

**Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on
Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 6.30pm held at the Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell.**

Present:-

Cllrs C R Hood (Chair), E Major, O Gray, S Hartley, A Wainwright & W Ramsey

County Cllrs C R Hood, J Miller, L Howvells & I Cochrane

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

1.22 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. J Wainwright and County Cllr. C Varty.

2.22 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 on two items relating to the Sports Changing Rooms.

3.22 The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28th July 2021

Cllr. A Wainwright suggested an amendment to the minutes. They were then agreed and signed as a true and correct record by the Vice-Chair.

4.22 Police Report/Update

The Police offered their apologies but offered their report as follows:-

Total calls - 70

ASB – 1

Personal – 0

Nuisance – 1

- *29/12/21 – Dent Close – Report of youths in the garage block – Located and spoken to by officers, moved on.*

Environmental – 0

Burglary - 5

- *06/12/21 – Pesspool Lane – X2 burglaries from two properties without power due to storm Arwen where the occupants were away from the properties – Open investigations*
- *19/12/21 – Kestrel Way – Shed entered and a mountain bike and a scooter taken – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.*
- *04/01/22 – Local Farm – Glass door smashed to gain entry to house and cash, Hoover, Ipad, vehicle keys, and a quad bike taken – Open investigation.*
- *06/01/22 – Sycamore Terrace – Attempted burglary – 3 unknown males cause damage to a rear door handle in attempt to break in – Open investigation.*

Criminal Damage- 1

- *24/12/21 – George Street – Window damaged – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.*

Theft and Handling- 0

Vehicle- 3

- *11/12/21 – Lapwing Court – Damage to vehicle – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.*
- *25/12/21 – Hutton Grove – Car window smashed - Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.*
- *04/01/21 – Hessewelle Crescent – Rear windscreen damaged - Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.*

RESOLVED the information given in the update reports, be noted.

5.22 Finance

The Chair explained the situation that the parish council currently found itself as the bank mandate requested that one of the signatories was the clerk, and as such, as the parish currently did not have a clerk that online payments could not be made.

He continued that Cllr. Gray had kindly arranged with the bank to be able to make payments by visiting the bank with invoices. It was aimed that financial reports could be presented after this.

RESOLVED the actions being taken were noted.

6.22 Precept

Members were asked to consider the options available for the parish precept setting for the financial year 2022/23.

Cllr. Wainwright proposed a -1% precept decrease. This was seconded by Cllr. Hood

Cllr. Gray proposed a freeze (0%) of the precept. This was seconded by Cllr. Ramsay and agreed by Cllrs. Hartley and Major.

RESOLVED that the parish precept be frozen for the financial year 2022/23.

7.22 Member Reports

Cllr. Major said that there had been reports of adults congregating in the children's play area at Windsor Terrace and glass bottles had been broken.

Cllr. Ramsay asked for an update regarding the proposed footpath from Haswell Plough to the Blue House. Cllr. Hood said that he Cllr. J Wainwright had gained an extension on the e-petition to get DCC to look at the request. Cllr. Hood had also said that he had spoken to the Portfolio holder at County Hall and discussions were taking place.

Cllr. Ramsay said that the replacement piece of gym equipment for Haswell Plough had not yet been delivered and the service from the company (HAGS) was very poor.

Cllr. Gray said that the improvements on Front Street were welcome but there was still work to be done. She continued by asking if there was any progress on the next steps for the Grey Horse.

Cllr. Gray also said that the Christmas Tree lights had been removed and were still in good condition. She continued that she had received lots of good comments but the stakes for the trees would need to be further down next year.

Cllr. Gray said that in regards to the Changing rooms, she had been in touch with 10 companies. 99% don't hire out changing rooms. She also said that the Football field was found in a disgraceful condition. Referee and opposition have warned that someone is going

to break an ankle. Groundstaff say if it is cut and rolled, it will make a huge difference. Cllr. Ramsay said that the cutting deck had been removed in case the tractor was needed to snow plough. He continued that there was nothing wrong with the blades and they were still on cutting deck. Cllr. Gray said that Groundsman Paul Levitt has requested a new phone.

Cllr. A Wainwright said that the new boom gate at the station field had been installed and looked good. He also asked about the next steps with the Grey Horse.

8.22 County Councillor's Update Report

County Councillor Miller reported:

- His public bus transport petition had closed, and the County Council were going to look into bus transport in East Durham.
- Ludworth walkers – if a different time and date better then let them know. It takes place every Thursday.
- He had chased up the seat for Haswell Plough and is speaking to Alan Houghton to get done.
- He had been working on a Local resilience/emergency plan for division. March 2022 would be when the next steps are made.

County Councillor Cochrane reported:

- He had met with Andrea Patterson, the new Anti-Social Behaviour Champion for the PCC.
- ASB at moment in Shotton is terrible.
- The Hazelwell Centre was his biggest “bugbear”. The building is in a terrible state of repair, grass, windows, gable end, slates are off.
- At the full Durham County Council for meeting for January 2022, former County Councillor Eunice Huntington had been made an alderwoman.

County Councillor Hood reported:

“I would also like to take this opportunity to inform both Haswell Parish Council and the residents of Haswell and Haswell Plough about some of the proposals by the Joint Administration at Durham County Council, of which I am part.

The proposals being put forward by cabinet include the following for the 2022/23 Budget and Council Tax:

- Zero 0% Core Council Tax rise. This is the FIRST TIME EVER that a Durham County Council administration has proposed no rise in core council tax.
- 3% Adult Social Care Precept rise to pay care workers a decent wage and ensure we have sufficient care staff. This means the average house in County Durham will pay an extra £6.91 per year.
- Continuation of the Council tax reduction scheme protecting 34,000 households. DCC are one of only 2 out of the 7 North East Local Authorities to do so.
- £109m additional capital investment above what was planned.

On behalf of all three villages, I have also:

- Attended the January 2022 Cabinet meeting at Durham County Council on Wednesday 19th January 2022.
- Attended the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meeting at County Hall on Friday 21st January 2022.
- Attended a meeting of the Chairs & Vice Chairs of Durham County Council’s Scrutiny Committees
- Informed residents of any roadworks that have taken place in the three villages before they take place.
- Met with East Durham AAP officers in relation to some projects I would like to start in our three villages.
- Shared the availability of COVID-19 Jab walk-in slots in East Durham.
- Met with neighbourhood wardens to discuss plans to continue tackling fly tipping in our villages.

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 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 am 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.

Best Wishes

Cllr. Chris Hood

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RESOLVED the contents of the reports be noted.

9.22 Public Participation

The Chair invited the member of the public present at the meeting to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest.

A member of the public present asked when were the Doctors reopening in Haswell? Cllr. Major said she would ask Dr. Manssour. Cllr. Gray said that she had heard that it will not be reopening.

A member of public also asked what is the parish's approach to tackling ASB in the village?

The Chair explained that there was a meeting due to take place with Groundworks NE in 2 weeks to look at youth work in the village. He continued that it was difficult for the village as it didn't have any community facilities for youth provision. Cllr. A Wainwright reminded the parish council about the youth engagement event that happened in at Haswell & District Mencap.

10.22 Date & Time of the Next Meeting

AGREED the next meeting shall be 23rd February 2022 at 6.30pm at Lisa Dixon/Mencap Meeting Room, Haswell