



Haswell Parish Council

Haswell Children's Centre, Church Street, Haswell, DH6 2DZ T:0191 517 1013 E Mail: haswellparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of Haswell Parish Council held on

Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 6.30pm at St Paul's Church

Present

Cllrs A Wainwright (Chair), O Gray, CR Hood E Major, W Ramsay, A Morton, C Overton
County Cllr C R Hood
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 Pecuniary Interests

No pecuniary interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th July 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising and Action Points from the Minutes Held on 28th June 2023.

The Clerk provided an update regarding the memorial bench for Cllr G Dunstone.

Resolved:

- Cllr Gray to discuss the style of bench and the wording for the plaque with Mrs Dunstone.

5. Reports

(a) Police Report

Police Officers from Durham Constabulary were not in attendance at the meeting but provided the following report:

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

Haswell Parish report – 27/08/23 to 27/09/23

Total calls – 49

ASB – 2

Personal – 1

Nuisance and Environmental – 1

- 05/09/23 – Hessewelle Crescent – Noise complaint

Burglary – 0

Criminal Damage- 0

Theft and Handling- 0

Vehicle- 1

- 13/09/23 – Faraday Terrace – Report of items stolen from a vehicle – Closed, full investigation complete with no suspect identified.

Other –

PACT Meeting details –

- Thursday 12 th 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.

Resolved:

- **The Information is noted.**

(b) Correspondence and Funding Requests

Funding Requests

Members considered a funding request from the Hazelwell Centre for a contribution of £4,400 towards a youth project.

Resolved:

- **The Parish Council is keen to engage in the Project and would like to meet with representative of the Hazelwell Centre to discuss the proposals in more detail. Before making an investment, the Parish Council would like to see the Business Plan from the provider, including targets for the children of Haswell and Haswell Plough, key performance indicators and other outcomes. Any investment will also need to be subject to a Service Level Agreements. (SLA)**
- **The Clerk to email the Chair of Trustees to request a meeting.**

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

AGENDA ITEM 3

Correspondence

Members considered the following items of correspondence:

- Durham County Council – withdrawal of website hosting SLA from 01/04/2023.
- Correspondence from a resident regarding the state of disrepair of bus stops in Haswell Plough.
- Correspondence from a resident regarding the doctor’s surgery in Haswell still being closed.

Members received an update from County Cllr Hood that arrangements are being made for the doctors’ surgery to be reopened after the 6th October 2023 following a facility audit.

- Correspondence from a resident regarding the Tom Simpson memorial objecting to the Parish Council spending public money on potentially moving the Tom Simpson memorial into a more prominent part of the village, due to the fact that he used performance enhancing drugs.
- Correspondence from a resident regarding the Haswells Carnival, objecting to the noise levels after 9.30pm and suggesting that the Carnival should finish at 9pm as it gets dark at that time in August – this would also help those people left to pack up after the carnival.
- Durham County Council Consultations – Budget Proposals 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

Additional Items

- Members considered verbal contact from a resident regarding inconsiderate cyclists on the new path between Haswell Plough and Shotton and requesting a ‘No Cyclist’ sign to be erected.

The Clerk reported that the matter had been referred to County Cllr Hood who reported that he had spoken with officers from Durham County Council regarding the matter. It is not possible to put a ‘No Cyclist’ sign on the path as this would also restrict its use by people with pushchairs and mobility scooters.

Resolved

- **The Clerk to explore other website hosting providers and provide a report to the next meeting.**
- **Members noted the issues regarding the bus stops at Haswell Plough and requested that County Councillor Hood investigate the matter further with Officers from Durham County Council. The Clerk to contact the resident who had sent in the correspondence.**
- **The Clerk to update the resident who had sent in the correspondence regarding the doctor’s surgery in Haswell.**
- **Members noted the comments regarding the Tom Simpson memorial. No decision has been taken regarding moving the memorial. However, given his iconic status in the history of cycling which can neither be cancelled or changed, the Parish Council is still keen to celebrate the achievements of Tom Simpson. The Parish Council will seek the wider views of residents on the matter.**

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

AGENDA ITEM 3

- **Members noted the comments from the resident regarding the Haswells Carnival and will consider them further when planning for the 2024 Carnival.**
- **Members noted the Durham County Council Budget Proposals 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan.**
- **The Clerk to contact the resident regarding cyclists on the path between Haswell and Haswell Plough.**

(c) Training/ Conferences / Meetings

Cllr Gray reported that she had attended the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils on 11th September 2023 at Hordon SWC.

Members considered attendance at the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) – Annual General Meeting scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th October at 10.00am

Resolved

- **Cllr Gray attendance at the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils be noted**
- **Cllr Gray to attend the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Annual General Meeting scheduled to take place on Saturday 7th October at 10.00am**

(d) Speed Survey

Members considered the results of the speed survey undertaken jointly by Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council.

The survey was undertaken for 7 days between the 5th – 11th September 2023 on front street in Haswell.

The results show that 44% of drivers were travelling through the village at over 30 mph. Of the 44%, 11% were driving at speeds within the enforcement thresholds (36 – 45 mph). The report concludes that the level of vehicles within the Police enforcement thresholds is outside the escalation levels where consideration would be given to dedicated speed enforcement attention by the Roads Policing Unit/Safety Camera Technology. Therefore, on this occasion, this is not a location where the police would dedicate a specific policing resource.

Members were dissatisfied with this outcome as the monitoring does show that a significant number of vehicles are travelling at speed through the village. Members also felt that the location of the survey (just past the junction of Station Street onto Front Street) was inappropriate.

Resolved:

- **The Clerk to respond to the correspondence stating that Members are dissatisfied with the outcome of the speed survey and requesting a rationale for the location of the survey which Members consider to be inappropriate.**

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

(e) Groundstaff Facilities and Equipment.

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the electrical situation in the groundstaff facilities. The Hazelwell Centre have restored the electricity supply to the groundstaff facilities. A meter is already installed so there is no requirement to have a new one fitted. Arrangements have been made to have the meter read every month. Negotiations are ongoing with regard to payment for electricity used in the past. The Clerk requested authority to purchase a new leaf blower and a small fridge for the groundsman.

Resolved:

- **The Clerk to continue negotiations with the Chair of the Hazelwell Centre regarding the billing for the electricity in the past and going forwards.**
- **Authority to purchase an appropriate new leaf blower was agreed up to the value of £500 is agreed. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Ramsey.**
- **Cllr Gray to look into providing a small fridge.**

(f) Playground Inspections.

Members considered a quote from Durham County Council to make essential repairs to the 3 playgrounds at a cost of £1613.12 plus VAT.

Resolved:

- **The quotation is agreed.**
- **The Clerk to ensure the repairs are undertaken**
- **The Clerk to research the grants available to refurbish / replace the playgrounds in Haswell Plough and Dent Close.**

(g) MUGA

Members discussed the situation regarding the MUGA. The Hazelwell Centre lease the land from the Parish Council. Members are concerned that the MUGA is dangerous. Cllr Wainwright has previously had an informal discussion with the Chair of the Hazelwell Centre about potential plans for bringing the MUGA back into use. The formal approach has not yet been made to the Parish Council about the plans to bring the MUGA back into use.

Resolved:

- **The Clerk to approach the Chair of the Hazelwell Centre about the Plans to bring the MUGA back into use before the Parish Council considers taking formal action.**

(h) Winter Bedding.

The Clerk reported that the winter bedding is arriving on the 3rd October. The cost is £734.88 plus VAT.

Resolved:

- **The cost of winter bedding is agreed at 734.88 plus VAT**

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

6. Finance

- (a) The monthly accounts payments for July and August 2023 were considered and signed by Cllr O Gray and Cllr C Hood.
- (b) The bank reconciliation for July and August 2023 were considered and signed by by Cllr O Gray and Cllr C Hood.

Resolved:

- the monthly accounts and bank reconciliation are approved.

7. Budget

- (a) The clerk stated that the projected outturn figure was likely to be estimated as 105,498 against a budget of 84,470 due to expenditure on earmarked reserves (Haswells Carnival) and unexpected expenditure items.

Resolved:

- the projected outturn figure of 105,498 is noted.
- Budget estimates for 2024/25 to be considered at the November 2023 meeting.

8. Planning

No planning applications had been received.

10. Strategic Planning

(a) Neighbourhood Plan

- A meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Plan has been arranged for 1st November 2023 with the consultant.

(b) Strategic Priorities

- No further update.

Resolved:

- The meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Plan on 1st November is agreed.

11. Sub Committee/ Working Group Meetings

(a) Horticultural Working Group

No meetings had taken place. Further meetings to be scheduled in the autumn.

(b) Events Committee.

Next meeting 11th October 2023

(c) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Meeting scheduled for 1st November 2023.

(d) Human Resources Committee

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

No further meetings had taken place

(e) Emergency Plan Working Group

Meeting scheduled to take place on 15th November 2023.

(f) Policies Working Group

No meetings had taken place.

Resolved:

- **The information is noted.**

11. Members Reports

There were no Members reports

12. County Councillor's Update Report

County Cllr C Hood reported the following:

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-Case- 455395751.
- 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.

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

AGENDA ITEM 3

- 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 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.
- 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.

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

AGENDA ITEM 3

- 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
- 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 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.

Resolved

- **The information is noted.**

13. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

14. Date & Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting shall be held on Wednesday 25th October 2023, 6.30pm in the meeting room at St Paul's Church, Church Street, Haswell, DH6 2DT.

15. Exclusion of Press and Public

(a) Personnel Matters

A discussion took place regarding the review of staffing.

Members discussed the advert, job description and job profile for part time post of Public Space Operative.

The hours of the Clerk to be reduced to 12 hours per week.

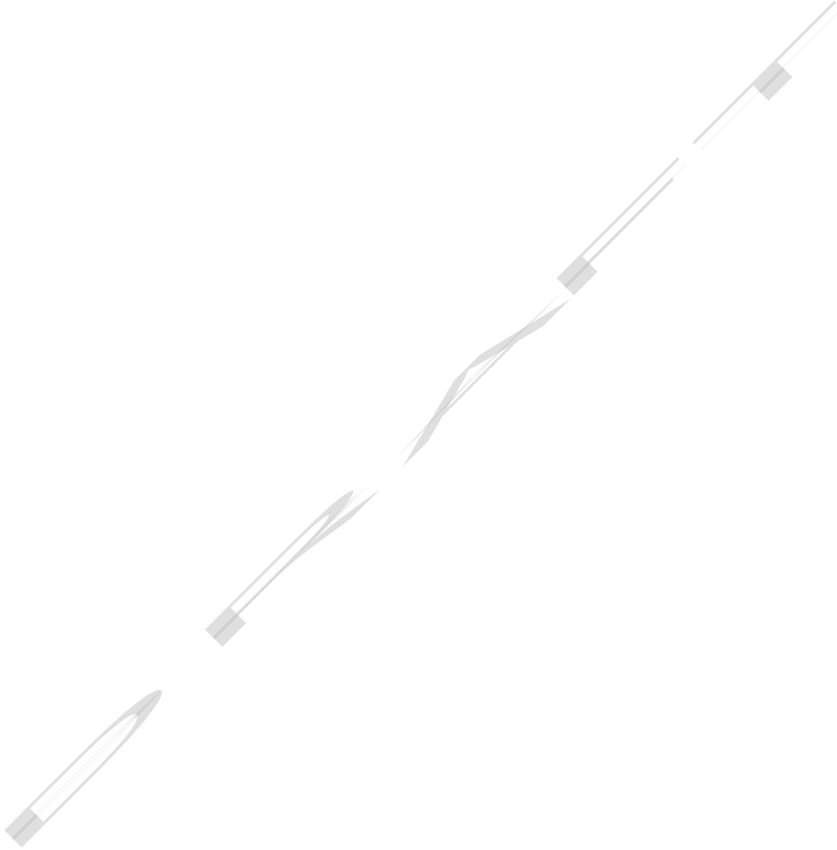
Resolved:

- **The information is noted**

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)

AGENDA ITEM 3

- **The advert, job description and job profile for the post of Public Space Operative is agreed.**
- **The post of Public Space Operative to be advertised as soon as possible, via website, Facebook, Parish Notice Board.**



Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Haswell Parish Council)