



Haswell Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 28th September at 6.30pm at St Paul's Church

Present

Cllrs A Wainwright (Chair), O Gray, CR Hood, E Major, S Hartley & W Ramsay, C Overton, A Morton.

County Cllrs C R Hood, L Howvells, I Cochrane

J Wainwright – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllrs C Varty and J Miller.

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

2. Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

3. The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27th July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th July 2022 were agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising and Action Points from the Minutes Held on 27th July 2022

To consider any matters arising /action points from the previous minutes which are not included elsewhere on the agenda.

- Update on Action Points from 27th July 2022

8.12	Triangle of Land – Gloucester Tce – investigate option of peppercorn rent	Cllr Hood	CLOSED
	<i>Cllr Hood reported that Durham County Council have agreed that the Parish Council can maintain the land.</i>		
8.20	New larger container for Groundstaff.	Cllr Ramsey	OPEN

	<i>Cllr Ramsey reported that he is continuing to have difficulty finding a suitable container as the prices are going up very fast. They have doubled in the last 2 years. Cllr Ramsey will continue to pursue.</i>		
8.22	Children activities in village – Pump Track – further investigations and costings	Cllr Hood	OPEN
	<i>Cllr Hood reported that Durham County Council are looking into the covenants on the land to see whether a pump track would be permitted</i>		

- The meeting regarding the AAP Towns and Villages Fund (TVF) scheduled to take place on the 6th September has had to be rescheduled. The Clerk will rearrange the meeting.

Resolved

- **that the actions being taken are noted.**
- **that the meeting regarding the AAP Towns and Villages Fund (TVF) be rescheduled.**

5. Police Report / Update

Police Officers from Durham Constabulary were unable to attend but sent the following report:

Haswell Parish report – 22/07/22 to 25/09/22

Total calls – 78 (NOTE – Two months figures as no August meeting)

ASB – 3

Personal – 0

Nuisance and Environmental – 3

- 04/08/22 – Kestrel Way – Youths said to be knocking on a door.
- 22/08/22 – Local Farm – X2 pick-up trucks reported as driving over fields.
- 31/08/22 – Kestrel Way – Report of an abandoned vehicle – Recovered by NPT

Burglary – 1

- 31/07/22 – Alexandra Terrace – Unknown person said to have reached through an open window, removed car keys and taken vehicle, this vehicle was later found burnt out on a local farm track.

Criminal Damage- 4

- 27/07/22 – Kent Terrace – Damage said to have been caused to a fence by young children – Closed.
- 27/08/22 – Church Street – Window smashed at property – Closed, full investigation complete, no suspect identified.

- 28/08/22 – Church Street – Unknown male on a push bike throws brick through property window – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified. ☒ Domestic related damage

Theft and Handling- 0

Vehicle- 2

- 02/08/22 – Dent Close – Number plates stolen from a parked vehicle – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.
- 12/09/22 – Church Street – Windows damaged on a vehicle – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.

Other –

PACT Meeting details –

- *12th October – 6pm to 7pm – Online Pact meeting – Officers from local Policing team will be available online via the Seaham and Easington Police Facebook page using the Messenger service.*
- *22nd October – Mobile Pact meeting – 2:45pm to 3:15pm – Officers from the local team will be available at the Hazelwell Centre Car park.*
- *27th October - Haswell Pact Meeting – 6pm to 7pm – Lisa Dixon Centre (Mencap) – Officers from Easington Neighbourhood Policing team will be available to any residents.*
- Keep In The Know is a messenger platform used by the Police to pass out local messages via email on local topics, for example dates and times of Pact meetings. If anyone would like to sign up to this please pass your name, date of birth, house number, post code and email address to your local officers.

The clerk reported that the police were still investigating the issue regarding the stolen drain covers and would report back to the Parish Council when further information was available.

Resolved

- **that the information contained within the report be noted.**

6. Correspondence and Funding Requests

The Clerk reported that:

- correspondence had been received from Durham County Council regarding budget planning for 2023/24. It stated that due to the deferral of the Government's 'Fair Funding Review' of the whole of the local government finance system they were unable to provide figures on the indicative tax base and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant share at this point in time.
- correspondence had been received from Mazars that the annual audit of accounts had been completed satisfactorily and enclosed the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return. However, a minor scope for improvement had been identified

regarding the relationship between the Clerk and Chair of the Parish Council. It stated that the Council should formally consider the risks involved by the absence of segregation of duties, and make necessary arrangements to separate the roles prior to approving the 2022/23 AGAR. A discussion took place regarding the perceived risks and Cllrs were comfortable with the current arrangements.

Resolved that:

- **the information above be noted.**
- **that the Parish Council Financial Standing Orders be reviewed and a risk assessment undertaken regarding the segregation of duties.**

7. Finance

(a) The monthly accounts payments for July and August were approved.

(b) The bank reconciliation for July and August was approved.

(c) The updated budget figures for 2022/23 were approved.

(d) It was noted that the budget planning cycle for 2023/24 would need to commence in November 2022.

Resolved that the monthly accounts, bank reconciliation and budget be approved.

8. Health and Safety

(a) A verbal report on the outcome of the Health and Safety visit (20/09/2022) by the consultants was provided by the Clerk. The only additional item identified from the last audit was in connection with the Parish Office

(b) The action points arising from the Health and Safety visit 2021 were considered by the Parish Council.

(c) The updated Health and Safety Policy and associated documents were considered and approved.

Resolved that:

- **the information be noted**
- **that the Health and Safety Policy and Handbook be approved.**
- **the clerk would create an action plan to address the outstanding issues to be considered by the Parish Council on a quarterly basis.**

9. Planning

There were no planning applications within or impacting upon the Parish

10. Strategic Planning

(a) Strategic Priorities.

It was agreed that the strategic priorities would be further discussed at the rearranged meeting with the East Durham AAP.

Resolved that the strategic priorities would be further discussed at the rearranged meeting with the East Durham AAP.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan

A discussion to place regarding the neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that the consultant be invited to the next meeting or a future meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk would invite the consultant to a future meeting.

11. Sub Group Meetings

- **Horticultural Sub Group Meeting**

No further meetings had taken place. A further meeting to be scheduled in 2 weeks time.

- **Carnival Sub Group Meeting**

A discussion took place regarding rearranging the Carnival but it was felt that the weather in October would be unsuitable to hold a Carnival. A discussion took place about organising a large Christmas festival even instead.

Resolved that the Parish Council would look into arranging a large Christmas festival event including an ice rink and other activities.

12. Events

A discussion took place regarding future events:

- Scarecrow/Halloween event 24th - 31st October 2022(Halloween Bunting available)
- Harvest Festival 9th October 2022 – 4pm
- Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2022 – time to be confirmed
- Christmas lights and gifts – 4th December 2022
- Christmas festival with Ice Rink – date to be confirmed

Cllr E Major confirmed that the poppy wreaths had been ordered.

A discussion took place regarding Christmas Trees. It was agreed that Cllr W Ramsay would order 2 x large trees and that smaller trees would be purchased locally as this would be more cost effective.

Resolved that:

- **The information be noted**
- **That Cllr W Ramsay would order 2 x large trees and that smaller trees would be purchased locally as this would be more cost effective.**

13. Salt Bins

Cllr C Overton raised the issue of providing additional salt bins for the villages for the winter as there were a number of locations which were problematic for vehicles in the snow and ice. A discussion took place regarding the potential locations of these bins.

Resolved that Cllrs would provide the potential locations of the bins to the Clerk as soon as possible. County Cllr C Hood agreed to pursue this matter.

14. Members Reports

Cllr B Ramsay

- The seat at Tuthill Bridge has sunk into the ground and Durham County Council are going to pull it out and destroy it. Cllr Ramsey would like to make use of it. County Cllr C Hood agreed to look into the matter.
- Cllr Ramsay raised an issue regarding the ground staff which led to a discussion about lone working and the use of technology.
- There had been complaints about the bushes at Haswell Plough over hanging the road. A discussion took place about who was responsible for these. County Cllr Hood agreed to speak with County Cllr J Miller and the highways section of Durham County Council to try to resolve the matter.
- Cllr Ramsay raised the issue of the doctor's surgery still being closed and the condition of the property. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write a letter reading this situation. County Cllr C Hood also agreed to pursue the matter.
- It was noted that a planter had been stolen near to the Parish fields.

Cllr O Gray

- Reported a number of deep pot holes at the top of Pesspool Lane and towards the Chapel. County Cllr C Hood will report this matter.
- Reported that the roads at the back of front street and at the north end outside of the chemist were in a disgraceful condition.

Resolved that the items raised be noted and that the appropriate action be taken.

15. County Councillor's Update Report

County Cllr C Hood provided the following report:

As always, I am privileged to be working in partnership with this parish council and the residents of Haswell. Since my last report, it was with great sadness that we all received the news of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Arrangements were made to mark her passing including the opening of books of condolence at locations across the county. My thoughts continue to be with the Royal Family at this time. Thank you for a lifetime of service, Your Majesty. May you rest in peace and rise in glory.

August 2022 seen the beginning of the annual recess, where no council business was transacted.

On 28th July 2022, I was appointed to Durham County Council Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services. I therefore have a remit for the following in County Durham:

- Adult Social Care Services
- Adult Safeguarding
- Adult Social Care Commissioning
- Health and Wellbeing (Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board)
- Public Health
- Veterans champion
- Mental Health champion

As part of this role, I also represent Durham County Council on the following committees:

- County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
- North of England Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

Since my appointment in late July 2022, on behalf of County Durham, I have:

- Induction meetings with members of the Adult and Health Services Senior Management Team.
- Introductory meetings, including with;
 - o Sam Allen the Chief Executive of the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care Board.
 - o Lesley Jeavons, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership.
- Appointed as Chair of the North East Lead Member Network.
- Attended Central Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Meeting.
- Attended the inaugural NE&NC ICP meeting on the 20 September 2022.
- Arranged meeting with Sue Jacques, Chief Executive at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and ward members / MP to discuss Bishop Auckland A&E.
- Met with Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health to discuss mental health in County Durham.
- Met with Mark Edgell from Local Government Association.
- Met with Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health to discuss DPH Annual Report for 2022.

- Engaged in discussions regarding devolution with central government, external partners etc.

Activity as part of my role as portfolio holder included:

- Preparation for Annual Conversation to be held later this month.
- Winter planning activity underway.
- Preparing for the implementation of charging reforms in Adult Social Care.
- Met with Ian Hunter-Smart and Gordon Elliott re. Armed Forces Champion.
- Attended several Electoral Review Member Working Group meetings.
- Brought the proposal to cabinet about potential changes to health and care integration and sought agreement to a preferred option for discussion with health and care partners. This was agreed by cabinet.
- Seconded the proposal to accept the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report for 2022. This was agreed by cabinet.

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

- Took a group of young people to Hamersley Forest as part of the Haswells Holiday programme with The Lisa Dixon Centre.
- Logged footpaths for repair on Church View, Haswell.
- Logged footpath for repair from Salters Lane to Pesspool Lane, Haswell.
- Attended the Service of Prayer and Reflection for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at St. Paul's Church, Haswell on 10th September 2022.

On behalf of all three villages, I have also:

- Attended the full Durham County Council meeting for July 2022 on Wednesday 20th July 2022.
- Attended the Independent Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation review on Tuesday 26th July 2022.
- Provided regular updates regarding administration of the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme.
- Announced a new waste clearance team that will remove rubbish from the yards and gardens of people who fail to comply with notices to do so. We are clearing yards and billing tenants and landlords as quickly as a day after the statutory 5-7 day waiting time has passed for noxious waste, and within a couple days after the 28 day statutory periods for non-noxious waste.

- Durham County Council has submitted bids to the Levelling Up Fund for five of its parliamentary constituencies. It follows its success in the first round of funding bids, which saw £20 million secured for Bishop Auckland. If the council is successful, it would see more than £131 million worth of schemes delivered in City of Durham, Easington, North Durham, North West Durham and Sedgefield, that will help to improve transport links, regenerate communities and town centres, and improve access to cultural opportunities.
- Promoted the Tour of Britain cycle race that came to the region in early September 2022.
- Announced that Durham County Council has been successful in its bid to be part of the government's highly sought-after Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme. The £1.25 million funding allocated to the county will be used to create new EV charging infrastructure for residents, from faster on-street charge points to larger petrol station-style charging hubs.
- Informed residents that we've agreed on a £20 million investment over the next three years to fund improvements in four priority areas. The county's unclassified road network, public rights of way, urban and rural footway links as well as paving and street furniture in Durham City will all be invested in under the proposals. The largest investment of £13.86 million will see resurfacing works on the unclassified road network.
- Attended the Proclamation of the Accession of His Majesty, King Charles III at County Hall on Sunday 11th September 2022.

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.

County Cllr L Howvells reported that:

- An Emergency Plan had been developed by Cllr J Miller and this would be shared with the Parish Council.
- A bench is being installed outside of the flats in Haswell Plough but the ground isn't level so this is still ongoing
- The paths outside The Gables are being addressed.
- That Cllrs Howvells, Varty and Miller undertake regular walkabouts in Haswell Plough and talk to residents about their concerns.

County Cllr I Cochrane thanked the Parish Council for inviting the County Councillors to the event at St Paul's Church, Haswell to commemorate the death of the Queen. Councillor Cochrane had invited some Ukranian guests who were very moved by the event.

16. Public Participation

The Chair invited members of the public to address the Parish Council on items of concern or interest.

There were no items of public participation

Resolved that this be noted

17. Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting shall be held on the 26th October 2022 at 6.30pm in the meeting room at St Paul's Church, Church Street, DH6 2DT Haswell.

18. Exclusion of Press and Public.

18.1 Parish Assets

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th July were considered and agreed.

18.2 Personnel Matters

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th July were considered and agreed.