

## HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

**In attendance:** 8 residents & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

#### AGENDA

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b> Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> were received from Cllr Barbour.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b> were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p><b>3. Issues raised by residents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>• <b>Grass cutting &amp; grounds maintenance</b> A resident complained that the grass verge on High Ridge and the grass on Chelton Close had not been cut by the Council. These areas were usually maintained by the resident, but ill health has meant they have not been able to continue. It was agreed that the Parish Council would clarify the cutting schedule with the Council and inform them that the resident was not cutting the grass as usual. Residents also noted that the shrubs in the village were not being adequately maintained and made for a poor comparison with the work of North Tyneside Council in other parts of the village. There was a further complaint about the maintenance of the Horse Chestnut trees at the bottom of High Ridge field and the grass cutting in between the trees. A resident also said that WiFi services were being interrupted in homes because of the chestnut tree branches interfering with the telephone cables.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Strawberry Terrace</b> Residents raised concerns about the wildfires in Havannah over the summer, particularly the one near the allotments. Cllr Locke said she had written to the MP Emma Foody about the fires and the lack of Ranger cover in the nature reserve – the MP had agreed to investigate the matter with the Council and the emergency services. Cllr Locke went on to stress the importance of resident involvement in the reserve and highlighted several sums of S106 funding that had been earmarked for improvements in Havannah. She urged residents to report concerns to the Council (<a href="mailto:parks@newcastle.gov.uk">parks@newcastle.gov.uk</a>), report fires to Tyne &amp; Wear Fire &amp; Rescue Service and observations of illegal fishing in the ponds to the Environment Agency and NCC. She also noted that there was a plan to conserve and manage Havannah that had so far, not been implemented.</p> </li> <li> <p>• <b>Role of the Parish Council</b> A resident asked what the role of the Parish Council was and how it fitted in with the City Council. Cllr Locke said that the Parish Council was a tier of Local Government,</p> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Locke</b></p>

more local than the ward structure of the City Council, she said that Parish Councillors were volunteers, and their role was to advocate for the Parish with the Council and other agencies and contribute to improving the quality of life in the Parish.

A resident asked why there were no Ward Councillors at the meeting – it was noted that they were invited to every meeting and that some Ward Councillors advertised their surgeries alongside Parish Council meetings. It was also noted that details of how to contact Ward Councillors could be found on the Council’s website.

- **Construction of the path through Havannah**

Residents raised concerns about the construction work for the path which involved the erection of fences which had prevented access to the schools on the Great Park from the start of the new school term. And further, that the contractors doing the work, had been using Strawberry Terrace to access the construction site despite assurances from the Great Park Consortium that this would not happen. Cllr Locke reported back on the meeting that the Parish Council had attended with the NCC Planning Officer and the Great Park Consortium rep where the route for the end of the path was discussed. Initial proposals had been to continue the path through the show field between the Community Centre and Strawberry Terrace – the Parish Council had suggested alternatives which they raised at the meeting alongside a suggestion to hold a public meeting to discuss options. HPC are waiting for a response from the above.

Residents questioned how planning permission could be given for a path that had no connection to anywhere?

- **Strawberry Terrace access / use**

Residents pointed out that Strawberry Terrace is a private road, owned and maintained by the residents and therefore they are keen to minimise the use of the road to prevent the surface from deteriorating. There is a use agreement in place with the Gas company to ensure the access to their gas plant, but other uses are not welcomed by the residents.

Cllr Down mentioned that in his opinion, in order for residents to ensure that the private road remained so, they should close the road for one day each year (which is what happens to the road through Gosforth Park).

Residents said that there was already an agreement that walking, cycling and horse riding were accepted on Strawberry Terrace, their concern was about vehicular use and parking by non- residents.

Parking by Community Centre and playpark users is spoiling the road surface and residents would like to see a resident only parking sign installed. It was agreed that HPC would ask the Area Traffic Engineer if that could be arranged through the Council.

- **Weed Control**

Some residents complained about the ineffective weed killing in the village and noted that the Parish Council were challenging the use of glyphosate as a weed killer – asking if the two things were connected?

Cllr Locke clarified that the Parish had posted a survey on Facebook to assess the appetite for the village being a pilot for not using glyphosate but there had been little response, and the idea had gone no further.

Cllr Locke thanked the residents for raising their concerns and attending the meeting.

Clerk

<p><b>4. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda</b></p> <p>Newsletters – it was agreed that the Parish would produce one newsletter a year to be published after the AGM outlining the achievements of the last six months and looking forward to plans for the coming six months.</p>	
<p><b>5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><b>6. Parish Council Website &amp; Email account</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported back that Woosington Parish Council Clerk had built their website and conveyed the information from Northumberland Association of Local Councils about the reduction in their subscription fees to reflect them not providing web hosting services in the future and the offer for web hosting and email hosting services from Hugo Fox.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the recommendation of the Northumberland Association of Local Councils and ask them to make an introduction for us with Hugo Fox – the offer would be taken up initially for a year, while the Parish looked at opportunities to build our own website.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>7. Police Matters</b></p> <p>A resident asked why there were no Police present at the meeting, and it was explained that attendance id dependant on shift patterns.</p> <p>Reported crime statistics from Northumbria Police Crime Map website:</p> <p><u>June 2025</u> – 10 reported crimes, reports made from or near the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charles Street – 3 x violent or sexual offenses; 1 x anti-social behaviour; 1 x other crime.</li> <li>- Heddon Avenue – 1 x anti-social behaviour; 1 x violent or sexual offense.</li> <li>- Ferguson Crescent – 1 x burglary.</li> <li>- High Ridge - 1 x anti-social behaviour; 1 x bicycle theft.</li> </ul> <p><u>July 2025</u> - 9 reported crimes, reports made from or near the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coach Lane - 1 x violent or sexual offense.</li> <li>- Matfen Avenue - 1 x violent or sexual offense.</li> <li>- Arkle Street - 1 x violent or sexual offense.</li> <li>- Castle Street / Link Road - 4 x violent or sexual offenses; 1 x criminal damage or arson.</li> <li>- Ferguson Crescent – 1 x Public Order offense.</li> </ul> <p>Concerns were also raised about recent incidents in the village including someone living in one of the garages, stealing some of the contents and lighting fires inside the building as well as a vulnerable resident being burgled by a fake taxi driver.</p>	
<p><b>8. Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Airport Master Plan Consultation – a submission has been made on behalf of the Parish Council and residents were urged to look at the consultation</li> </ul>	

<p>documents on the Airport’s website. It was agreed that the Airport should be invited to attend a future Parish Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Litter including litter and recycling issues in the playpark; littering signage; access to litter picking equipment and an email to MP Emma Foody.</li> <li>- Urban Naturalist – offer of creating Toad Crossings.</li> <li>- Polling Places Review consultation.</li> <li>- Pond dipping and illegal fishing in Havannah.</li> <li>- Signage for the Orchard.</li> <li>- Fires and anti-social behaviour in Havannah – email to MP Emma Foody which resulted in her investigating the issues with Tyne &amp; Wear Fire and Rescue Service who have provided a response.</li> <li>- Request for outcomes of the Planning Peer Challenge Review.</li> <li>- Deer road safety – deer warning signs to be installed on Coach Lane.</li> <li>- Speeding and road safety on Coach Lane – speed surveys undertaken; speed reduction actions being considered.</li> <li>- Brunswick to Hazlerigg Public Right of Way – email to MP Emma Foody.</li> <li>- Chasing Bee Friendly signs with NCC.</li> <li>- Enquiries about the Tap n Go lockers.</li> <li>- Development of the Brunton option agreement.</li> <li>- Tree planting on High Ridge – Community Forest Grants.</li> <li>- Updates, newsletters and bulletins – CAN, NALC, Newcastle Parks Forum, NGN, Remembrance 2025, Barclays, Airport Consultative Committee, Standards and Audit Committee, Lithium Batteries Safety Campaign, Communities Team, WRAP.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Down</b></p>
<p>It was agreed that more of the outcomes from the Parish Council’s correspondence should be highlighted on Facebook and on the website, particularly responses from the MP.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Locke / Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>9. Financial Matters</b></p> <p>Payments authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonic Pond Dipping Workshop - £250 via BACS</li> <li>- Zurich Municipal Insurance Policy Renewal - £264</li> <li>- Bulbs - £32.50</li> <li>- Clerk - £537.90(July, August &amp; September)</li> <li>- HMRC - £89.60 (August &amp; September)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Environment, Planning &amp; Highways</b></p> <p><b>Spring bulbs / planters</b> – it was agreed that bulbs will be planted in the Ogle Avenue roundabout and the planters throughout the village. It was noted that all the planters need topping up with soil and that supermarkets are selling off soil currently and sell cheap bulbs. Cllr Fairley agreed to source the soil and bulbs.</p> <p><b>Water butts</b> – it was agreed that more water butts were needed but their location still needs to be decided.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Fairley</b></p>



- Linda offered to do a briefing for Parishes with contested elections closer to the time.

**Community Governance Reviews** - see [Guidance on community governance reviews](#)

- Linda Scott asked the parish/community councils to confirm whether they wanted the City Council to undertake Community Governance Reviews (CGR) of their boundaries in 2026, ahead of the elections in May 2027. These would need to be completed by November next year, for the electoral registers to be published to take into account any new boundaries on 1 December 2026.
- It was confirmed that Brunswick, Hazlerigg and North Gosforth still wanted CGRs to be undertaken, using the same rationale as previously indicated to the City Council. Woolsington also indicated that a review would be helpful, particularly in relation to the number of parish councillors covering the area.
- On that basis, Linda Scott asked each parish/community council to either confirm, or reconfirm, whether they wanted the City Council to undertake CGRs by November. The City Council's Constitutional Committee would need to agree to CGRs to be undertaken, and a report would be taken to committee early in 2026.

**Parish Council Charter**

- Linda Scott explained that the existing Charter was well overdue a review and this could look to set out the relationships between the parishes/community councils and the City Council, drawing on good practice from elsewhere.
- A review could start later this year and that input from the parish/community councils would be welcome. Regular future reviews would be built in.
- There was also an opportunity to remind existing City Councillors to engage with their parish/community councils and to pick this up again following the May 2026 citywide elections.

**Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 30 October 2025 at Hazlerigg Community Centre at 6pm.**