



HASWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Haswell Parish Council held in Haswell & Haswell Plough Community Centre, Windsor Terrace, Haswell, on Wednesday 29th July 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Cllrs. H. W. Brown (in the chair); N. Brown; J. K. Gordon; K. Metcalfe; A. P. Nixon, J.P.; W. Ramsay; L. Taylor; C. Treloar.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Philip Soakell was thanked for his valuable contribution to the history board for the Haswell Colliery Engine House. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the final version had been approved by a consensus and sent for printing as it was hoped to have it installed in good time before the anniversary of the mining disaster on Monday 28th September 2026.

Minute No.	Agenda item
26/119	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: To accept an apology and reason for non-attendance from Cllr. O. Gray (holiday).
26/120	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Personal Interests in any items on the agenda. Cllrs. Metcalfe and Nixon declared a registerable interest in matters affecting the Community Centre.
26/121	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. H. Brown, seconded by Cllr. Nixon, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the previous parish council meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2026.
26/122	POLICE REPORT: A written report was received from the Neighbourhood Policing Team.
26/123	DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC): Cllr. Taylor presented a briefing note from Nathan O'Brien (O'Brien Aggregates) on a planning application for Tuthill Quarry. On the motion of Cllr. Ramsay, seconded by Cllr. Brown, it was unanimously RESOLVED: That it would not be appropriate for the Parish Council to withdraw its objection and adopt a neutral position and, if planning permission is granted, the following conditions should be imposed: any HGVs shall be prevented from travelling through Haswell; any HGVs shall be required to turn left out of the quarry; and local residents shall be informed who to contact at <i>O'Brien Aggregates</i> if these conditions are not complied with throughout the operation of the quarry.
26/123.1	Cllr. Taylor encouraged members to submit feedback on a public consultation on extending the private rented sector selective licensing scheme past March 2027, focusing on proposed designated areas, fees, and conditions, by the deadline (12th August 2026), and to comment on the County Durham Plan consultation on topics and issues which will help shape jobs; transport; the environment; town centres; and community facilities.
26/124	REPORTS: There were no reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.
26/125	CLERK'S REPORT: The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed. A further response was awaited regarding an escalation of outstanding balances for <i>npower's</i> unmetered supply.
26/125.1	The Clerk gave a report on matters relating to grounds maintenance. On the motion of Cllr. Ramsay, seconded by Cllr. Brown, it was RESOLVED: To authorise the purchase of a pre-

Chair's Signature:

Date: Monday 21st September 2026

owned *Toro* grass cutter with five folding cutting 'wings', previously used at Durham County Cricket Club, at the price you quoted (£6,000) and to purchase a suitable metal shipping container for storage of the grass cutter up to a cost of £1,000.

- 26/126 FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of invoices which were presented to the meeting.
- 26/127 PLANNING:** Cllr. Taylor reported that the large-scale renewable energy scheme (solar farm) at Haswell Plough had been approved by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.
- 26/128 EVENTS:** Cllr. Taylor gave an update on attendance at Durham Miners' Gala on 11th July 2026 (140th anniversary). She gave an update on summer day trips and the arrangements for the Summer Carnival on 22nd August 2026 which would be advertised within the parish. The switch-on of Christmas tree lights would take place on Saturday 5th December 2026 (Trimdon Band booked for 4:45pm arrival. Santa's giving event would be held on a date on which the popular mobile ice rink will be available, preferably held outside on the MUGA).
- 26/029 STANDING ORDERS:** At 8:00 p.m. it was **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Orders to progress the remaining business
- 26/130 COMMUNITY CENTRE:** Members discussed matters arising from a meeting with representatives from Haswell & Haswell Plough Community Centre held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026. *[Cllrs. Metcalfe and Nixon declared a registerable interest. They left the room and took no part in the discussion and voting. A member of the public who had expressed an interest in serving as a trustee left the room].* Members made it very clear that they were unhappy with the lack of progress in appointing eligible and suitably qualified local residents from within the Parish of Haswell, who have expressed an interest in serving as new trustees on the trust board. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council has no confidence in the current trustees of Haswell & Haswell Plough Community Centre (managed by the Hazelwell Centre Charitable Incorporated Organisation). *[Cllr. Ramsay abstained from voting].*
- 26/131 NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the next meeting shall be held on Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in Haswell & Haswell Plough Community Centre.
- 26/132 EMPLOYMENT:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To approve a new one-year fixed-term contract (1st August 2026 - 31st July 2027) for one of the public space operatives.
- 26/133 CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.