

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 January 2026 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: 8 residents, Dr Singh (representing the Liberal Democrats), Sarah Capes (NCC) & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies.</p> <p>Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a happy New Year.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs Down & Garbett and Ward Cllr Avaei.</p>	
<p>2. Havannah Nature Reserve – update from Sarah Capes, Estates Manager NCC</p> <p>SC described some recent and planned work in the reserve which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- repairing the fence around the wildlife enclosures and noting that a third area was being planned – it would also be fenced to discourage dogs from entering.- The grassland area had been cut and scarified in preparation for being sown with wildflowers. In the long-term, it was hoped that grazing animals could be introduced to the grassland.- Scots pine and birch saplings have been removed from the heathland area by volunteers – Newcastle Nature Networks and Section 106 funding has supported this work.- Woodland thinning work is planned soon – some deadwood will be removed, and new trees planted.- Information boards are being designed for the wetlands, woodlands & grasslands – Cllr Locke was invited to share feedback on the drafts and agreed to send pictures and suggested amends through.- Paths are being cleared of soil, leaves and detritus using machines, to improve their surfaces and drainage. <p>Currently, there are Ranger led volunteer sessions on Thursday mornings 10am to 12 noon but there is potential to move the day. Volunteers are also welcome to organise their own self led sessions of course.</p> <p>A resident said that ditches were poorly maintained which led to flooding in the reserve. SC noted that a multi-agency site meeting was being arranged to review the work on the new path and the ditches alongside.</p> <p>Cllr Locke raise concerns about the spread of other paths in the reserve and SC noted that the machine clearance would be back to the original wooden ages only.</p> <p>SC said there would be improvements to the board walks – cleaning and removal of the chicken wire to reduce slips. She also asked if the boardwalks needed to be extended but the Parish’s view is that they don’t. Cllr Locke highlighted that the Parish Council had previously been informed that the boardwalk behind the western pond</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Locke</p>

<p>would be made inaccessible to reduce disturbance some time ago, but this has still not happened and prefer that they are removed from areas where the public should be discouraged from accessing.</p> <p>SC also noted that gates would be repaired in preparation for grazing animals – the Countryside Management Fund would pay for the work.</p> <p>Cllr Locke raised concerns that the number of dogs in the reserve – many being brought there by professional dog walkers. The parish council has been told previously that it has been difficult to find people to graze livestock owing to the number of dogs.</p> <p>SC said that water troughs would also need to be installed in the fields.</p> <p>Sarah was warmly thanked for her presentation.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2025 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:</p> <p>Installing the Orchard sign – it was agreed that it would be installed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Toad Patrol – it was agreed that a Facebook post would be made asking for sightings of common toads to be reported. A resident reported seeing hundreds of toads in the past – possibly 15 years ago. A resident asked why sightings were important ... Cllr Locke said that reports could lead to DfT providing signage but under current guidance, signage is only supplied when wildlife poses a threat to drivers.</p> <p>Airport Solar Farm visit – it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Airport and ask for some dates to be suggested in March.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>5. Issues raised by residents:</p> <p>Footpath investment fund – a resident noted that a newsletter from the Labour Party had highlighted that there was funding available. They had emailed about the state of the footpath towards the A1 bridge and the need for benches on the route but had not had a reply yet.</p> <p>Another resident said that the benches near Castle Street were unmaintained and unusable with weeds growing through them – they noted that standards in the North Tyneside part of the village were much higher and urged the Parish Council to hold the City Council to account. They also questioned whether the NCC staff were using the right equipment for the jobs they were doing in the village.</p> <p>Cllr Locke agreed to ask NCC about detailed maintenance regimes around benches.</p> <p>A resident raised concerns about parking and resultant surface damage on Elliot Walk. Cllr Locke summarised the actions that the Parish had taken over a number of years to address this and the frustration at the lack of progress. Cllr Barbour explained the enforcement issues that had been relayed to the Parish from both the Police and the City Council and the latest action to install double yellow lines. A resident suggested that the double height kerbs that were evident in some places might be a better solution. Cllr Locke urged residents to write to the MP and noted that the Parish had invited her to visit Elliot Walk.</p>	<p>Cllr Locke</p>

<p>A resident raised concerns about where the displaced vehicles would move to if they weren't on Elliot Walk.</p> <p>A resident raised concerns about footpath parking and overgrown hedges and the lack of enforcement on these issues. In particular, pavement parking by gym users was causing problems for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Cllr Barbour explained that enforcement was the responsibility of the Police.</p> <p>It was agreed that HPC would write to NCC about enforcement action on overgrown hedges and pavement parking.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of graffiti under the A1 bridge – the graffiti considered to be offensive was being removed but the rest remains and is unsightly and unwelcoming. It was agreed that HPC would write to our local policing team to ask for an update after they had reported that the issue was being investigated at the last meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk?</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>6. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors</p> <p>None</p> <p>A resident asked for clarification from NCC councillors about the sale of council housing in the 1980's where the money raised had gone and why replacement stock had not been built. Dr Singh agreed to take this enquiry back.</p>	<p>Dr Singh</p>
<p>7. Police Matters</p> <p>Cllr Locke thanked Cllr Fairley and the Community Centre for sharing community safety messages in relation to their contribution to historic arrests.</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – October 2025</p> <p>15 crimes were reported according to the Northumbria Police Crime Map website from:</p> <p>High Ridge / Chelton Close – 1 x anti-social behaviour Castle Street – 1 x anti-social behaviour Ferguson Crescent – 2 x vehicle crime, 1 x burglary North View – 2 x burglary, 2 x possession of weapons, 1 x vehicle crime, 1 x other crime. Arkle Street – 1 x violence or sexual offense. Newham Avenue – 1 x burglary Ryall Avenue – 1 x public order offense. Charles Street – 1 x criminal damage or arson</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – November 2025</p> <p>3 crimes were reported according to the Northumbria Police Crime Map website from:</p> <p>North View – 1 x criminal damage or arson Ryall Avenue – 1 x criminal damage or arson Charles Street – 1 x other crime</p>	
<p>8. Correspondence</p> <p>Updates, newsletters and circulars – Community Action Northumberland; Northern Gas Networks; National & Northumberland Associations of local Councils; Waste & Resources Action Programme; Newcastle Parks Forum.</p>	

To NCC –

- Confirmation of our request for a Community Governance Review; submission of a response to the In-post lockers planning application; enquiry about the culvert in Cell A NGP; clarification on the Newt protection area NGP; fly tipping report chased up; Cell B ditches and litter bin request; damage to Elliot Walk hedges reported; chasing the report of the poor condition of the footpath towards the A1; Ward Grant funding application submitted.

From NCC –

- Launch of the new NCC Customer Commitment Charter; confirmation that NCC can't provide litter signs for the park; grounds maintenance clarifications; Audit & Standards Committee papers; Parish Precepts letter; solution proposed for flooding issues in Havannah.

To MP –

- Elliot Walk issues.

From MP –

- Flooding in the buffer zone NGP; Bus Service issues reply.

Other –

- High Ridge Planting Plan; TPO planning application Spine Road NGP (NB. No felling licence has been applied for); Jean Cartman Wilder Communities Award; Issues raised with NGP about management of Dark Plantation & Letch trees and grey squirrels; response submitted to Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation; Airport Consultative Committee papers.
- A resident also raised the issue of the impact of the drainage works on High Ridge for local residents – traffic, machines, noise etc. They urged HPC to be more transparent and let residents know what's happening. Cllr Barbour assured residents that the Parish had no say in whether the works could go ahead – utilities works are deemed essential, and landowners cannot refuse. The Parish have done their best to secure a settlement from the developers should the development go ahead, the funding will be used to maintain the space for the years to come. The developers have also committed to reinstating the land once their works are complete.

Cllr Locke said that there was nothing in the Planning Committee Report for the Brunton Quarry application relating to the requirement to dig up land in Hazlerigg Parish to install pipework.

9. Financial Matters

Current banking position - £4,603 – current account; £7,333 – election reserves and grant funding.

It was noted that the remainder of the High Ridge grant needs to be allocated and spent.

Cheques approved for:

- Roundabout bulbs - £15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks Forum membership - £10 - Clerk's December & January salary and back pay - £1, 017 - HMRC December & January - £254.40 	
<p>10. Environment, Planning & Highways</p> <p>Memorial Bench – an application for funding for signage / notice board and installation of a bench is being prepared.</p> <p>New connecting footpath – NCC have confirmed that there is currently no funding for a connection, so any consultation is on hold until it is realistic to raise expectations.</p> <p>Grass cutting agreement – Cllr Fairley will speak to the farmer before the draft agreement is emailed to the contractor. 2 x Bee Friendly signs are available from NCC – the location for the signs was discussed and Cllr Locke will email NCC to claim the signs.</p> <p>Litter – litter picks will resume in March. The messages about litter have been shared widely on social media.</p> <p>Cllr Locke also noted that the Parish's Litter Strategy was due to be reviewed and issues such a back lanes and abandoned bins included in it as well as restating the Parish's role in raising awareness and encouraging Civic Pride.</p> <p>Traffic Management – it was noted that sadly, the problems with speed on Coach Lane persist. It was also noted that the pt hole reporting webpage had been improved. A resident said that they hoped that HPC could do more social media to encourage reporting / complaining about issues and make progress with behaviour change.</p> <p>Planning – The Brunton Quarry application is going to Committee on 23/01/26. As previously, mentioned, a felling licence is required from the Forestry Commission for the felling of over 70 trees in Dark Plantation. HPC's comments on the In-post lockers application aren't on the website but have been emailed in. Permission for the In-post lockers in Brunswick industrial estate has been refused.</p> <p>Newcastle Great Park – covered under correspondence.</p> <p>Elliot Walk – feathered whips are available – Cllr Locke will ask for them and HPC will plant them.</p> <p>High Ridge – some previous discussion but in addition, a resident raised the issue of grit bins on High Ridge – there needs to be one installed near the garages and the Dolphin Villas one has no lid. The clerk was asked to investigate and find out if a new one can be provided and the old one repaired.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Barbour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Fairley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Locke</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Locke</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
<p>11. Other issues raised by Councillors: Cllr Barbour reported her intention to review the Parish Council's Standing Orders and report back to a future meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Barbour</p>

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 26 February 2026 at Hazlerigg Community Centre at 6pm.