

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 02 July 2026 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: Ward Councillors Down, Robinson & Mohammed, 5 residents & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

Item	Action
1. Welcome and apologies. Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies were received.	
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2026 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.	
3. Matters arising: Hazlerigg Community Centre Grant - the Parish Council were thanked for their continued support for the Centre, and in particular for the grant aid which the Centre has spent on running costs including utilities. This type of funding has become very difficult to find with most grant giving bodies offering funds for capital projects or one-off projects. The Centre are pleased to report that the Youth Club continues to use the premises and a new hirer in the Marine Cadets group has been secured. The Centre also kindly hosts all the Parish Council's meetings and events.	
4. Issues raised by residents: Grass cutting and grounds maintenance standards - residents said that this continues to be unsatisfactory and has led to a resident making a complaint to the City Council. Subsequently, Councillors Down & Mohammed were invited to a meeting with officers to provide some background information and context. A follow-up meeting / walkabout is currently being planned between officers, the Parish Council, residents, and ward councillors. Cllr Locke expressed her disappointment that the Parish Council was not invited to the initial meeting and a resident echoed that view since they had made the complaint in the first place and had not been invited to any meetings as yet. Councillor Fairley raised the possibility of the Parish Council holding a second consultation about grass cutting and grounds maintenance to gather wider community opinion about the issue. Speeds on Coach Lane - the Clerk reported that a resident of Melness Road had phoned to raise concerns about the speed of vehicles on Coach Lane at the High Ridge end. The speed bumps appear to be ineffective, and the speed limit is rarely observed - buses and farm traffic are amongst the vehicles speeding and creating excessive noise. Councillor Down said that he was progressing work with North Tyneside Councillors to tackle issues on Coach Lane including speeds and the road surface.	DD

A resident said that a petition has been circulating on Havannah Park to push for road safety improvements on that end of Coach Lane, including reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph past the estate. Frustrations were expressed that it had been a year since these issues were raised with NCC's Area Traffic Engineer and to date, no action other than a speed survey (which confirmed that speeding was an issue) had been taken. Requests for updates and progress were also not being fulfilled. Councillor Fairley also noted the failure of proper planning in respect of the new High School and the number of pupils attending it from the villages which has increased the need for lower speeds and better road safety on Coach Lane. Councillor Barbour noted that North Tyneside had recently been deploying a mobile speed camera in Brunswick and wondered if Councillor Down could encourage the North Tyneside Councillors to ask for it to be deployed near Melness Road. Maintenance under the Chestnut Trees, High Ridge - the resident above, also raised concerns about the untidiness of the area under the trees and requested that action be taken. Councillor Locke emailed her contact in Northern Power Grid who are responsible for the area, after the May meeting, she agreed to contact them again.	RL
5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors Councillor Robinson spoke to a written report which had been compiled by Councillor Mohammed detailing their actions on the issues they had taken away from the May meeting. These include antisocial behaviour, parking problems, grass cutting and grounds maintenance, litter and bin provision, unsafe fencing, road and footpath repairs, speeding, illegal fishing, dog control, abandoned and untaxed vehicles, Great Park issues and the former Sage site, and misuse of the public right of way at Elliot Walk. Actions include logging the issues on the Councillor Information Request portal, contacting Great Park officers and the Neighbourhood Police. The report will be published on the Councillors' social media page. Councillor Locke asked if they had any information about the progress on the request for double yellow lines at Elliot Walk which had been made over a year ago to NCC? Councillor Down said that he had taken action to get fly tipping in back lanes removed and had also discovered that NCC have the powers to challenge the owners of abandoned bins by letter and fine them £80 for obstruction. Councillor Garbett asked if the same powers could be used to tackle obstructive parking in back lanes or if that was a Police matter and agreed to send photographs to Councillor Down. Councillor Down also reported that he had registered a request under the Community Pay Back scheme for environmental improvement work in the village with the Justice system.	HG
6. Police Matters Reported Crime Statistics – April 2026 - 4 reported crimes. Reported from or nearby: Windt Street - 2 x shoplifting Heddon Avenue - 1 x violence and sexual offence.	

Coach Lane - 1 x other theft It was also noted that the issue of antisocial behaviour on motorbikes had been raised with the Neighbourhood Policing Team since the last meeting - their response was to request more timely reporting including details of the rider's clothing and descriptions of the bikes. Photos and video footage would also be helpful to police, but care must be taken when attempting to get them. Reporting via Northumbria Police's website is quicker than reporting over the phone and resources are deployed according to the number of reports so it's well worth reporting incidents. The police are increasingly using drones to follow and identify perpetrators, but it was noted that drones are not allowed to fly near the airport so probably aren't that useful in our area. Councillor Barbour said that she had reported an issue on the website, but the report required a postcode and in open spaces, that wasn't easy to identify. Others suggested that what 3 words or a google pin might be an alternative. Councillor Fairley shared the literature about nuisance bikes that EPIc had distributed at a recent Coffee Morning in the Centre.	
7. Correspondence Updates, newsletters and circulars – Public Sector Network, Community Action Northumberland; Northern Gas Networks; National & Northumberland Associations of Local Councils; Newcastle Parks Forum, Communities Team, Lithium Batteries campaign, Newcastle Public Transport User Group. To NCC – Pavements, untaxed taxi, anti-social behaviour and warden patrols request, Elliot Walk issues, abandoned bins, fence posts on Strawberry Terrace. From NCC – Elliot Walk, pavements, fence posts on Strawberry Terrace, grass cutting complaints. To / from North Tyneside Council - Pavements on Coach Lane. Other – Advised of new way of making noise complaints to Newcastle Airport, Northumbria Police - motorbike ASB and bus stop ASB, National Highways - A19 Moor Farm junction improvements consultation (closes 28 July).	
8. Financial Matters Current banking position - the precept for 2026 / 27 has not been received yet. Cllr Barbour reported that she had successfully reclaimed £524 in VAT payments from HMRC. Purchases made from grants - rubbing posts for the orchard and the memorial bench made from recycled plastic - VAT will be reclaimed from these purchases and all others going forward. Cllr Locke thanked her for her hard work on this. Payment authorisations for: - Clerk (June 26) - £193.86; HMRC (June 26) - £48.60 - Lawn Mower - £129 - Soil - £6	

9. Environment, Planning & Highways Memorial Bench - now ordered as above. Grass Cutting and grounds maintenance - covered under previous discussions. Orchard - a session was delivered last week, and more are being planned. Projects to progress include buying a bench and working through the options for CCTV. Bee's Needs - the garden competition is included in the newsletter and there is also the potential to host a talk or an event as well. Litter - Councillor Barbour has written to the CEO of Tesco about litter and the One Stop shop. Cllr Locke has written to NCC about abandoned bins. The next litter pick is on Monday 6 July - ward councillors agreed to promote it. Councillor Down said that he had raised the Parish Council complaint about shredded litter following grass cutting with senior officers but had been shown a photograph of a bag of litter collected by the operative before grass cutting commenced. Councillor Mohammed said that he had been advised of the process for making requests for new or relocation of litter bins when following up issues from the last meeting. Cllr Locke said she had complained again about the bin next to the bus stop and the foul smell from dog waste coming from it. She also noted that the bench at the top of Strawberry Terrace was a litter hot spot. Councillor Robinson suggested that these points should be highlighted during the walkabout and said that a map of the village with hotspot issues would be useful to have. Traffic Management - Councillor Mohammed said that correspondence from NCC officers had stated that their speed surveys had confirmed that there were excessive speeds on Coach Lane and that the location was on a list for consideration. Councillor Locke raised the possibility of collaborating with North Tyneside Councillors to address speed issues. Councillor Down agreed to follow this up. Councillor Robinson said that there were certain thresholds which had to be reached for action to be taken against speeding which Coach Lane may not have met. It was pointed out that there were no central white lines on some sections of Coach Lane. Councillor Down said he was asking North Tyneside to put white lines in front of all dropped kerbs on Coach Lane to discourage parking. A resident suggested adding 20mph repeater signs to the lampposts on Coach Lane - Councillor Locke suggested asking Hazelwood Primary School be involved in the designs again. Councillor Down agreed to also ask North Tyneside to deploy their mobile speed camera on Coach Lane. Planning - nothing new on the portal. It was also noted that attempts to get an update from the NCC Planning Officer and Great Park rep had not been successful and ward councillors were asked if they could help. High Ridge - residents raised concerns about the length of grass under the newly planted trees on High Ridge and fire risk. It was noted that longer grass is often cooler and damper than short grass and that northeast community forest were unlikely to consider mowing this area.	DD DD
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It was also noted that the new signs for the field need to be progressed - the old poles need to be removed and the ground reinstated. The poles near Coach Lane maybe usable for a new sign though. The wording for the sign to be circulated again - do we need the sign to be designed? Elliot Walk - more and more vehicles are being parked and ASB is increasing. Some vehicles are piled with rubbish. It was noted that the Parish Council have been pursuing the problems with the Council, MP, the farmer and other authorities for years and been fobbed off at every turn. It was suggested that Elliot Walk was included in the walkabout. Councillor Fairley confirmed that the land including the allotments and up to the hedge was owned by George Ireland farming. Councillor Down agreed to check the ownership records for the public right of way with the city. Havannah - a resident reported that people were feeding the ducks. Litter has been seen around the pond. It was noted that work was going on in Big Waters to encourage responsible fishing and that this might work in Havannah. Illegal fishing has been reported to the Environment Agency. Problems with dogs should be reported to NCC at psr@newcastle.gov.uk - residents were encouraged to report and give as many details as possible. Councillor Locke noted that the meadows in Havannah are looking good now they are being properly managed. Signs have also been reinstated. Fly tipping at the rear of Strawberry Terrace has been reported.	AL DD
10.Other issues raised by Councillors: Concerns were raised about underage drinking in the village and where the youngsters were getting alcohol from - this behaviour is also creating litter in the bus stop and other places. A resident asked if there were any plans to reuse the former council depo - could it be used for housing perhaps? 2 bedroomed bungalows were needed in the village. Councillors said they would raise this at the walkabout. The resident also asked if they could follow-up a previous enquiry, they had made about the proceeds of council house sales and investment in new council housing.	Ward Cllrs

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 30 July 2026 at Hazlerigg Community Centre at 6pm.