

## HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2023 AT HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

**Present:** Councillors Locke (Chair), Fairley, Barbour, Young, Thorp.

**In attendance:** Councillors Avaei, Campion & Laverick (Castle Ward Councillors), 5 local residents & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

#### AGENDA – Annual Meeting of the Parish

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome &amp; apologies</b> Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> were received from Cllr Garbett.</p>	
<p><b>2. Annual Report from the Parish Council Chair – Cllr Rachel Locke</b> Cllr Locke gave an overview of the activities and successes of the Parish Council over the last year and thanked everyone for their contribution, she also noted the work that will continue into the next municipal year. The report will be published on the Parish Council's web site.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<p><b>3. Annual Financial Report</b> Cllr Barbour reported that at the end of the financial year (31.5.23) – the Parish funds were £2,200.90 (that figure has to be confirmed by the next bank statement). She also noted that the Parish had received a refund of £164 from the bank following an administrative error.</p>	
<p><b>4. Residents' Issues</b> A resident asked about the status of a builders' compound once construction had been completed and the company had left the site. Cllr Locke said that their responsibilities would be set out in their planning permission / construction methodology statement and that the matter would be referred to planning enforcement.</p> <p>A resident asked for clarification of the discussion that the Parish Council had previously had with a 5G mast campaigner who has concerns about the claimed health impacts of such equipment. He maintains that these claims are baseless, not supported by central government and should not be rehearsed in Parish Council meetings and minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Locke confirmed that the speaker had contacted the Parish Council and that a representative of the Telecoms company had also been invited to the meeting for balance but had declined the invitation. The resident went on to question the events of Bank Holiday Monday (29<sup>th</sup> May) and a HPC Facebook post promoting a campaign to gather signatures objecting to the retrospective planning application for the mast that will be heard at the end of June. Cllr Locke confirmed that she had created the post and that the Parish Council's stated position is that they would prefer the mast to be relocated out of its current position in the centre of the village and that the Parish Council's objections are based on visual amenity and failure to follow due process. The resident stressed that he feels the Parish Council's activities have been very one sided and not representative of the majority of views in the community.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>

<p>Cllr Thorp noted that Parish Council meetings were open to everyone and that supporters of the mast were welcome to attend.</p> <p>The resident said that local people were tired of the Facebook pages being dominated by the mast issue and he urged the Parish Council to make changes to the way their social media covers the issue.</p> <p>Cllr Locke said that the Parish Council would continue to progress their decision to get the mast moved and advised the resident to contact the City Councillors who represent him.</p>	
<p><b>5. Close</b></p>	
<p><b>AGENDA – Ordinary Parish Council Meeting</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Appointment of Chair</b> Cllr Rachel Locke was nominated by Cllr Barbour and seconded by Cllr Thorp</p>	
<p><b>2. Appointment of Vice Chair</b> Cllr Sheila Barbour was nominated by Cllr Fairley and seconded by Cllr Young.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b> Were agreed and signed by the Cllr Locke. A resident noted that these minutes had not been posted on the web site and the Clerk was asked to make sure that they were added.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</b> None</p>	
<p><b>5. Actions / updates from Castle Ward City Councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the next meeting of the Castle Ward Committee will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in St John’s Church, Kingston Park.</li> <li>• It was confirmed that highly offensive graffiti is removed within 24 hours but reporting is essential.</li> <li>• Cllr Campion said he continued to press for a safety audit of the pedestrian crossing on Coach Lane.</li> <li>• Cllr Avaei confirmed that he was arranging another meeting with Urban Green after the previous arrangements fell through. Cllr Locke asked if the Parish Council could be invited to this meeting.</li> <li>• The Clerk confirmed that no reply had been received to her email to Urban Green asking for an update on the management plans for Havannah.</li> <li>• Cllr Locke asked the Ward Councillors if they could look into why there are no elected members on Urban Green’s board and how the organisation is accountable without that.</li> <li>• Cllr Barbour asked if the Ward Councillors could look into the removal of large items of rubbish that are building up behind Strawberry Terrace and are impinging on Havannah.</li> <li>• Cllr Young noted that there was no safe crossing point on Coach Lane in the North Tyneside part of the village – Ward Councillors urged her to write to the Weetslade Councillors on this matter.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Avaei</b></p> <p><b>Ward Cllrs</b></p>

<p>A resident noted that he had previously lobbied North Tyneside Council for a crossing point, but they had maintained that the location did not reach the threshold in terms of accidents.</p> <p>Cllr Laverick advised that North Gosforth Parish Council should be contacted as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Campion advised that there was a consultation starting about the proposal to close the urgent care walk-in services at the former General Hospital on the West Road – he agreed to forward the invite to the Parish Council.</li> <li>• Cllr Avaei noted that YHN had reported that all storm damage to their properties had now been repaired.</li> <li>• Cllr Laverick agreed to raise the issue of access to garages on Ferguson Crescent again at her upcoming meeting with YHN.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Young</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Campion</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Laverick</b></p>
<p><b>6. Boundary Review</b></p> <p>A copy of the Local Government Boundary Commission of England’s technical guidance has been received and will be posted on the Parish Council’s web site – it explains how the boundary review process is conducted. Formal notification that the review will be undertaken hasn’t been received by the City Council but is expected soon. Draft timescales indicate that Council size will be agreed early in 2024, warding patterns will be agreed by autumn 2024 and implemented following all-out elections in 2026.</p> <p>Cllr Laverick advised that a Parish Council area must sit entirely within one ward and can’t straggle ward boundaries.</p> <p>Boundary Review will be an agenda item quarterly for now.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>7. Police Matters</b></p> <p>The Parish Council have been informed that new PCSO’s have been assigned to the area – they are Victoria Brown and Paul Mood.</p> <p>Cllr Thorp noted that he was still waiting for details of his speed watch training after he was accepted as a volunteer in March.</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – March 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 violence or sexual offence – on or near Ryall Avenue</li> <li>1 violence or sexual offence – on or near Havannah, Coach Lane</li> <li>1 violence or sexual offence – on or near Arkle Street</li> <li>1 violence or sexual offence – on or near Ferguson Crescent</li> <li>1 burglary – on or near Castle Street</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the location given may not be the location of the incident, it could be the location from which the report was made.</p> <p>Cllrs were surprised that there were no reports of car doors being tried.</p> <p>Cllr Laverick urged everyone to continue to report crimes because that will increase police presence.</p> <p>Cllr Young said the message should be stressed in the next newsletter and a link provided to the 101 online reporting system.</p>	<p><b>HPC</b></p>
<p><b>8. Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate election expense return forms have been received from NCC. They were completed by Parish Councillors for return to NCC.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correspondence about the grassed area at the end of Enid Street has been received asking for the area to be tidied up. Parish Councillors advised that NCC is responsible for maintenance of this area. A reply to be sent to the resident and a reminder sent to NCC. Cllr Locke noted that there was a link to the Parish Council's biodiversity responsibilities and the importance of letting wild flowers and meadows flourish. In response to a resident's question, Cllr Barbour agreed to chase up progress with the community orchard</li> <li>An invitation to the annual Chairs &amp; Clerks meeting with NCC's Chief Executive has been received. The meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6pm at the Civic Centre. Attendance of Cllr Barbour &amp; Ali to be confirmed with NALC &amp; NCC.</li> <li>A request for help with recruiting participants in a public health study has been received. The Parish Council is unable to assist, and the reply is to be sent to the enquirer to that effect.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Barbour</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>9. Financial Matters</b> Cheques were authorised for the roundabout planting - £210.40; the Clerk £149.96 &amp; HMRC £37.60</p>	
<p><b>10.Environment Planning &amp; Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Litter</b> Litter levels have been particularly high this week – could this be due to it being half term? It was noted that there had been no response from the local shops about the suggestion that they dedicate staff time to litter picking. The Parish Council concluded that work on education and awareness raising should be the focus and that local schools should be approached to organise children's litter picks – potentially in Havannah, given that Urban Green agreed. It was noted that there had been a fire in Havannah over the weekend and that it could have been caused by litter being set alight. The next Parish Litter pick will be on 5.6.23. It was also raised that there is polystyrene blowing around the area which has come from Bellway building works – HPC will raise this with the company. On the question of doing a litter survey with the local shops, the Parish Council concluded that they were unlikely to respond so it wasn't worth pursuing.</li> <li><b>Speeding / traffic management</b> Cllr Young reported that she had chased up the installation / repair of the speed bumps on the North Tyneside bit of Coach Lane – work to replace the existing 2 starts on 5.6.23 with the installation of the remaining 3 to follow. A walkabout with the Area Traffic Management engineer is being arranged on 13<sup>th</sup> June at 10am.</li> <li><b>Planning</b> Cllr Campion said that he had now joined NCC's Planning Committee and that he would withdraw from the meeting when planning matters were being discussed in the future. This action is to be formally minuted. No new planning applications are on the planning portal, but the Clerk was asked to get an update on Brunton Quarry.</li> <li><b>Grass Cutting</b> Cllr Young confirmed that she had been quoted a price in excess of £600 per cut from the contractor she met on site at High Ridge, they also insisted that the area be cut monthly. This beyond the Parish Council's budget.</li> </ul>	<p>HPC</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>The contractor did suggest that a local farmer might be approached to flail the area for hay – Cllr Fairley agreed to do this.  The parish council will need to decide whether to accept the NCC quote or leave the area as meadow – would residents in the area need to be consulted?  In the meantime, Parish Councillors will arrange to scythe / strim the football pitch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Management for wildlife</b>  A meeting has been arranged with Woolsington Parish Council to discuss the wildlife corridor between the parishes on 28.6.23</li> <li>• <b>Elliott Walk</b>  The clerk was asked to email Brunswick PC about businesses operating out of the allotments.</li> <li>• <b>Hedgerow works Coach Lane</b>  HPC have written to Bellway &amp; NCC about the works which are an eyesore and have damaged the regenerating hedge.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Fairley</b></p> <p><b>HPC</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>11. Other issues raised by Councillors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPC Facebook page – Cllr Locke asked if it was advisable to keep the Facebook page. Councillors agreed that it was an important channel of communication but that it should be for information only, without a comments function and carry a disclaimer about the status of posts. Other discussion points included whether a code of conduct for social media was required, social media and FOI's and the city councillors position that when they post on Facebook they do so as residents and campaigners not as City Councillors.  It was agreed that HPC would seek advice from NALC on the issue and then have a separate meeting to discuss a protocol.</li> <li>• Northumberland Wildlife Trust have arranged some training on swifts</li> <li>• Cllr Fairley raise the need for some road markings to be refreshed which Cllr Champion agreed to follow up.</li> <li>• Cllr Locke raised the issue of disposable vape litter. Cllr Champion agreed to chase up NCC actions and recycling solutions.</li> <li>• Cllr Fairley asked for an update on the football field and pavilion.</li> <li>• Cllr Barbour noted that there was racist graffiti on the metal fence round the football pitch in Brunswick Parish.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Champion</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Laverick</b></p>

**Next meeting of Hazlerigg Parish Council will be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Hazlerigg Memorial Hall at 7pm**