

HAZLERIGG PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 April 2026 at HAZLERIGG VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

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

In attendance: 4 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 Ward Cllr Avaei.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2026 were agreed and signed by Cllr Locke.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:</p> <p>New website & email address - both are now live and in use. The addresses are being shared at every opportunity including through an automatic reply on the old gmail email address. The Clerk was thanked for her efforts on this. And it was noted how labour intensive the process had been.</p> <p>Newsletter - it was agreed that a newsletter would be produced, printed and delivered to letter boxes in the village after the AGM - the newsletter will cover achievements in the previous year and look towards plans for the coming year. The Chair asked everyone to think about ideas for articles.</p>	All
<p>4. Issues raised by residents:</p> <p>Grass cutting and grounds maintenance standards - a resident has complained to NCC about the poor quality of the work undertaken in the village and a manager had been out to discuss the issues. Consequently, the grass in Chelton Close has been cut and some additional work to tidy up High Ridge verge has been done. It was alleged that staff feel nervous about working in the village because of the different practises that the Parish Council have asked for in terms of the buffer area around trees which was requested following damage to trees from the grass cutting machines. The resident said that these different practises didn't appear to be supported by the findings of the grass cutting survey undertaken in 2022. The Chair confirmed that the village has the same grass cutting regime as the rest of the city (with the exception of the tree protection area) but agreed that the Parish Council would follow up these issues with NCC.</p> <p>Residents restated their unhappiness with the appearance of the village and want to ensure it is tidy and inspires civic pride.</p> <p>The Chair advised residents to complain to their ward councillors if they are dissatisfied with standards. She also advised that the litter bin formerly on Chelton Close had been relocated to outside the Premier Shop. It was also noted that the Parish Council have repeatedly asked for more litter bins and had even offered to purchase a bin, the issue</p>	RL

<p>is with the cost of emptying additional bins which is unaffordable for the Parish. Cllr Down explained the history of council cuts and the drive for savings. Residents expressed their frustrations because they pay council tax and deserve the same services as other parts of the city. Cllr Fairley noted that additional services are purchased from private companies in some areas.</p> <p>Street furniture - it was noted that the benches have been jet washed but that has blown the paint off. Cllr Locke said that they should be repainted and agreed to contact the council to find out what the next steps are.</p>	RL
<p>5. Actions / updates from Ward Councillors None</p>	
<p>6. Police Matters</p> <p>Fires in Havannah - the incidents were reported to the police at the Castle Ward meeting in March.</p> <p>Motorbikes on Strawberry Terrace - it was agreed that an email would be sent to the Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p> <p>Reported Crime Statistics – February 2026 2 crimes were reported according to the Northumbria Police Crime Map website from: Windt Street – 1 x violence or sexual offense. Enid Street - 1 x violence or sexual offense.</p>	AL
<p>7. Correspondence</p> <p>Updates, newsletters and circulars – Public Sector Network, Community Action Northumberland; Northern Gas Networks; National & Northumberland Associations of Local Councils; Newcastle Parks Forum, Communities Team, National Allotments Society Survey, Journal of Urban Regeneration, Ouseburn Way.</p> <p>Promotions - Playground services, Street Furniture suppliers, Defibrillators & Emergency equipment, First Aid training, Quayside 5 & 10k races, Time Housing Consultancy, Urban Naturalist Big Bat Bioblitz, Ponteland Rep Society, Park that Bike.</p> <p>To NCC – Brunswick to Hazlerigg Public Right of Way, parking enforcement on Elliot Walk, condition of pavements in the village, horse riding on the show field, fencing removal, anti-littering events.</p> <p>From NCC – Horse riding - this is a civil matter, dependent on local by laws (Cllr Fairley reported that the issue had been raised at the local stables by the EPiC Team and there had been no more incidents), pavement condition complaints - NCC believe the pavements are in North Tyneside, arrangements for a meeting with Planning to discuss the Brunton Quarry decision, Fly tipping incidents in Castle Ward - need to question the figures because they are very low.</p> <p>Other – Acknowledgement of North Tyneside’s Local Plan consultation submission, request for support with Elliot Walk issues to the Mayor’s Office, thanks sent to National Highways for their action on painting over graffiti on the fly over, a resident request for wildlife signs in the Great Park, Annual Governance and Accountability Returns 25/26.</p>	

<p>8. Financial Matters</p> <p>Current banking position - £3,334.82 – current account.</p> <p>Payment authorisations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CI Accountancy Services - £288 - Northumberland Association of Local Councils subs - £97.12 - Litter signs - £39.92 - Seeds - £51.90; Tools - £25.98; Plants - £13.90 - Clerk (March & April 26) - £388.12; HMRC (March & April) - £96.80 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Applications & Offers - Banks Community Foundation - successful application for just over £1500 for the memorial bench and signage at High Ridge. - Newcastle International Airport - offering funding for Parish community projects related to biodiversity (it was agreed to check the scope of the fund with the airport because a suggestion was made that they may fund fencing for Ryall Walk to help tackle parking on the grass). It was also suggested that the EPiC Team may be able to help. 	
<p>9. Environment, Planning & Highways</p> <p>Memorial Bench - the updated parish council Safeguarding Policy needs to be submitted in order to claim the grant offered. There was a discussion about whether a more expensive bench could be purchased and whether the airport might fund the difference. The location is likely to be High Ridge to avoid complications with getting permission from landowners for other sites. Cllr Barbour was congratulated for her efforts to secure this grant.</p> <p>Grass Cutting and grounds maintenance - it was noted by a resident that the football pitch on High Ridge should be cut shorter than the rest of the field so children could use it. Cllr Fairley noted that it is not an official playing pitch and is not maintained by NCC. It was agreed that a working group should be established to look at a written agreement between the Parish Council and the farmer who cuts High Ridge Cllr Down agreed to look into Community Pay Back for additional maintenance services.</p> <p>Bee's Needs - it was agreed to apply for the award again and to use a wildlife garden competition and planting more Spring bulbs as the basis for the application. The competition could be advertised in the newsletter. The application needs to be made by 17/05/26.</p> <p>Litter - it was reported that an event had been organised for the Great British Spring Clean and that the Chippy had contributed free pizza. It was also agreed earlier that the Clerk would write to NCC about the fly tipping incidences. Monthly, Monday litter picks will resume - first Monday of the month unless that's a Bank Holiday, in which case it will be the second Monday - 6pm, meet at the Community Centre. There were also reports of broken glass and litter around the InPost Lockers. A different locker provider had also started work on installing another locker facility in the</p>	<p>SB</p> <p>LF, SB, RL</p> <p>DD</p> <p>RL</p> <p>AL</p>

<p>same location, work had stopped when the installer was advised that they needed planning permission, and an update will be brought back to a future meeting if planning permission is applied for.</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that one locker facility is probably enough.</p> <p>Planting - residents have been alarmed by social media posts highlighting the planting of Scottish Broom on NGP land which claim that the plant is toxic to animals. The Chair advised that this is a native plant which is beneficial to pollinators and that concerns should be taken up with the NGP Consortium.</p> <p>Traffic Management - parking by patrons of the newly opened football ground is spilling into adjacent streets and disturbing residents. It was reported that the Football Club are doing their best to advise away teams to use the official car park. It was also noted that the area is not locked and that it is being used by dog walkers - dog fouling is a hazard for players. It was agreed to pass on concerns to Brunswick PC and to raise the question of locking the gates. It was also agreed to put a message on Facebook asking dog walkers not to use the area.</p> <p>Park that Bike - an initiative to provide businesses with free bike stands at their premises - it was agreed to print the information and distribute it to businesses in the village because they would need to apply themselves.</p> <p>Community Centre Summer Event - it was noted that the event on the show field would include displays of vehicles and equipment by the emergency services - it is hoped that it will raise awareness about the danger of setting fires and behaving responsibly in the area. It was questioned whether we needed a separate event in the centre for fire prevention, but it was agreed a larger event would be more appropriate.</p> <p>Planning - a date for the meeting with the Assistant Director of Planning was agreed and will be conveyed to her PA.</p> <p>Newcastle Great Park Developments - It was noted that tree felling had started in the Dark Plantation - was a felling license granted? It was agreed to approach NGP & Planning for a follow-up meeting to ascertain progress following the meeting last September - preferably, a daytime walkabout. The lack of bins on the new path through Havannah was raised. The Consortium and the City Council expected people would behave responsibly in the Nature Reserve and that the Reserve's volunteers would be asked to pick up the odd bit of litter left by walkers, dog walkers etc.</p> <p>High Ridge - a resident raised concerns about how untidy the area under the chestnut trees is - it was confirmed by the Chair that the National Grid are responsible for its maintenance, and she agreed to email her contact about this.</p> <p>Elliot Walk - the bollards that have been installed across the entrance were apparently done by the pigeon people, not NCC. The dog warden is also patrolling there twice a month.</p> <p>Havannah - the problems with illegal fishing and fires have been raised at the Parks Forum. It was also noted that wood chippings that have been left after tree felling are being collected and used to start fires in the new play park at Havannah Park.</p>	<p>LF / RL</p> <p>AL</p> <p>AL</p> <p>AL</p> <p>RL</p>
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<p>10.Other issues raised by Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Fairley - The shared heating supply in the bungalows has been problematic recently and an elderly resident was without heating for several days - when will the situation be resolved? Housing Officer surgery date - 13th May suggested.</p> <p>Cllr Locke - suggestions for agenda items for the next All Parishes Meeting requested - the expansion of the Airport has been suggested.</p> <p>Cllr Locke also reported that she was not able to attend the next Parks Forum meeting on Tuesday 2nd June at 6pm at the Civic Centre and asked if anyone could attend in her place.</p> <p>Cllr Garbett - poor visibility from the exit from Brunton Lane into Dinnington Road is a concern - to be raised at the meeting with NGP / Planning.</p> <p>The Parish's Safeguarding Policy was formerly adopted.</p>	<p>AL</p>
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**Next meeting of the Parish Council and the AGM will be on
Thursday 28 May 2026 at Hazlerigg Community Centre at 6pm.**