HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: 5 residents, Sarah Capes (NCC Parks and Open Spaces)

& Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

	Item	Action
1.	**1. Welcome and apologies.** Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Apologies** were received from Ward Cllr Robinson (NCC) and Cllr Richard Ross (NT).	
2.	**2. NCC Parks & Open Spaces Update**	
3.	SC noted that funds were being drawn down from Section 106 developer contributions to improve habitats at Havannah. Grasslands will be cut and the clippings removed and recycled. Fencing will be repaired and unnecessary styles removed, missing gates will be replaced and water troughs installed in anticipation of grazing animals being introduced in the future.	
4.	The existing fence line at the big pond will be repaired but not extended so the pond will not be fully fenced off. Boardwalks will be replaced near the heathland to provide level access to the space. Vegetation will be managed around the boardwalks and in the butterfly areas under the pylons. Woodland management will be undertaken to thin out trees (up to 10% only) and understory planting introduced.	
5.	There will be some management of vegetation around the smaller pond. A parish councillor highlighted the ecological value of the pond to the west of the large pond and the need to reduce access.	
6.	A resident asked if wildflower seeds would be sown this year – SC said that yellow rattle was scattered last year and it will be left for another year to see if it takes and self seeds.	
7.	A parish councillor asked if Countryside Stewardship funding was still available – SC said it was not because it had been associated with Urban Green, however, there was the potential to apply again in the future.	
8.	A resident asked if there had been any surveys in the ponds this year because they hadn't seen any frog spawn in the ponds – a volunteer from Havannah noted that there had been a Toad Safari and 20 females and 150 male toads had been recorded but they had seen very little frog spawn.	
9.	A parish councillor noted that a coot had been seen in the smaller pond. A parish councillor said that they had seen piles of wood chippings on the new path near the school – these present a fire risk. SC requested 'What 3 Words' location and	**RL**

photos to be sent in. SC also noted that there would be further work on the heathland to reduce the height of the heather and remove self seeded trees. A parish councillor said that they had been informed of the reduction in the population of the Dingy Skipper in Havannah, likely to be linked to the reduction in trefoil plants in the area – SC was asked to convey this to the Ecologist and she commented that this could be a national decline. A parish councillor raised the issue of anti-social behaviour around the pond. It was noted that the No Fishing sign and the Life Saving Board had both been vandalised. The latter has been reinforced and reinstated. The vandalisation of life saving equipment had been picked up by the Chronicle recently. A parish councillor noted that this was surely an argument for a full time ranger working in Havannah – SC said this was not possible. She went on to stress that ASB is a police matter and that it must be reported to the police. A parish councillor said that puri puri burr had been seen in Havannah – a volunteer said that 3 patches were being treated by volunteers but it was unclear if more would emerge next spring. A parish councillor highlighted the correspondence that had been sent to the parks team in relation to an out of control dog and horses cantering along the heathland. It was suggested that signs could be installed to warn users about the invasive plants – SC said she was unconvinced that more signs would help but agreed to put an identification message in the site notice board. SC was thanked for her presentation and time. SC said that she was leaving her post and taking up a new role in another area.	**SC**
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2026 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.	
4. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda: It was noted that the deadline for submissions to the **Community Governance Review** close on 28 September. The clerk was asked to email the Elections Team to confirm that the Parish Council agreed with the proposal put forward by the council on Lets Talk. The proposal includes the new parish boundary taking in the allotments as well as the Havannah Park Estate – it was suggested that the Parish Council could seek a meeting with both the farmer and the Allotment Management Committee to discuss the relationship with HPC if the transfer is approved. **Walkabout feedback –** the meeting had focussed on grass cutting and grounds maintenance. New practices have been introduced but there has been some damage to the trees. **Police meeting –** cross boundary communications have been established as a result – between the Killingworth and Gosforth Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The request to change the PC's meeting times has been reiterated but the PC are doubtful that such a move would result in regular police attendance because of their changing shift patterns and priorities.	**AL**

5. Issues raised by residents: **Signs at High Ridge –** it was confirmed that the old sign had been removed. Residents raised concerns about the street name sign for High Ridge which is situated on a low garden wall, resident parking frequently obscures the sign and leads to driver confusion. It was agreed that the clerk should report this to Traffic Management and request a street sign on a pole for the street. A resident noted that the village was looking much tidier since the walkabout. A resident suggested that cages could be installed to protect the stems of the trees from the grass cutters but it was felt that these would become unsightly in time. A parish councillor suggested that mulch could be applied at the bases of trees or the parish council could cut around the bases with their mower. It was noted that there a number of damaged and diseased trees in the village which may become unstable in winter storms. A resident said that they were pleased with the progress that had been made and that it was time to move on from these issues.	**AL**
6. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors Cllr Down reported back on the fly tipping issues that had been experienced around the garages. The area of land in question has now been fenced off by a resident and used to store a caravan. There are ongoing discussions between the resident and the Housing Department about this. A parish councillor said that it was concerning that residents are appropriating publicly owned land for personal gain. He also reported on an incident of ASB at the bus stop which he had challenged – it was noted that there is a lack of youth provision in the villages and that the City Council has identified money from reserves which is going to be spent on youth activities. Cllr Down also said he was waiting for the results of North Tyneside's speed surveys on Coach Lane to be reported back. The Ward Newsletter recently highlighted the deployment of the temporary speed sign on Coach Lane. A parish councillor raised concerns that the parish council had not been made aware of the speed signs ahead of their installation.	
7. Police Matters **Reported crimes June 26 – 8 crimes** Windt Street 1 x ASB– 2 x shoplifting; 1 x violence or sexual offence. Lola Street – 1 x ASB Coach Lane – 1 x ASB Newham Avenue – 1 x violence or sexual offence. Castle Street – 1 x violence or sexual offence. North View – 1 x ASB **Reported crimes July 26 – 14 crimes** Lola Street -1 x ASB Coach Lane – 1 x ASB Heddon Avenue – 1 X ASB Newham Avenue – 1 x theft Matfen Avenue – 1 x ASB; 1 x theft Windt Street – 2 x shoplifting	

North View – 2 x violence or sexual offence Castle Street – 1 x theft; 1 x public order offence. High Ridge – 2 x ASB. It was also noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had emailed a report about recent incidents in the village. They have recorded 23 incidents / crimes. 11 of those were welfare related; 5 were youth related including ASB and lighting fires; 2 were theft. The team have stepped up patrols of Havannah and Three Hills and noted that 3 of the 5 youth incidents had occurred in the nature reserves. They have also challenged illegal fishing and sent the culprits on their way. They also urged continued reporting to justify patrolling resources. Parish councillors reported on their meetings with Newcastle and Killingworth team PCSO's and as a result, the two teams are now working more closely together. It has also resulted in a greater police presence in the village, including the nature reserve.	
8. Correspondence **On issues including:** Himalayan balsam; Awards for All grant funding; Community Governance Review; Work Place Pensions; Havannah – fires, ASB and police patrols; Grass cutting complaints; NCC walkabout; Ferguson Crescent garages; illegal fishing; Community Centre Family Day; memorial bench; High Ridge Tree Care Day; Cell C3 landscaping; All Parishes meeting; litter bin at One Stop; AGAR training; Cell B1 landscaping; wildlife gardening and scything. **Updates and meeting papers:** Passenger Transport User Group; Parks Forum; Airport Consultative Committee; Audit & Standards Committee. Sadly, no entries for the Gardening Competition have been received.	
9. Financial Matters **Banking position:** current account - £12,019 – reserves and grants -£9,754 **Cheques / payments approved for:** Zurich Municipal Insurance - £264 Community Centre Grant - £3,900 CCTV installation for the orchard - £63 Clerk's Salary – August & September - £387.92 HMRC - £97 Quotes for the installation of the memorial bench and the orchard bench are to be sought. The 3 benches on Coach Lane are going to be painted by HPC volunteers.	**SB/AL**
10. Environment, Planning & Highways • **Allotments –** Cllr Down will write to the Allotments Officer about the poor condition of the road access to the allotments and measures to prevent access by quad bikes. He will also raise the possibility of HPC being involved in the management of them. • **Orchard –** a community day is planned this coming weekend – unfortunately the	**DD**

fruit has once again been picked too early so there is no fruit for the community to harvest. • **Litter –** The next litter pick is on 28/09/26. Two officers from the Recycling Team attended the Family Day event. However, the parish council has still not managed to meet with the team manager. Requests have been made to Cllr Lovatt for recycling bins in the play park and at the Community Centre. • **Speeding and road safety –** as previously reported. • **Planning notices / updates –** Cllr Barbour will write to Barratt Homes for an update on the Brunton Quarry development. • **NGP** – Cllr Down has made an enquiry about the status of community access to the playing pitches at the school – the agreement was that they should have been available from September 2025. There have been newspaper reports about the proposed housing development on the Sage site. Litter on the new path is an ongoing issue and the school's responsibility for it was questioned. A parish councillor advised that school representatives attend the NGP Nature Conservation Steering Group and they had advised that they would be doing anti-litter engagement at the last meeting. Electric bikes and ASB are ongoing issues that need to be reported to the police. • **High Ridge –** the new signs need to be installed.	**SB**
11. Other issues raised by Councillors: Cllr Fairley raised the need for a bin at Dolphin Villas. Cllr Locke advised that she intended to stand down as Chair in May but would continue to be a parish councillor.	

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 29 October 2026 at Hazlerigg Community Centre at 6pm.