

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 March 2026 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: 5 residents & Ali Lamb (Clerk)

AGENDA

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and apologies. Cllr Locke welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Barbour, Ward Cllr Avaei and 1 resident.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda: Progress on new HPC website - Ali is busy populating the new template but needs some guidance from Parish Councillors about the content - this might depend on whether the existing website will be archived and a link to historical documents provided rather than copying everything over to the new site. Ali will share the log in details to the new site and ask NALC about the status of the old site after it is closed. There was a general discussion about the reach of the website compared to social media and how well used the website is / will be. It was acknowledged that key documents need to be on the website to be legally compliant. Further information is available on page 6 at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/attachment_data/file/388541/transparency_code_for_smaller_authorities.pdf</p>	Clerk
<p>4. Issues raised by residents: Footpaths / Repairs – a resident highlighted that there was a £50m fund available. They had emailed the leader of the City Council and the MP about the condition of the footpath towards the A1 bridge and the need for benches on the route but had not had a reply yet. Cllr Locke reported that she had chased up the issue of maintenance of existing benches through a city councillor and that they were waiting for a response from the Highways Department. The Communities Officer was also chasing up the issue of footpath repairs and Cllr Locke would ask for an update. There was a general discussion about the poor condition of footpaths in the village. Cllr Locke noted a number of examples of contacting Emma Foody MP about issues in the village including invitations to visit or hold a surgery There has been little response. A resident suggested that they would make an appointment at one of her surgeries to raise concerns with her.</p>	Cllr Locke

<p>Grit bins - the requests to repair and existing bin at Dolphin Villas / High Ridge and install a new one on High Ridge have been made by the Clerk through Envirocall - it was agreed that Parish Councillors would also report these issues through the members Envirocall portal.</p> <p>Residents raised road safety concerns about the junction of Dolphin Villas and High Ridge because of reduced visibility due to parking on the corner. Pavement parking was also discussed in relation to accessibility and road safety but the practicality of tackling it was doubted given the width of residential streets and the number of vehicles.</p> <p>A resident reported a recent incident of anti-social behaviour in the village when youths had used the embankment off High Ridge to access the A1 and throw golf balls onto Coach Lane. This dangerous behaviour was reported to the Police and concerns were raised about access to the A1 from the field.</p> <p>Poor bus services were raised as an issue again and it was agreed to contact the Public Transport Users Group to ask them to raise concerns.</p>	<p>All Parish Cllrs</p>
<p>5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors</p> <p>On behalf of Ward Councillor Avaei, Cllr Down noted that following complaints from local families, the issue of playground provision was being followed up - developers are failing to fulfil their obligations under planning conditions, to provide playgrounds in new estates, this is leading to increased pressure on existing ones.</p> <p>Concerns had also been raised about the build quality of new houses and frustrations with repairs / snagging.</p> <p>Cllr Locke said that the Parish Council were meeting with NCC's Assistant Director of Planning to discuss the recent approval at Brunton Quarry and that the shoddy work of developers would be discussed including their failure to remove the spoil heap which has led to flooding in a neighbouring field.</p> <p>New footpath to Great Park Academy - it was reported that NCC had persuaded developers not to install litter bins along the path and had stated that volunteers would litter pick the route.</p> <p>It was also noted that bridle path routes would be open soon with the completion of bridges over the Letch.</p>	
<p>6. Parish Council Action Log</p> <p>A link to the spreadsheet was shared and an appeal made for everyone to start using this internal document which summarizes the actions from each parish meeting and tracks progress. This document is useful for reference and for writing annual reports.</p>	<p>All Parish Cllrs</p>
<p>7. Police Matters</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – December 2025</p> <p>2 crimes were reported according to the Northumbria Police Crime Map website from: North View – 1 x violence or sexual offense. Matfen Avenue - 1 x drugs.</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – January 2026</p> <p>1 crime was reported according to the Northumbria Police Crime Map website from: North View – 1 x violence or sexual offense.</p>	

<p>The clerk reported that she had contacted the Neighbourhood Policing Team about attending Parish Council meetings - the Team had replied that their shift patterns don't align well with our meeting arrangements and that they would attend if they could. Email contact will be maintained but unless our meeting arrangements change, regular attendance is unlikely.</p> <p>The clerk reported that she had chased up the outcome of Police investigations into the graffiti under the A1 bridge - the Police had been unable to identify those responsible but would keep the issue under review. A resident noted that a neighbour had compiled a file of evidence about local graffiti and passed it to the Police but there had been no outcome as a result.</p> <p>It was also noted that doorbell cameras had recently recorded someone 'keying' a number of cars in the village - the images have been shared on social media in an attempt to identify him.</p> <p>Shoplifting - Cllr Down has engaged with the EPIC community safety team and arranged for them to visit and advise local shops who are being targeted.</p>	
<p>8. Correspondence</p> <p>Updates, newsletters and circulars – Public Sector Network, Electrical Safety First, Community Action Northumberland; Northern Gas Networks; National & Northumberland Associations of local Councils; Waste & Resources Action Programme; Newcastle Parks Forum, Keep Britain Tidy, Communities Team.</p> <p>Promotions - Playground services, Street Furniture suppliers, Defibrillators, Website services.</p> <p>To NCC – Ferguson Crescent garages, Brunton Quarry Planning decision, Brunswick to Hazlerigg Public Right of Way, Anti-litter engagement events, litter on Coach Lane, Community Centre Garden tree felling.</p> <p>From NCC – Clarification on professional dog walking regulation, Air Quality Action Plan Consultation, All Parishes meeting cancellation, Deer Signs for Coach Lane, Community Centre Garden, Brunswick PROW, Castle Ward Committee invitation, Playground improvement works, Ward Grant application success.</p> <p>To MP – Elliot Walk</p> <p>From MP – Brunswick to Hazlerigg Public Right of Way.</p> <p>Other – High Ridge Planting Plan; Airport Consultative Committee papers; Passenger Transport User Group AGM notice; Solar Farm visit; maintenance of benches; grant application to Point North Community Foundation; requests for Swift boxes.</p>	
<p>9. Financial Matters</p> <p>Current banking position - £4,297.54 – current account (after tonight's cheques).</p> <p>It was noted that a direct debit for £11.99 per month had been set up to Hugo Fox the new website provider. This money will be claimed after the free grace period expires. A Castle Ward Grant of £2,089 for orchard activities and benches has been gratefully received and paid into the reserve account.</p>	

<p>An application has been made to the Banks Community Foundation for the installation of the memorial bench and a planter. We hope to hear about this by the next meeting. It was noted that the precept is expected in May and in planning for next year's grant award, the Community Centre were asked to give a short report at the Parish Annual meeting outlining how last year's grant had been spent and also, when preparing a bid for the next grant, to breakdown how the Parish's funds would be spent.</p> <p>Cheques approved for: Clerk's February Salary - £194.06 HMRC - £48.40</p>	
<p>10. Environment, Planning & Highways</p> <p>Air Quality Action Plan Consultation - it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a response to this consultation highlighting concerns about the air pollution from the Airport, the A1 and wood burners.</p> <p>Grass cutting - the edges of the show field are overgrown and need some intervention. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice on the best method and report back.</p> <p>High Ridge cuts - it was agreed that the growth of the grass would be monitored, and that Cllr Fairley would approach the farmer to arrange the first cut as appropriate - likely to be mid- April.</p> <p>Orchard - the next session will be on Sunday 29 March - the plan is to install the sign at the event or before if possible. In terms of CCTV to monitor the orchard, it was agreed that the best option would be to get another, dedicated camera, mounted on the Community Centre.</p> <p>Community Centre Fig Tree - NCC have cut the tree down in error, but they have agreed to buy a new tree to replace it. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a complaint to NCC.</p> <p>Litter - The Great British Spring Clean is on between 15th & 29th March - a community litter pick will be arranged during the time, hopefully engaging the Allotments as well. Cllr Fairley highlighted that a resident had also recently litter picked Elliot Walk. Litter issues at Church Court have also been reported to North Tyneside Council.</p> <p>Speeding & Road Safety - Deer signs are in hand, but it has not been possible to identify a suitable site for a Toad crossing.</p> <p>Planning - no new applications to report on.</p> <p>Newcastle Great Park - there are no school buses from the villages to the Great Park Academy. The connection from the new path to the village is unresolved and reinstatement of the land around the new path has not been completed.</p> <p>High Ridge - the timescale for the Brunton Quarry development is unknown so there is no information about the works on High Ridge as yet. Access to the A1 from High Ridge and the fencing is an issue.</p> <p>Havannah - there has been no progress on the flooding issues to report.</p>	<p>Clerk Cllr Fairley Cllr Fairley</p>

11. Other issues raised by Councillors:

Cllr Down has reported the flooding issues outside the Premier Shop - kerbs have been damaged by HGV's, there are no dropped kerbs to access the forecourt and the gulley is blocked.

Riders have been seen racing horses on the Show Field next to the Community Centre - the lack of joined up bridle ways was referenced and the loss of Bridleways in Newcastle Great Park.

The EPIC Team was commended for dealing with an issue raised at a Coffee Morning and it was noted that the Housing Officer has only attended one session, it was agreed that she should be asked if she can attend again.

Clerk

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