended the Durham County Council Cabinet meeting on Wed 13th October 2021. Issues discussed included: Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23-2025/26, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Armed Forces Covenant, The National Bus Strategy, Enhanced Partnerships and Bus Service Improvement Plan update, Greenfield Community College - Future Options, Consideration of an Ecological Emergency in County Durham and Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021
- Attended the October 2021 East Durham Area Action Partnership meeting.
- Attended the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting on Friday 15th October 2021.
- Attended the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting on Monday 25th October 2021.

As always, the vast majority of my work has been on more personal issues that our residents have had in relation to residents' issues such as access, flytipping, littering, dog fouling, car parking, noise pollution etc.

I continue to represent our residents and liaise with various officers, staff and departments, both at Durham County Council and external agencies.

I'm always available and if I can help you, your family or neighbours in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will take it forward."

139.21 Public Participation

A new resident to the village expressed his thanks for the litter picking, everywhere being swept and kept clean and tidy and the flowers.

Another resident congratulated everyone on the floral displays in the village; he said it was the little things that made such a big difference, first impressions were important.

A resident reported how impressed and proud she was of the young people in Haswell when they attended a recent Youth Session. She spoke about the parish playing fields which were a well used facility in the summer, however they were not used on winter evenings.

140.21 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

Agreed the next meeting shall be 24th November 2021 at 6.30pm at Lisa Dixon/Mencap Meeting Room, Haswell.

141.21 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, paragraph 11.

142.21 MUGA

This item had been referred from the previous meeting. **RESOLVED this item be deferred.**

143.21 Position of Part time Clerk

Members were asked to accept the resignation from the Clerk. **RESOLVED the Clerk draft an advert and up to date job description for Members to consider.**