

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2025 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Councillors Locke (Chair), Barbour, Down, Fairley & Garbett.

In attendance: 1 resident & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome & apologies Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from ward councillors Avaei & Campion.</p> <p>Condolences and appreciation for the contribution of former Parish Councillor Tony Ewens, were expressed by Cllr Locke on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2025 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda - none</p>	
<p>4. Issues raised by residents None</p>	
<p>5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors None. Outstanding actions – Cllr Herridge had taken away some issues from the March meeting and the Parish Council are looking forward to receiving updates on his enquiries about parking on Elliot Walk and Ryall Walk verges, graffiti and neighbourhood policing contacts.</p>	
<p>6. Police Matters</p> <p>The agenda for this meeting was emailed to the PCSO and a new police contact but neither were in attendance.</p> <p>Reported crime statistics February 2025 – taken from the Northumbria Police Crime Map:</p> <p>7 reported crimes – reports made from or near:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chelton Close – 1 x other theft- Castle Street – 1 x violence / sexual offense- Newham Avenue – 1 x ASB- Heddon Avenue – 1 x ASB- Coach Lane – 1 x ASB- Charles Street – 1 x ASB- Windt Street – 1 x ASB <p>Problems with mini motorbikes and quad bikes persist – young children riding without helmets.</p> <p>Cllr Down reported that Brunswick PC had been asked to report crime hotspots to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant about attendance at meetings.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>7. Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates and newsletters - Parks Forum, NGN, NALC, CAN, Communities Team. - Acknowledgement of garages issues complaint from Director of Housing, NCC's Office. - AGAR 2024 / 25 forms received – submission deadline 30 June 2025. - National Grid wayleave payments. - Youth Club litter picking / bees needs offer. - VE Day fund. - High Ridge easement agreement. - Fires in Havannah. - Basal growth on tress. - Branching out research request. - Elliot Walk ownership – not NCC - Lola Street / Enid Street grassed areas – meeting offer from Christine Herriot. - Planning consultation Cell A. - Walbottle solar farm opposition – support request. - Reply from Traffic Management area officer - Planning Peer Challenge invitation - Wet patch on Community Centre field. - Benches – Dinnington. - Fishing in Havannah. - Orchard watering / grass cutting quotes. 	
<p>8. Financial matters</p> <p>The balance on the accounts is £3,809.76 (current); £8,396.80 (reserves). Reserves includes £2,270 (orchard grant); £2,500 (Branching Out grant) and the remainder is the election reserve.</p> <p>Cllr Barbour pointed out that the election reserves attract a small quarterly interest payment – should this remain in the reserves or be diverted to the current account?</p> <p>Payments authorised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk - £179.30 - HMRC - £44.80 - Plants - £106.97 - NALC subs - £230.64 - Water butt - £27.50 <p>Reclaiming VAT – Cllr Barbour reported that she has found out that it is possible for the Parish Council to reclaim VAT, and it can be back dated up to 4 years. In order to do that, the contact address for the Parish Council must be consistent across everything – currently the banking address is different from the correspondence address. Cllr Barbour will enquire with NALC whether or not it is permissible for the Clerk's address to be used for banking or not.</p>	<p>Cllr Barbour</p>
<p>9. Environment Planning & Highways</p> <p>Work place recycling guidance–</p> <p>There is very little recycling generated by the Community Centre, any that is, is taken home by the volunteers to be recycled. It was noted that there are a number</p>	

of complexities around work place recycling given that premises must have a commercial contract in place.
It was agreed that the issue would be raised at the next All Parishes Meeting on 29th May.

Litter / Street sweeper –

It was reported that enquiries about the service had revealed that there had been some operational issues with staffing and spare parts for the machines that had recently been resolved and the service was back to normal now.
One Stop staff had been seen litter picking around their property – Cllr Locke will thank them on Facebook.

Grass Cutting –

The quotes from NCC exceed the amounts the Parish Council can afford so discussions are underway with the farmer about the grass cutting service he could supply – indications are that it would be significantly cheaper.
There was also a discussion about mowing the wild flower area and the Parish investing in its own scythe type mower. Cost, maintenance, operation and storage were discussed. NWT are keen to start planting the yellow rattle, so progress needs to be made urgently.

A meeting has been proposed to discuss the management of Lola and Enid Street grassed areas – Christine Herriot's staff are arranging this. It was agreed that the grass cutting regime agreed for the village needs to be sent to the operational team again and that signs need to be in place to explain what the management plan is for those spaces.

Weed killing & glyphosate –

NCC have said that every resident on a particular street needs to agree not to have glyphosate used on their street – there is no alternative, residents would be responsible for manually removing weeds on their street if they choose not to have the Council service. It was agreed that Parish Councillors would discuss this with their neighbours on selected streets and report back – it could be that a questionnaire could be developed if there are positive responses from the selected streets.

Trees –

An agreement has been reached not to trim basal growth on trees in the village.

Memorial Bench –

This work is on hold until more pressing matters have been settled.

Litter –

12 bags of litter have been collected by the Parish Councillors during the Great British Spring Clean and 5 bags collected by a volunteer from Havannah.
The next litter pick is on Tuesday 6 May at 6pm – it was agreed to email the police about the litter pick because he had said he would be willing to help.

Orchard watering –

Cllr Barbour has purchased a new water butt to be installed at the Community Centre. NCC have confirmed that they would charge for watering because the original agreement with Planning was that volunteers would water the trees - there was a discussion about establishing a rota for watering and about approaching the Orchard Group ask for help.

Cllr Locke

All Parish Councillors

<p>Bee's Needs – It was agreed that the Parish Council would register on their web site.</p> <p>Elliot Walk – NCC have confirmed that the land is not theirs, no one knows who the owner is. Cllr Barbour offered to approach the Coal Board to ask if it was theirs.</p> <p>Road safety and traffic management – A reply to HPC's enquiry with NCC's Traffic Management engineer about speeding on Coach Lane has indicated that she will undertake a new speed survey in the 20-mph zone on Coach Lane in the one-hour increment format. If the findings indicate that there is speed issue, she will consider installing a driver speed feedback sign. She has reviewed the personal injury accident data for the crossing on Coach Lane and there are no reports so it is not an area of concern and therefore a raised table cannot be considered. This does not accord with the experience of residents and there was a discussion about reporting near miss incidents in future. It was agreed that the Traffic Management engineer should be invited to do a site visit with Parish Councillors to discuss issues in the village.</p> <p>Planning – Cllr Barbour will investigate the Cell A application. A resident also reported the increasing number of people using the Cell B field to walk and exercise dogs who had been seen chasing deer. This is of great concern and will be raised with Emma Foody. It was agreed that it would be useful to repeat the meeting with developers and planning that was held last year. The Clerk will write to them.</p> <p>Havannah – Mick Murphy has offered to meet about operational issues in Havannah. Cllr Locke will make the arrangements.</p>	<p>Cllr Barbour</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Barbour</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Locke</p>
<p>10. Other issues raised by Councillors</p> <p>Garages – the issues persist and have not been resolved. Cllr Locke will reply to the email from Director of Housing's office and seek progress.</p> <p>Bus stop outside the Community Centre – it was agreed to add this issue to the list for discussion with the Area Traffic Management engineer.</p>	<p>Cllr Locke</p>

Next meeting and AGM of Hazlerigg Parish Council will be held on Thursday 29th May 2025 at Hazlerigg District Memorial Hall at 6pm.