

## HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

**In attendance:** Cllr Andrew Herridge, 2 residents & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

#### AGENDA

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; apologies</b> Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> were received from ward councillors Cllr Avaei &amp; Campion.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b> were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>Graffiti / Street Art A1 underpass</b> – following the concerns raised by a resident at the previous meeting, enquiries had been made about approaches in other areas of the city to these problems. The city council’s arts officer had shared a brief for a project in West Denton working with young people to create art work in 3 underpasses in the area. This project also aimed to tackle a number of other anti-social behaviour issues and had a budget of £25,000 raised from crime prevention sources.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether the new youth group (Inspire Youth) operating out of the centre could be engaged and also recognition that the funds that the Parish Council might be able to apply for would not be adequate for such a project.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Parish Council might get hold of some anti-graffiti paint to cover the tags.</p> <p>Cllr Barbour suggested that the Parish Council holds a list of local assets and the contact numbers to report graffiti on private property – because the city council will only remove graffiti from their own property.</p> <p>Cllr Down suggested that a post is put on Facebook to highlight the fact that graffiti is a criminal offense.</p> <p>Cllr Herridge offered to find out who is responsible for the underpass.</p> <p><b>Newsletter</b> – it was agreed that photographs should be added to illustrate the articles and a request was made to add the details of the Ward Councillors’ surgeries (which Cllr Herridge will supply). It was noted that the current poster was out of date.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the community could be invited to send in articles about community stories in the village.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Herridge</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>4. Issues raised by residents</b> None</p>	
<p><b>5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors</b> None – Cllr Avaei is on sick leave – constituents are being referred to Parklands councillors if they want to speak to a Lib Dem councillor.</p>	

<p><b>6. Elliot Walk Hedgerow</b>  Parish Councillors have met with the Tree Officer who agrees that the hedgerow is in poor condition. The hedgerow is managed by the city council even though the allotments are in private ownership.  The Tree Officer suggested that in-fill planting might improve it or planting a new hedge in front of the existing one. Cllr Locke agreed to forward her summary email of the meeting to all councillors.  The meeting also covered the hedgerow between the A1 and High Ridge – the Tree Officer suggested a new hedge and fence which could be funded by the North East Community Forest.  Cllr Locke has also contacted Northern PowerGrid about a wayleave payment for overhead cables on High Ridge and is awaiting a reply.</p> <p>Following a discussion about the parking on Elliot Walk and Ryall Avenue, Cllr Herridge said he would report it to parking enforcement and would appreciate a photo of the damage being caused.</p> <p>Cllr Locke said she would contact the Tree Officer and ask him to progress the new hedge at Elliot Walk and to arrange for the planting to be brought out along the boundary with the A1 – a site visit will be necessary to establish the width of the new planting which can't be too deep, or it will encroach on the space for community use.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Herridge</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p>
<p><b>7. Bees Needs Week</b>  There was a discussion about the possibilities for events to mark the week including asking Inspire Youth if they could organise a themed session.  It was agreed that there would be more discussion at future meetings.</p>	
<p><b>8. Police Matters –</b></p> <p>The clerk has written to PCSO Mood asking him if he still our contact and asking him to attend our meetings – he gets the agenda every month.  Cllr Herridge said he would provide the contact details for the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant to escalate the request.  Cllr Locke said she thought this might be an issue for the 'All Parishes' meeting and asked the clerk to chase up the notes from the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>5 reported crimes in December 2024:</b>  On or near Lola Street – 1 x anti-social behaviour.  On or near Lieven Street – 1 x Public Order offense.  On or near Castle Street – 2 x Drugs offenses.  On or near High Ridge / Chelton Close – 1 x criminal damage / arson.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Herridge</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>9. Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UGN &amp; Parks Forum updates</li> <li>- Lithium-ion Battery Safety Campaign updates</li> <li>- Papers for Audit &amp; Standards Committee – Cllr Herridge will alert HPC if it is worth attending in future.</li> <li>- Community Action Northumberland update.</li> <li>- NALC jobs newsletter / updates – Cllr Down noted that there were far too many to keep on top of but he would continue to circulate anything important.</li> <li>- VAT guidance from IC Accountants.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Herridge</b></p>

<p><b>10. Financial matters</b></p> <p>A monitoring form for the grant from the ward committee has been received. The funds have been moved into the deposit account.</p> <p>Cllr Barbour noted how little would be left over once the commitments had been met and suggested signposting those asking the Parish Council for funding to more appropriate funders.</p> <p>It was also noted that if the Parish area became bigger following a community governance review, the Parish could have more funds to work with.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the complexities of reclaiming VAT and the information gleaned from the links shared by our payroll accountants. Cllr Barbour agreed to look into the matter further and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was also suggested that this issue could be raised at an 'All Parishes' meeting.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the Head of Electoral Services at NCC had said that she thought that keeping a reserve for election costs of £4,000 was reasonable but also suggested raising the matter with NALC.</p> <p>The balance before tonight's cheques is £5538.95.</p> <p>Payments authorised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerk - £179.30</li> <li>- HMRC - £44.80</li> <li>- Plug Plants - £410.99</li> <li>- Grass Cutting services - £567.</li> </ul> <p>It was suggested that Banks be approached about funding something other than a graffiti project given that the likely cost would be far higher than their £2,000 maximum award – could an application for a memorial bench and tubs be made?</p>	<p><b>Cllr Barbour</b></p>
<p><b>11. Environment Planning &amp; Highways</b></p> <p><b>Memorial Bench</b> – It was agreed that Banks be approached about a bench at the bus stop in the middle of the village and perhaps asked to install it. An application for funding will be progressed.</p> <p><b>Litter</b> – picks will resume after the clocks go forward on the first Monday of each month starting from the Community Centre at 6pm.</p> <p>The litter survey has been sent out to businesses again this year, it includes a question about staff volunteering on village litter picks.</p> <p>It was also agreed to ask the Youth Club to do a litter pick as part of one of their sessions.</p> <p>A resident highlighted the amount of litter that was being left on bin days which Cllr Herridge said he would report.</p> <p>Cllr Down also noted that the road sweeper is still not concentrating on the areas of greatest need.</p> <p><b>Hazlerigg Community Orchard</b> – the Ward Committee were thanked for their grant for the Orchard, and it was noted that the maintenance training had been successful.</p> <p><b>Speeding and road safety</b> – the issues on Coach Lane persist particularly around the zebra crossing. The Parish Council would like to have driver speed feedback signs and more surveys which give the times of day that the speeds are recorded. Can the speed camera van be deployed? The clerk will ask about this.</p> <p>The Parish Council would also like to see the zebra crossing put on a raised table.</p>	<p><b>Cllrs Barbour / Locke</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Herridge</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

<p><b>Planning</b> – the Environment Agency have objected to phases in Cell A because of the flooding issues being caused.</p> <p><b>High Ridge</b> – the risk assessment was approved and will be kept on file. It will be reviewed in February 2026.</p> <p>Signage on High Ridge will be put on the March agenda.</p>	
<p><b>13. Other issues raised by Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Locke said she would repurpose the Jean Cartman grant application which had been unsuccessful and look for other opportunities such as funding for acoustic pond surveys.</p> <p>Cllr Fairley said a deer had been killed on Coach Lane and asked if we could get deer signs there.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p>

**Next meeting of Hazlerigg Parish Council will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Hazlerigg District Memorial Hall at 6pm.**