

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25th January 2024 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: Sarah Capes – Urban Green; Ward Councillors Avaei & Campion, 13 residents and & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome & apologies Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from PCSO Mood.</p>	
<p>2. Havannah Nature Reserve – Conservation Management Plan Urban Green’s partnership with its volunteers and local communities was explained together with the roles available in practical work on site, monitoring, education, and fundraising. For more information and to register as a volunteer, follow the link on Urban Green’s website.</p> <p>Havannah is the only one of Urban Green’s sites to have a conservation management plan – it is not a site management plan, that will come later.</p> <p>Some of the main themes of the conservation plan are to improve paths within the site to create a circular route (encouraging visitors to stay on the paths and not wander off into sensitive areas) and to fence off sensitive areas for wildlife to protect them from people and dogs. Havannah is the only lowland heathland in Newcastle and Urban Green are looking to help it’s conservation by introducing grazing by horses or cattle. In response to a question about how the suggestions in the conservation plan would be prioritised, it was noted that actions in the reserve are funding dependent, but the plan does outline suggestion for yearly actions, some of which have already been implemented.</p> <p>A further question asked what the top 3 things were that Urban Green wanted to achieve, that is, what were they putting in funding bids and business cases – in response, Urban Green’s priorities were said to be improving the paths, creating the circular route, and fencing off sensitive areas for wildlife.</p> <p>It was also noted that Health & Safety was an ever-present priority for all sites following the storms in recent years.</p> <p>A question was asked about the status of the conservation plan – it was explained that it is guidance, but it will be referenced in the site management plan when it is produced.</p> <p>A member of the public asked about the path that was proposed through the site from the village to the new school in the Great Park. Cllr Locke explained that it was included in a current planning application (Strategic Routes Planning Application) to Newcastle City Council. They are proposing a 3-metre-wide path with 5-metre-high streetlights. Cllr Locke encouraged residents to view the application on NCC’s website and make comments.</p> <p>A resident commented that it was important to join the communities together and provide better access to the Great Park and its facilities for residents.</p> <p>A question was asked about where Urban Green gets its funding from as there was £200,000 from the Havannah Park Development – it was explained that they have a complex patchwork of funding streams and currently get strategic funding advice from land agents George F. White which feeds into their 5-year budget plan.</p>	

<p>Cllr Locke asked if a Friends of group might be helpful since they may be able to attract funding that isn't available to Urban Green. The Parish Council offered its support to fundraising efforts on request. It was noted that Urban Green welcomed that input and any ideas from the public.</p> <p>The importance of notices in the site was raised to explain to the public why areas were being fenced off.</p> <p>It was also noted that the species list included in the management plan wasn't as comprehensive as local people believed – it was acknowledged that it wasn't exhaustive and that the surveys had been done at the end of the season – members of the Parish Council are aware of the existence of more comprehensive records locally.</p> <p>Going back to the fencing proposals, a resident asked how they would impact on residents' opportunities to enjoy the reserve in the future. It was stressed that only 4 areas were earmarked for fencing, solely to protect wildlife and to restrict enjoyment. It was also noted that storm damaged, fallen trees had already started this process.</p> <p>A resident asked if there were too many trees within the reserve – it is a man-made woodland on spoil heaps, the trees have shallow root systems – shouldn't they be thinned out to help reduce the risk of damage in future storms?</p> <p>Urban Green are working towards removing around 10% of the trees under a woodland management plan – the intention is to retain native species.</p> <p>A resident asked about Urban Green's plans to address fly tipping near the Allotments at Strawberry Terrace on the edge of Havannah. They described unpleasant interactions with fly tippers dumping glass, electricals and garden rubbish and asked if Urban Green could fence the road off to prevent this.</p> <p>In response, it was noted that the ownership and responsibilities would have to be explored with NCC – Urban Green have to pay NCC to remove fly tipping from their land, last year they spent £86k removing rubbish from their sites. In order to take action against fly tippers, they need information about the culprits – the Parish Council will pass on any evidence brought to their attention. The Parish Council's questions, submitted ahead of the meeting were not all addressed in the available time and a request was made for responses to them.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2023 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p>4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda Cllr Down continues to research the names and stories of local World War 1 heroes with a view to commemorating them by a bench and plaque in the village.</p>	<p>Cllr Down</p>
<p>5. Issues raised by residents Grass cutting regime at High Ridge – a resident asked if the new regime would be better for wild flowers. Cllr Locke said that the Parish Council were waiting for a management plan for the area to be produced but ultimately, she believed that it should be better for wild flowers.</p> <p>Graffiti has appeared again under the A1 bridge – the ward councillors are aware of this and have reported it. A Parish Councillor noted the concerns of a neighbour raised with him about the prevalence of tagging on public utility assets in the village. Cllr Champion explained that NCC do clean general graffiti, but their first priority was to attend to racist, sexist, and homophobic graffiti.</p> <p>There were concerns raised about graffiti on the shops in the village, Tesco own the One Stop and Booker Ltd own the Premier, it is understood to be the responsibility of the owners of private property to clean off graffiti on their premises.</p>	

Litter –

Cllr Locke noted that the Parish Council should review the Litter Strategy in the coming months.

Cllr Down noted the large volume of litter in the hedgerow near the Premier shop. A resident suggested enquiring about Community Payback services in respect of litter picking.

It was agreed that the next litter pick – Sunday 4th February should focus on the shop area.

Hedgehogs –

The Parish Council have asked NCC to provide signs and are waiting for a reply.

Cllr Young offered to approach a hedgehog rescuer in Wideopen for advice about the things that residents could do to help protect and nurture hedgehogs – that advice and information will be posted on the Facebook page.

Cllr Young

Speeding, road safety and traffic management – the buildouts have been completed but the speed cushions are still to be installed. A new legal order will be required to close Coach Lane for the work to take place. It could take up to 3 months to arrange this.

Following the installation of the new speed cushions, NCC will look at a date to carry out speed surveys.

The damaged speed awareness sign designed by children has been found to be beyond repair, NCC will provide a quote for a replacement sign when the artwork is available. Cllr Lock agreed to email the school to invite the children to design a new sign.

Cllr Locke

Cllr Young agreed to approach North Tyneside Council again for news on their plans to replace the speed cushions that they installed. She also reported that North Tyneside Council are saying that there is no evidence to support the need for a pedestrian crossing on Coach Lane at that end of the village. It was suggested that Cllr Michelle Fox be approached to ask if she can help with efforts to get a copy of the safety review which has been referenced.

Cllr Young

Litter Bin Review – it was agreed that Mick Murphy, Head of Local Services and Waste be asked to provide a timescale for the litter bin review so that HPC can make sure their request for the trial re-siting of the litter bin and any request for an additional bin are made in a timely way,

Clerk

Planning – the planning application for the **Brunton Quarry** development is now live and online on the City Council’s planning portal. It was noted that the portal isn’t easy to navigate. Cllr Avaei said that he had found some ways of accessing the information and would be willing to write a short guide.

Cllr Avaei

Phone mast - It was noted that there appeared to be no progress on the commitments made about the phone mast since the planning application had been agreed – the Parish Council will write to NCC to chase this up.

Cllr Locke

Great Park Academy – the application now has planning permission and a community use agreement for the playing fields, which is to be secured by condition.

High Ridge – the planning application for Brunton Quarry needs to be determined before any progress can realistically be made on the issue of services through the Parish Council’s land can be settled. A resident asked why there were new services being discussed when they’d understood that all utility works had been completed a long time ago. Cllr Barbour confirmed that a water supply had not been provided in the past and that utilities companies have rights to establish services without the

<p>cooperation of land owners anyway. It was agreed to contact Thomas Winstanley for an update.</p> <p>It was also suggested that Mick Murphy be approached for a grass cutting quote with the Grillo machine for this year's 2 cuts.</p> <p>Newcastle Great Park – Cllr Campion confirmed that a new, temporary Great Park Management Company had been appointed and our previous contacts were no longer working for them. It was agreed that Mark Jamieson, a contact at Taylor Wimpey be contacted and invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Allotments – Sarah Capes confirmed that Urban Green would welcome comments about the Allotments they manage. Cllr Fairley noted that there was to be a city-wide Allotments meeting at the Civic Centre in the spring.</p> <p>Elliot Walk – Cllr Down has spoken to the Sandstone Company and had a verbal quote for the supply and placement of 15 boulders for Eliot Walk. He agreed to ask for a written quote and check the actual number of boulders that would be required to protect the grass from parking.</p>	<p>Cllr Barbour</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Down</p>
<p>11. Other issues raised by Councillors</p> <p>Garages – Cllr Garbett raised the issue, and it was confirmed that garages are now available for rent through YHN's Kenton Hub.</p> <p>A1 Embankment – a resident raised concerns about the amount of litter at High Ridge and asked if Community Payback could be a solution to the litter problem? It was agreed that responsibility for the embankment needed to be established first and that Christine Herriot, NCC's Director of Operations would be contacted about this in the first instance.</p> <p>Airport Consultative Committee Rep – Cllr Barbour is no longer able to attend this Committee and Cllr Down agreed to take over.</p> <p>YHN City-wide events – Cllr Fairley noted that once again, a series of YHN events across the city had not included any venues in the villages. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to YHN about the villages being included in future.</p> <p>Motorbikes & Quads – several people have reported incidents to the Police and one resident has raised concerns around motorbikes on land at High Ridge. Quads and motorbikes have been reported in Havannah and on grass verges in the villages as well as the PROW from Hazlerigg to Brunswick. Any issues should be reported to the Police.</p> <p>Informal ramp at the Premier – Cllr Down reported some action in response to his Envirocall request. The damaged kerb stones have been replaced but the tarmac ramp has not been removed so surface still can't reach the gulley which has also collapsed. A kerbstone has also been abandoned in the shrubs. Cllr Campion agreed to take this up with NCC.</p>	<p>Cllr Locke</p> <p>Cllr Down</p> <p>Cllr Locke</p> <p>Cllr Campion</p>

Next meeting of Hazlerigg Parish Council will be held on Thursday 29th February 2024 at Hazlerigg District Memorial Hall at 7pm.