



Haswell Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th October 2022 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, J Miller

J Wainwright – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

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 28th September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th September 2022 were agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising and Action Points from the Minutes Held on 28th September 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 the meeting held on the 28th September 2022

	Action	Responsible	Update
2.	Painting of the race course fencing. Cllr Hood is still looking into this matter. Any assistance would be appreciated.	Cllr Hood	Ongoing
3	Demolished property on Front Street – some remedial works being undertaken. Cllr Hood to continue to pursue.	Cllr Hood	Ongoing

	Action	Responsible	Update
4	Grey Horse – a painter has been commissioned. Cllr Hood to continue to pursue.	Cllr Hood	Ongoing
22	Children activities in village – Pump Track – companies approached regarding design and build. Durham CC Planning are looking into the covenants on the land to see whether a pump track would be permitted.	Cllr Hood	Ongoing
28	Path between Haswell Plough and Shotton – Cllr Hood pursuing the matter.	Cllr Hood	Ongoing
40	Large Christmas event including an ice rink to be organised.	Clerk/ Cllr O Gray	Unable to book an ice rink
42	Location of Salt Bins to be provided.	Parish Cllrs/ Clerk/ County Cllr C Hood	Locations have been provided and request made
43	Lone working issues and the use of technology in connection with the ground staff to be pursued.	Clerk	Clerk to investigate further
45	Bushes at Haswell Plough overhanging	County Cllr C Hood/	The issue has been logged
46	Doctors surgery still closed and property in poor condition – Parish Council to write a letter and County Cllr C Hood to pursue	Clerk/ Chair/ County Cllr C Hood	Letter written and acknowledgement received.
47	Pot holes – Pesspool Lane and near to Chapel	County Cllr C Hood/Clerk	Issues have been logged
48	Poor condition of roads at the back of front street and next to the chemist	County Cllr C Hood/Clerk	Issues have been logged

Resolved

- that the actions being taken are noted.

5. Reports

(a) Police Report

Police Officers from Durham Constabulary were unable to attend. However, the following report was sent subsequent to the meeting:

Haswell Parish report – 26/09/22 to 22/10/22

Total calls – 43

- **ASB – 0**
- **Personal – 0**
- **Nuisance and Environmental – 0**
- **Burglary – 0**
- **Criminal Damage- 3 -**

- X2 3rd and 4th October – Same address on Church Street – Windows smashed –
- 07/10/22 – Kent Terrace – Window smashed – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.

Theft and Handling- 1

- 08/10/22 – Walking track around Haswell – Iphone stolen – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.
-

Vehicle- 1

- 21/10/22 – Hessewelle Crescent – Damage to vehicle tyres -

Other –

PACT Meeting details –

- *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.
- Community Speedwatch was conducted on 14/10/22 on Front Street checking traffic heading towards South Hetton. In the time there 64 vehicles passed and 1 will receive a warning letter.

Resolved:

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

(b) Correspondence and Funding Requests

The Clerk reported that:

- correspondence had been received from CDALC regarding consultation about Durham County Council's budget proposals for 2023/24. The closing date for comments is the 22nd November 2022.
- No funding requests had been received.

Resolved:

- **that the Clerk would provide the link to enable Councilors to see the consultation and provide comments.**
- **that the Clerk would collate comments on behalf of the Parish Council.**

(c) Emergency Plan

This item was dealt with under Item 11 County Councilor Update Reports.

Resolved :

- **that the item be dealt with under County Councilor Update Reports to enable County Cllr Miller to present the item**

(d) Policies and Procedures

The Clerk presented a comprehensive list of policies and procedures which the Parish Council should have in place. The list highlighted those which are essential and those which are desirable/ good practice.

The Clerk presented a revised version of the Parish Council Financial Standing Orders which has been slightly amended (paragraphs 5.2 and 6.4) to reflect the recommendations from the external auditors (Mazars) regarding the segregation of duties between the Clerk and the Chair of the Parish Council.

In this connection the Clerk also presented a risk assessment regarding the segregation of duties regarding the AGAR 2022/23.

Resolved :

- **that the information be noted.**
- **that the existing Parish Council Policies are reviewed and updated by the Clerk.**
- **that a work plan is drawn up to prioritise the order in which new policies are developed.**
- **that a Policies sub group is established to consider the revised and new policies in the context of the work plan.**
- **that the amendments to the Financial Standing Orders (paragraphs 5.2 and 6.4) be agreed.**
- **that consideration of the AGAR risk assessment be deferred to the next meeting.**

(e) Health and Safety

The Clerk presented the Health and Safety Action Plan giving target dates for the completion of various tasks.

Resolved:

- **that the Health and Safety Action Plan be agreed and an update be presented to the Parish Council meeting in January.**

(f) Christmas Trees

It was raised that at the September meeting of the Parish Council it had been resolved that 2 x large Christmas Trees would be purchased via Cllr Ramsay and that the smaller trees would be purchased locally. In the interim however, it appeared that there was some confusion about the previous resolution.

The matter was further discussed and it was clarified that whilst the smaller trees may potentially be slightly more expensive than the ones that could be purchased locally, the bulk purchase means that the large Christmas Trees have a huge discount which more than compensates for the additional amount for the smaller trees. Therefore, purchasing all of the trees via Cllr Ramsay would be the most cost effective option.

It was also requested that as many Councilors as possible assist with putting the lights on the trees so that they are all synchronised to light up at the same time.

Resolved:

- **that the resolution of the September meeting be unresolved and that all of the Christmas trees be purchased via Cllr Ramsay.**
- **that as many Councilors as possible would assist with the lighting of the Christmas Trees.**

6. Finance

(a) The monthly accounts payments for September were approved and signed by Cllr O Gray.

(b) The bank reconciliation for September was approved.

(c) The budget report for September was noted.

Resolved:

- **that the monthly accounts and bank reconciliation be approved.**
- **that the budget report for September be noted and that a projected outturn report be considered at the next meeting.**

7. Planning

The impact on the Parish of the planning application in respect of the following was discussed:

- Outline application for the erection of 3no houses, all matters reserved except access and layout. Address: Land to the East of 9 Front Street West Haswell DH6 2DD.

Resolved:

- that the Parish would comment on the application as follows:
 - Haswell Parish Council has no objections to the planning application above.
 - However, the Parish Council have serious concerns about road safety issues at that location which they would like Durham County Council to take into account when considering the application.
 - The Parish Council is concerned about the access to and from the site from Salters Lane due to vehicles speeding along that road in both directions. The Parish Council have previously requested road safety measures to be installed at that location.
 - that the Parish Clerk would feed the comments back to Durham County Council

8. Strategic Planning

(a) Strategic Priorities.

The list of priorities discussed at the rearranged meeting with the East Durham AAP was considered.

Resolved:

- **that the strategic priorities would be further discussed in more detail at a sub group meeting to be arranged by the Parish Clerk within the next couple of weeks.**

(b) Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that the consultant is to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved:

- **that the Clerk to ascertain from the consultant what the next steps are regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and how much time would be needed to discuss the issue. If the consultant needs a substantial amount of time then it was agreed that she be invited to attend the meeting an hour prior to the start of the meeting.**

9. Sub Group Meetings

- **Horticultural Sub Group Meeting**

The Horticultural Sub Group met on the 19th October 2022 and various recommendation and suggestions had been put forward as follows:

- Wild flowers /bulbs - a large quantity of wildflowers have now been purchased from auction. They are a mixture of pollinators and perennials. There will be no need to rotovate the ground before planting, the ground will just need to be scarified and then the seed planted. Planting will take place in February and they will still flower in the summer.
- A number of locations for planting the wildflowers were suggested.
- It was felt that it would be a good idea to see if we could purchase some bulbs from the auction to get the best value for money. The next auction in York is the 4-9th November. It was discussed that if there were too many bulbs they could be given out to residents.
- A discussion took place regarding the planting of bluebells around the village. Suggested locations included the woodland area on the Parish Field, Front Street around the daffodils, Station Field near the woodland area.
- Haswell in bloom - The Clerk will find out the process and report back at the next meeting.
- As part of Haswell in Bloom it was suggested that we encourage residents to adopt a street sign and put a floral display next to the street sign.

- Rhododendrons - It was suggested that they are planted initially in tyres on the embankment with plants around them and swaths of bulbs around the tyres.
- It was discussed that the tyres would be painted where required before planting the winter bedding and that more tyres to be obtained for Rhododendrons and wildflowers.
- It was discussed that there are no more stones left to repair the rainbows. It was suggested that rather than purchasing more stones the stones could be sprayed with a glue / resin to keep them in place or possibly a perspex top. Cllr Gray will investigate this further.
- It was suggested that the summer bedding would be Begonia nonstop mix , Begonia Seps Mix, Ageratum blue, Summer pansies mix.

Resolved :

- **that the Clerk investigates the process of entering the Britain in Bloom competition**
- **that the suggestions put forward above be agreed by the Parish Council**
- **that an alternative solution to repairing the rainbow with stones is investigated.**
- **the Clerk obtain a price for the summer bedding from The Shaw Trust**
- **Carnival/Events Sub Group Meeting**
No further meetings of the Carnival/Events sub group had taken place.

Resolved:

- **that the information be noted.**

10. Members Reports

Cllr B Ramsay

- Suggested that there was a potential for polycarbonate plastic to be used on the rainbows to protect them.
- Reported a lorry parked on Windsor Tce that should not be parked in that location.

Cllr A Morton

- Reported a drain cover on Dent Close is split in half.

Cllr C Overton

- Requested that the groundstaff remove a pallet from grass on Kestral Way.

Cllr C Hood

- Reported that various items previously raised had all been logged with Durham CC .

Cllr Wainwright

- Requested that Durham County Council be contacted about dog fouling and to request some enforcement activity in the Parish.

- Cllr Gray stated that she would start putting out dog bags again.

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

11. County Councilor'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, and on behalf of Haswell, here are just some of the things I have worked at on behalf of the village:

- The new fencing that I requested a while ago was installed at Philips Close, Haswell.
- Reported the potholes on Faraday Terrace in Haswell. For reference, they are logged as FS-Case455395751.
- Liaised with Believe Housing to get the fallen wall at the rear of the properties on Howarth Terrace and Dent Close in Haswell.
- Reported the flooding on Pesspool Lane, as you leave Haswell towards Shotton. I contacted the Highway Inspector who went and inspected the area. A gully wagon attended and cleared the area. On behalf of all three villages, I have also:
 - Informed residents that DCC Cabinet agreed to allocate funding from the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) for the years 2022 to 2023 to sustain bus contracts that had been significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Cabinet agreed plans for a Road Safety Strategy for 2022 to 2032. In County Durham, the total number of road injuries reduced by 36 per cent in 2021 compared to the average number for the years 2017 to 2019. Fatal and serious injuries fell by two per cent during the same time.
 - Confirmed that Durham County Council will maintain its support for people fleeing adversity in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world. Cabinet received a report that sets out how the authority is engaged in five different programmes delivering refugee and asylum support to children and adults from around the globe.
 - Announced to residents that at our 'The Bread & Butter Thing' Hub in Haswell, we have created an area so members can have a free cup of tea and get warm before they collect their delivery.
 - As the cost of living continues to put financial pressure on many residents, I reminded everyone of the services where you can get help and support. Durham County Council (DCC) continue to update information as things change to make it as easy as possible for anyone experiencing financial difficulty to access the information and support they need. The most up to date information can be found at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/helpwithyourmoney>

- Launched Durham County Council's backing of 'Stoptober' for 2022, encouraging smokers to take the leap this month and quit for good - and highlighting the range of support available from 'Smoke Free County Durham'.
- Asked residents to tell us what you think about Durham County Council's draft strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the next three years. • Announced that Durham County Council is working alongside the County Durham Community Foundation to offer funding to the voluntary and community sector to create a network of places where people can go to safe, trusted spaces that happen to be warm.
- Chaired the Health & Wellbeing Board October 2022 meeting at County Hall.
- Attended a meeting to discuss the proposals to review electoral boundaries across County Durham.
- Met with officers from the Adult Learning & Skills Partnership.
- Informed residents that we have submitted bids for new investment zone sites for County Durham.
 - Attended the DCC Cabinet meeting for October 2022. As Cabinet Member for Adult and Health Services, I proposed that cabinet received the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 and agree to publish the annual report, as well as note the work that has taken place in 2021- 22 by the Health and Wellbeing Board and endorse the Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2021-22.
- Announced that DCC has secured £72,000 to support adult social care staff, through our 'Care Partnership'.
 - Attended my first County Durham Armed Forces Forum today at The Eden Armoury in Bishop Auckland, as the armed forces, veterans and their families are part of my portfolio as cabinet member for Adult & Health Services. The Eden Armoury is the home of the 8th Battalion The Rifles, a successor of the Durham Light Infantry, which was launched in November 2017.
- Held several meetings in cabinet and with Joint Administration members regarding the options available with devolution for County Durham.
- Encouraged residents to share their thoughts and insights into becoming active and staying active. Durham County Council has launched a consultation to understand how it can work with residents to enable them to move more in their everyday life. Moving Together in County Durham is a developing strategy to help residents lead more active, healthier and happier lives.

- Reminded residents that 18th October was Anti-Slavery Day, a day created by the Anti-Slavery Day Act 2010 to raise awareness of the need to eradicate all forms of the slave trade, human trafficking, and exploitation.
- Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme into 2023/24 were approved at a meeting of Durham County Council. The plans, which were first approved by Cabinet in July but required full council approval, were put forward to support low-income households across the county who are facing financial strain due to the current cost-of-living crisis.
- Attended the County Durham Partnership meeting on 'Truth & Integrity in Public Life'.
- Attended the October 2022 full council meeting of Durham County Council.
- Attended a cabinet briefing on our new Inclusive Economic Strategy - the first ever for County Durham. 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 J Miller provided the following report:

- The fencing is complete in Haswell Plough but is still waiting for the boom gate.
- Residents were unhappy at the suggested location for the seat in front of the flats so an alternative location has been suggested beside the grit bin.
- He has a wreath to lay for remembrance Sunday at St Paul's Church.
- There is funding for a Warm Hub initiative as well as LRF funding.
- Emergency Plan – Cllr Miller presented the Emergency Plan to the Parish Council. Following the events of Storm Arwen, Cllr Miller has been working with other Councilors to develop an emergency plan for the Trimdon and Thornley Division which includes Haswell Plough. Consultation has taken place with the Durham County Council Civil Contingencies Unit, the Emergency Services and Parish Councils. He would like to know by the end of November 2022 if the Parish Council would like to adopt the plan.

Resolved:

- **that the information be noted and the appropriate action taken**
- **that the Parish Council make a decision about the Emergency Plan at the next meeting once they have had the opportunity to consider it in more detail.**

12. 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 30th November 2022 at 6.30pm in the meeting room at St Paul's Church, Church Street, DH6 2DT Haswell.

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