

Hamsterley Parish Council

Agenda

for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm
in Hamsterley Village Hall

Members are hereby summoned to transact the following business:

ITEM				
24 . 1	Annual Parish Meeting	Opened and closed with no members of public present		
24 . 2	Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Dominic Bayne elected unanimously	HK	JM
24 . 3	Election of Deputy Chairmain & Declaration of Acceptance of Office	Jane Bee elected unanimously	SH	JH
24 . 4	Present	DB, SH, HK, JH, RM, JW, plus JS (Joe Sammut)		
24 . 5	To receive and approve apologies for absence	None received		
24 . 6	To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting	Add Apologies from SH	JB	HK
24 . 7	Approve the dates of future meetings including the next Annual meeting	The following dates were unanimously approved 13/6,11/8,12/7,14/11, 9/1, 13/3, 8/5		
24 . 8	To receive declarations of interest	None received		
24 . 9	To bring up to date; acceptances of office, register of interest and other statutory matters.	Village Hall NW, Bullpiece NW and SH	JB	HK
.		Terms of ref for pond committee to allow continuation following completion of project	DB	SH
24 . 10	To hear updates and resolve action on Oakwell Lodge	DB to pursue.		
24 . 11	To hear update on Pond project	See 24.21		
24 . 12	To hear update on MUGA project	RM provided an update including new sign. VAT return to be completed. Construction area has been reseeded and will be kept under review.		
24 . 13	Planning Applications: DM/24/00825/NMA Non-material amendment pursuant to DM/21/02387/RM for design changes to Plot 9 Green View Lodge DL13 3QF	No action taken		
24 . 14	To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-4	Held over		
24 . 15	To approve the Accounting Statement for 2023-4	Held over		
24 . 16	To approve Hamsterley Parish Council insurance	Delegated powers to clerk to renew upto £250 for this year	JB	SH
24 . 17	To resolve proposals to archive Parish Records	JW to check regulations in respect of storage.		
24 . 18	To discuss request by Social Club to erect sign on Village Green in front of premises	Approved subject to site of location and design of plans.	HK	RM
24 . 19	To discuss additional name on War Memorial	Spence - subject to close scrutiny, happy to proceed.		
24 . 20	To discuss Parish Noticeboard	JB to bring options to next meeting.		
24 . 21	To discuss pond: new drain (wet field across rd); Ronnie's stone, Paper on pond refurbishment	Noted that PC unfortunately has no responsibility for drains under road. Quote obtained for drainage issue under village green opposite Hamsterley House - £648 plus VAT. Vote taken		
24 . 22	Review of Village Green Policy - horses on Village Green	Archaeological pits - approved. Sign to Church - approved.	RM	HK

£5,000 held back, check if VAT claim is on a cash or invoiced basis

24 . 23	Update on Memorial Tree for Jacquie Holloway	Acer Griseum to be ordered	JB	HK
24 . 24	To discuss public footpath through former site of pig farm.	DCC and Builder to be contacted	DB	SH
24 . 25	Finance: a) to consider and settle invoices received. b) to identify payments received	To ask SRHutchinson to quote for strimming bund and mowing corner of area facing gravelled area.		
.	Appointment of new clerk	Following a successful process it was resolved that Joes Sammut be appointed as Clerk to Hamsterley Parish Council with effect from the next meeting		
24 . 26	Date of the next Parish Council Meeting	13th June 2024		

Hamsterley Parish Council				
Minutes of a meeting held on 20th June, 2024 at 7pm in Hamsterley Village Hall				
	Item	Resolved	Proposed	Seconded
	Present	Dominic Bayne - DB (in the Chair) Jane Bee - JB; Helen Kirby - HB; Julia Hunter - JH; Ronnie Maughan - RM; Nigel Whitfield - NW		
	In attendance	Jonathan Ward - JW (Clerk) Joseph Sammut -JS (Clerk) Fran Thirling (Attendee)		
1	Apologies for absence	Sue Heslop (Councillor)		
2	Declarations of interest	None received		
3	To appoint JS as clerk of the Parish Council	Unanimous agreed to appoint JS as clerk.	JB	HK
4	To receive and approve Minutes of Meeting held on.....	Approved as a correct record	JB	HK
5	To hear updates and resolve action on Oakwell Lodge	Deed to be dated and signed by both parties. JB noted that remuneration is to be paid as agreed. HK questioned whether allowing modifications to Village Green set a precedent for future modifications. JW advised that the Parish Council is not legally able to set such precedents.	JB, DB	JS
6	To hear update on Pond project	RM contacted contractors, received no response. Proposed a bund be placed along clay liner of pond, plus land drains and/or a ditch, as well as a buoy. Land drains to be installed in two to three weeks time. VAT claim for pond project submitted.	HK	RM
7	To hear update on MUGA project	Both website and QR code to be used for booking system. VAT claim for MUGA submitted.		
8	To replace sapling on Holland Hill	Request received for planting a replacement sapling on Holland Hill. Ideally c 3-4 feet high and caged. Pink flowering Horse Chestnut. Budget of £65 proposed and AGREED.	JH	HK
9	To hear update on Hamsterley Forest Eco lodge development plans	Details of plans still awaited from Forest England, potentially c 70 lodges and Go Ape installation. NW reported resident opposition on grounds of traffic, noise, water, etc.		
10	To hear update on traffic calming measures to be implemented in village	FT asked for traffic calming and speed trap measures outside FT's house to prevent speeding. DB noted street furniture had already been proposed including pickett gates and rumble strips. JH suggested speed monitor at Hollin Hill due to Crakehill Bank road closure. Clerk, JS to write to DCC about speed monitor.		
11	To receive, sign and approve 2023/24 AGAR (Annual Governance Accounting Statement)	Signed by DB and JB, witnessed by JS and unanimously Agreed		
12	To receive, sign and approve 2023/24 Annual Accounts and Accounting Statements	Signed by DB and JB, witnessed by JS and unanimously Agreed		
13	To update and resolve action on Village notice board	DB proposed one A0 notice board (84.1cm x 118.9cm.) To be wall mounted, hardwood, pin board. JB to obtain quotes. Action Agreed.	DB	HK
14	Finances: a) to consider and settle invoices received. b) to identify payments received	a) Grass cutting invoice for £762.00 received. £254.00 still to be paid. HK to ask current contractors to cut bund around pond b) Precept: £7,150.00	HK	NW
15	Date and time of next meeting	Agreed Thursday 11 July at 7pm in Hamsterley Village Hall		
16	The meeting closed at:	08:30		

Item	Resolved	Proposed	Seconded
Present	Dominic Bayne (DB): Chair, Ronnie Maughan, Julia Hunter, Jane Bee, Sue Heslop, Joseph Sammut (JS): Clerk Helen Kirby (HK), Nigel Whitfield (NW)		
To receive and approve apologies of absence			
To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting	JS to correct spelling of Hollin Hill, Bund around quarry/MUGA, precept amount	Resolved	JB
To receive declarations of interest	None received		RM
To hear updates on Oakwell Lodge	DB heard nothing back		
	Bund likely to be installed around the pond - made of clay, as high as overflow pipe - to hold rain. RM hasn't hasn't heard from Michael Wood (MW)to put in land drainswest of Green Farm drive and pond. Quote accepted from MW.		
To hear update on Pond Project			
	COF money not arrived, due 5th July. RM suggested the bund around MUGA should be cut, DB proposed it should be cut frequently enough, but not every time the Green is cut. SH mentioned sign-up notification of bund, JB disagreed. Grass agreed to be cut once in September, then once at the start of next year	JH	RM
To hear update on MUGA	JS to receive information from Durham County Council		
To hear update on speed trap and traffic calming measures	JS to send a Fraud and Conflict of Interest Policy to DB or adopt one from another small council		
To discuss adopting Fraud and Conflict of Interest Policy			
		SH	RM
	noticeboards.online / Noticeboard Company Cumbria sent JB three different quotes. SH suggested viewing Toft Hill's noticeboard to compare. New noticeboard likely to be metal and wall-mounted using magnets, as Parish Council does not own pavements. Unanimous agreement of green colour		
To hear update on Parish noticeboard			
To consider cutting the grass and weeds in the area around the quarry	No agreement reached		
	Dog waste bins to be installed around popular dog walking locations around the village. JS to contact Durham County Councillors about dog waste bins		
To discuss installing more dog waste bins	JS to update website, to upload previous meetings' minutes and agendas		
To discuss updating the Parish Council Website			
	JS to find tree nurseries offering a sapling within previously agreed budget (£65)and matching previous minute's description: Red horse chestnut (pink flowering), around 3-4 feet high		
To hear update on sapling			
Planning Applications (agreed item, not on Agenda)	DB wouldn't object to planning permission for John Dobson's application		
	A) Hamsterley Village Hall to Hamsterley Parish Council membership fees for 2024: £20.00, cheque to Zurich Municipal (insurance) £214.00 B) None received None received		
Finance: A) to consider and settle invoices received. B) to identify payments received	Richard Holloway's tree: DB to discuss with Neil Holloway.		
Correspondence	Disabled parking outside Village Hall Discuss online banking		
Items for the agenda of the next meeting			
Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting	12th September 2024, 7PM		
Meeting Ended		9:05 PM	

Hamsterley Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2024

Item	Resolved	Proposed	Seconded
Present	Jane Bee (JB) - in the Chair, Nigel Whitfield (NW), Helen Kirby (HK), Ronnie Maughan (RM), Julia Hunter (JH), Joe Sammut (JS) - Clerk		
Apologies for absence	Dominic Bayne (DB)		
Members of the public in attendance	Andy Richardson, Martin Tilford, Ian Bell, Fran Thirling		
The Chair rearranged the agenda so that members of the public could be accommodated before the main meeting.			
Forestry England plans (agreed item to discuss, not on agenda)	Andy Richardson wanted to engage with the PC at early stage concerning the Forestry development, although he hoped to be invited back to air his concerns with PCs when the planning application came through. He outlined the Grove plans for a 48 bed bunkhouse and a campsite, which would contribute to an estimated full occupancy of 800. There would be road closures and issues with road infrastructure. The project would need a minimum of 60,000 litres daily. If further plan of 120 lodges goes through, water needs will rise. Andy told of problems with other sites: treated waste put in rivers, waste not sufficiently treated, strong smell of sewage, damage to water. Strong winds could affect residents. Forestry England can go ahead with plans with no authority to bore water and discharge water. They only pay 500 pounds Council Tax.		
Footpath to the MUGA	Martin Tilford, treasurer for Hamsterley Community Sports Association, presented plans and quotes for the proposed pathway to MUGA, positioned from the end of path at the top of village to the MUGA. The Association have secured COF (Community Ownership Funding) funding requirements, which stipulate the need to spend a certain amount of money by the end of October for it to go through. They need permission to go ahead. If not, they will have to return money. The Vice-Chair moved to arrange a special meeting with Dominic Bayne (Chair) present.		
Minutes of the last meeting	Approved as a true record	JH	RM
Declarations of interest	None received		
Oakwell Lodge	Nothing to update		
The Pond	Nearly £9000 pounds had been spent to reline pond. Several attempts to contact Redden had come to nothing. JB suggested that we go through an official complaints procedure, such as trading standards or a consumer group.		
Speed trap and traffic calming measures	Fran Thirling reported that in a recent Police survey, 40 per cent of traffic movements were in excess of the 30mph speed limit. We had asked for the solar-powered display to be moved to Hollin Hill. That had not happened due to relocation fee of 20,000 pounds. JS to follow up and ascertain who is responsible for it.		
Fraud and Conflict of Interest Policy	We need a policy, but it was thought that one probably already existed. JS to investigate.		
Noticeboard	JB sent the cheque on 29th July, at the commencement of the supplier's annual shutdown. She showed an image that the supplier had sent her to bring to the meeting. JB to chase.		
Dog waste bins	Nothing to report. JS to contact local councillor.		
Parish Council Website	Possibility of Facebook page (with comments turned off) and/or Website discussed. No decision made. To be kept as an agenda item.		
Trees A) sapling B) Richard Holloway's tree	Sapling has been identified but is still to be ordered (JS). Dominic to discuss Richard's tree with Neil Holloway.		
Name of Charles Hall Spence on the War Memorial	No problem with the name being added to the War Memorial. DB to update at next meeting.		
Disabled parking at the Village Hall	There is a designated parking space/drop off but further signage is needed. It was thought that the frontage concerned is owned by Durham County Council. If so, it was nothing to do with HPC. Nigel to check with Village Hall Association.		
Online banking	No progress made yet. HK to discuss with Woodland Parish Council to see what it involved. It might be necessary for the signatories (JB and SH) to be involved.		
Gap in Pond pier	JH described a sizeable gap in the dipping platform and suggested that it be filled in to prevent accidents. JB proposed a site visited, seconded by HK.		
Planning Applications	None received		
Finance A) to consider and settle invoices received B) payments received	£90 payment for outstanding Village Hall invoice. £ payment to Michael Wood for works on The Green £127 payment to SRH Maintenance for grass cutting		
Correspondence	None received		
Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting	Consideration of a Facebook page for public information Update on Village Hall disabled parking Reinstalling bench opposite RM and provision of benches outside MUGA		
Date and time of the next meeting	Thursday 26th September – additional meeting of full council to include a decision on the MUGA pathway Ended 8:03		

Hamsterley Parish Council				
Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September 2024				
	Item	Resolved	Proposed	Seconded
		Domic Bayne (DB) - In the Chair, Nigel Whitfield (NW), Jane Bee (JB), Sue Heslop (SH), Julia Hunter (JH), Helen Kirby (HK), Joe Sammut (JS) - Clerk		
	Present			
	Apologies for absence	Ronnie Maughan (RM)		
	Members of the public in attendance	Lucy Heinz (LH)		
	The Chair rearranged the agenda so that members of the public could be accommodated before the main meeting.	MUGA moved to the top		
	MUGA	LH brought up that because MUGA is part of PC green and they weren't changing surface, didn't need approval from Highways commission. SH mentioned it should be put through Highways Commission, SH spoken to DCC, whether HPC needs permission to install path. Initial inquiries with DCC, with £100 fee, told it needs direction from them. SH questioned health and safety aspect, who is responsible for injuries or accidents. NW questioned whether distance of path to road makes a difference. JB quoted section c of the Highways Act, that PC have permission. DB mentioned that it only pertained to highways, not roads. Noted that money is available, proposed to use it. SH noted potential complaints. HK mentioned time restraints, that it needs to be used soon. LH mentioned that time could be given to clarify issues with insurance etc, importantly, to allocate and award it to contractors, to be a contention precedent. MUGA group to clarify with DCC. Slight amount of verge to be left, then path added. Originally 1.2m wide. Start between telegraph poles, then to take it in to the other side of the telegraph poles, taking out gorse for it. To ask grass cutters. Must award contractors before end of October. MUGA group to clarify whether DCC has permissions and insurance. Unanimous agreement.	DB	JH
	Minutes of the last meeting	Approved as a correct record	JH	JB
	Declarations of interest	None received		
	Oakwell Lodge	Nothing to report Anna Douglas chasing		
	The Pond	Still no reply from Redden Civil Engineering Ltd, suggestion of potential escalation of complaint. DB commented that it could be leaking from one side or evaporating due to shallow depth. HK compared own clay pond, brings up disruption of water table. HPC to write a note to Redden to come and assess the pond and rectify it. HK brought up MW's suggestion of putting soil over drains	SH	NW
	Speed trap and traffic calming measures	JS to email Robert Potts: to move camera to top of Hollin Hill.		
	Fraud and Conflict of Interest Policy	We need a policy, but it was thought that one probably already existed. JS to investigate.		
	Noticeboard	To arrive, on its way.		
	Dog waste bins	to install one by tennis courts, one end of green lane, bottom of Hollin Hill, DB to follow up with it		
	Parish Council Website	Possibility of Facebook page (with comments turned off) and/or Website discussed. JS and HK to ask ECL (Eliot Chisholm-Lotsley) for help with updating website		
	Trees A) sapling B) Richard Holloway's tree	Sapling has been identified but is still to be ordered by JS. Dominic to discuss Richard's tree with Neil Holloway.	JB	HK
	Name of Charles Hall Spence on the War Memorial	JB found obituary, recording that he lived in the village. DB suggests HPC should direct stonemasonry. DB to speak to Vicky Chilcott about how Richard Holloway's memorial was built. To be placed on WW1 face		
	Disabled parking at the Village Hall	There is a designated parking space/drop off but further signage is needed. It was thought that the frontage concerned is owned by Durham County Council. If so, it was nothing to do with HPC. Nigel to check with Village Hall Association. Held over until next meeting.		
	Online banking	DB in favour of switching to it, to make account suitable for a Community Group and to allow confirmations on payments. DB to speak to JW about online banking, unanimous agreement		
	Gap in Pond pier	JB stated the issue is negligible. No action required.		
	Planning Applications	None received		
	Finance A) to consider and settle invoices received B) payments received	Grass Cutting: agree to pay: £942, JS £109, due to overpay	SH	NW
	Correspondence	Housing Association, solicitors. HA want to go ahead, agreed to pay £500 per house (4 houses, only doing 2). Andy Moses asked for action. Gravel path, eggbox. DB to sign easement when it arrives, unable to allow development plans until its signed.	JB	HK
	Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting	Forestry England development plans. Benches near MUGA, to be donated by HK.		
	Date and time of the next meeting	Thursday 14th November, 2024, 7pm		

Hamsterley Parish Council Meeting,

Thursday 14th November, Minutes:

Present: Dominic Bayne, Joe Sammut, Nigel Whitfield, Jane Bee, Sue Heslop, Julia Hunter, Ronnie Maughan, Helen Kirby

Absent: None

Minutes approval: Amend, Helen was present last meeting, change 'Highways Act', not Highways and Commissions act, Add MUGA group to clarify whether DCC has permissions and insurance. Proposed as accurate: JB, NW

Declarations of interest: None

Oakwell Lodge: DB mentioned that the solicitor is still out of office, Mr. Bellamy wrote back, no invoice received after easement has been signed. To be kept on Agenda

Pond: Pond Project received DB's questions/letter regarding Reddon's work on Pond. Settled in accordance with the original quote. DB, JB, HK, RM discussed formal letter, clarifying points about work done to the pond and the dissatisfactory results; namely dates and correspondence. RM suggested three different departments to send it to.

Insurance: HK clarified that it regarded insurance for sports coach using MUGA; public liability. To clarify, JS and DB investigate further and gain access to insurance account.

Speed trap: JS emailed Councilor, still no response. To follow up

Fraud and Conflict of Interest Policy: DB, JS investigated, Policies found. To adopt later, 'policy review' to be put in next agenda.

Website: Nothing to report, no progress made. To meet with Eliot soon

Charles Spence War Memorial: DB received one quote for addition of name, £450.00. JB noted that the council puts £50 into war memorial maintenance account annually, SH noted that this is no longer occurring.

In joint account: £500. SH noted to leave war memorial fund at South Bedburn SH proposed, JB seconded. DB mentioned the issue of space: WW1 face full, including 2 other sides. DB suggested placing name on top pedestal below face used for Australian, Canadian troops

Church Sign: DB brought up PCC's request for tourist (brown) sign reading to be erected on village green. To be placed on triangular patch of green directly north of war memorial. NW disputed placement for ease of visitor viewing, RM suggesting it should be attached to another present pole, possibly fingerpost. SH, DB noted council couldn't attach sign to existing pole. DB suggested that the council stick to proposed plan p: JB, s: JH, NW opposed. Vote results: in favour: unanimous

Noticeboard: arrived. Arrangements have been made to install it

Saplings a) has been purchased by JS, b): has been purchased by DB, arrangements to be made with Niel Holloway when it arrives.

Disabled Parking: Has been resolved

Online banking: DB corresponded with Barclays, signatories to sign it to transfer it online. To be arranged with signatories to go to Barclays in person. JB to make an appointment

Planning Applications: three applications. Two in village, one regarding Forestry England proposed 'Masterplan'. 3rd December end date for hypothetical response. JB proposes printing out Lanchester's response provided village ergo council opposes plans. JB cited out-of-date surveys, traffic issues. DB noted positive proposals such as use of the Nest. Proposed a new meeting on Friday 22nd to discuss

MUGA: LH attempted to get in contact with Highways, HK explained pathway situation. No permission is required unless machinery may damage highway leading to MUGA. MW mentioned using mini-digger and cones. RM suggested taking before and after pictures for evidence.

Finance: Invoices: £25.27, Royal British legion, Clerk, £246.20 net pay. Mazars: reissue cheque for £252.00. DB, £97.00, JS £93.00 Grass cutting JB, SH

Correspondence: none

Meeting ended: 8:52pm

Hamsterley Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting,

Friday 22nd November, Minutes:

Item:

- **Present:** Dominic Bayne (Chair) Jane Bee, Sue Heslop, Julia hunter, Ronnie Maughan, Helen Kirby.
- **In attendance:** Joe Sammut, approximately 30 members of the public including Andy Richardson, Eric Wilton, Leslie Brown, Leone McWatson
- **Apologies:** Nigel Whitfield.
- **Declarations of Interest:** None.
- **Forestry Development Plans:** DB mentioned the Parish Council's desire to send off response to Forestry England's development plans soon, may decide that no action is to be made yet. JB mentioned that in September, the council distributed approximately 200 surveys, received 57. Out of proposed changes, upgrade to visitor's centre parking received no objections, for Go Ape: 10 agreed, 40 disagreed. 6 households welcomed sewage treatment plants, 50 did not. 8 households would welcome new jobs, 50 would not.
- **Objection to the impacts planning would have on the environment and traffic by members of the public,** Andy Richardson raised concerns over missing documents, discharge routes causing concern in Bedburn Beck and a lack of reference to where the treatment plant would be going, as well as potential dangers to local wildlife such as salmon and trout, and the food chain. AR also mentioned that residents were being asked to decide without full information.
- **Eric Wilton questioned the lack of a Landscaping Impact Assessment,** or of the impact of noise pollution.
- **Leslie Brown broached concerns regarding hazardous roads for heavy traffic:** road junctions that don't allow appropriate distances for safe travel.
- **Martin Wilson brought up concerns regarding water in the Nest.** The application mentioned a spring, the water of which was noted to be depleted when more people were there. Concerns were also raised over

proposed bore holes and water usage, especially in summer, with an estimated 90% usage per occupancy.

- Leone McWatson, member of Hamsterley Forest Action Group mentioned that Forestry England would require expressed resident permission to draw from spring, which was not included in the document. An unreliable spring ran dry two years ago, with only nine people still using it. Concerns it will run dry with more usage.
- Pam Wilson, resident in forest. Mentioned how Forestry England presented themselves: as owners of the land, which they aren't. Mentioned that most people wouldn't object based on the grounds that they own the land. FE didn't withdraw statement until end of week. Now, the document says Forestry England are landlords, which could be construed as misleading the public. DB mentioned looking at land registry, who it's owned by; designated as 'Crown land'.
- AR raised concerns regarding the mentioned bore hole, conservatively estimated to use more than 60,000 litres. Raised concerns regarding footpaths and Forestry England's level of access.
- Linda Pitt raised concerns over the large increase of traffic after conducting a traffic survey, counted 2 cars per minute for an hour going to the forest at 11AM to 12. 120 cars counted in August.
- RM mentioned local application, needed to change land classification to agricultural land. Didn't see a change in land usage in the FE planning application.
- J Wilkinson mentioned that the law states you cannot park a car on curb, goes into a single-track lane in main village road. Can't handle the increase in traffic. DB mentioned that people will park in the forest, not in the village itself, which will be the main site for increased parking. Mentioned Glen Cress construction problems. Took 3 years to complete; long term issue for Hamsterley. MW mentioned increase in water usage. DB mentioned general discontent for plans from residents regarding certain plans. DB suggested for residents to provide a nuanced refutation of certain issues: which issues they would object to.
- Kevin Barlow: against entire plans. Told it would take 18-20 months to construct, and that Go Ape would not cross current bridleways or paths, which is contradicted by actual development plans. Mentioned Gruffalo path, beck, Visitors' Centre side of deck.

- EW mentioned biodiversity net gain, if FE takes away habitats, they will have to replace 10%. AR questioned power supply: concerns over upgrading power supply. Overground power supply for Forest residents. MW mentioned in a sentence on the document that power would be upgraded with development plans. AR mentioned trees falling on power lines, disrupting power supply.
- EW has no issue with upgrades to the car park and visitor's centre, although mentioned a need for an upgrade to power supply. AR mentioned outgoing minister allowed 125-year lease grants for holiday locations.
- £3000 per cottage. AR mentioned rent per lodges.
- DB believed the worst aspect of the proposals is lodges, best; visitors' centre to gauge opinions of those present.
- Kevin B Mentioned disturbances to bats in the Nest. DB mentioned ways around it
- AR mentioned it's a full planning application: either all or nothing.
- Jacob from Grove. Mentioned that the campsite would be worse for residents in the long term, in terms of demographic and volume of people.
- HK believed traffic for village would have the greatest negative impact. Should look at how it affects village, parish as well as forest residents. SH noted negative aspects of traffic; even though the plans are in forest, they effect the village greatly too, diminishing the village way of life.
- HK believed traffic to be the main concern of parish.
- RM questioned guideline for 240m gap in junction. Mentioned negative impact of installing infrastructure. SH mentioned the lack of problems mentioned in the traffic survey. EW mentioned that FE believed people would be more likely to walk from village to forest than drive, unrealistic. DB questioned whether it should be treated as an 'all or nothing' application.
- Proposal to PC response: opposition to certain concerns. Proposed: HK, Seconded: JH. Unanimous
- JB mentioned viable opposition grounds. To write a letter of concern. DB and JB to write a letter. EW mentioned it's vital to get a planning specialist to make a concise, fleshed out response.

- DB questioned whether Action Group has consulted expert advice, which they had: a Traffic Transport Expert to get an overview of the impact of changes to all aspects of traffic.
- Entrances do not currently have safe splay, because of an influx of traffic. Action Group consulting with ecologists, others looking at wildlife.
- EW believed that it would be well advised to consult specialists. DB mentioned the council's obligation to not use council tax funding on unnecessary spending. JB believed that much detail is unnecessary. Discussion between councilors about extending time for a response. DB questioned whether it's worth hiring an expert of council's own, DB wanted EW to help with first draft. None want professional advice.
- DB mentioned that whether AR is ok with PC using Action Group expert advice, PC will use that instead of hiring own experts. AR mentioned that Action Group's hired experts will be shared with local councils.
- DB nominated single point of contact, to talk with DB and JS
- DB to write to Durham County Council to ask for an extension. Action Group Extension refused. EW mentioned that there was missing information regarding which groups would be allowed objection extensions. DB raised concerns that much of the information provided wasn't relevant. RM mentioned again that there was no change of use of land noted on planning applications. DB noted that there may be a special exception for crown lands.
- DB mentioned that not providing an extension would be unreasonable given the size of the proposals and the length of time taken to implement it. RM mentioned that DCC does allow for extensions. EW mentioned that the village could be considered a consultee, therefore would receive notifications on developments. HK questioned whether individual residents could apply for an extension, which they can.
- **Path to the MUGA:** HK spoke with Michael Wood, who would be using the smallest diggers possible. EW mentioned whether MW has appropriate licenses to do work. RM suggested taking before and after pictures.

SH questioned whether no document is required, believed it would be better to have one.

JB mentioned that path is a large development: 300m. The issue was raised of damaging subterranean pipes, DB mentioned it's a separate but important issue.

DB mentioned that PC would go ahead with plans so long as DCC Highways department were ok with it, which they are.

The Parish Council to contact the highways contract manager from Durham County Council to confirm in writing whether plans are fine to move forward with.

Meeting ended: 8:52PM.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 9th January 2025,
7PM

Hamsterley Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 9th January 2025

Item:

- **Present:** Dominic Bayne (Chair) - DB, Jane Bee - JB, Nigel Whitfield - NW, Sue Heslop - SH, Julia Hunter - JH, Ronnie Maughan - RM, Helen Kirby - HK
- **In Attendance:** Joe Sammut - JS, Eric W
- **Apologies of Absence:** None.
- **Minutes:** approved 14th November, to correct, used to put £50 into war memorial, don't anymore. **Proposed, HK. Seconded, JH.**
- **Minutes:** approved 22nd November. **Proposed, JH. Seconded, RM.**
- **Declarations of Interest:** None
- **Oakwell Lodge:** DB received email from Mr Bellemey, then contacted solicitors. Easement drafted, Bellemey had put money into the account, but land registry requires a complete survey of the land. Incorrect scale plan given, therefore rejected. DB suggested to draft a letter to ask them to redo the survey since it's not the Parish Council's fault.
- **Pond Project:** Redden surveyed pond, concluded they didn't use the best clay or big enough budget. Chris Mckewan sent email relaying what was sent. NW questioned if quote contained footnotes to verify in writing. Eric read email they sent, with proposed changes. DB concluded the weather would prevent work at present, and to continue dialogue. Parish Council does not accept claim that someone told Redden about incorrect specifics, for example, the way the water flowed and receded. Redden offered their own price without options. DB proposed to send email, appreciating their offer and to accept it, apologising for the misunderstanding in not banking up the end of the pond. JB to compose the email. **Proposed, HK. Seconded, RM.**
- **Policy Review:** Adjourned
- **Speed Trap:** DB to email councillor Cosslett and clear up misunderstanding. Speed trap needed to be fixed and for the camera to be turned around. To be kept on agenda.
- **Website:** resolved

War Memorial: No progress yet, DB to email Vicky Chilcott. One quote received. DB to move forward with change. (£450 quote)

- **Trees, a) Sapling, b) Richard Holloway's Tree:** a) FT to plant Sapling and make a frame when the ground thaws out. **B)** to contact Neil and plant sometime before April. To find out conditions needed for an aster (tree) for example, shelter. Parish Council to ask Neil if an event should be made of the planting or not.

- **Online Banking:** JB mentioned it can't be done before bank mandate, mandate signed at meeting. To be adopted once mandate is sent.
- **Planning:** Forest is the only new application.

Forest: allowed more time, until the end of January. HK would write planning document assisted by JB. RM mentioned contradictions in registration of land; Forestry England's ideals of protecting ancient woodland. JB mentioned environment agency objections would be useful. DB mentioned Eric W's assistant suggested that traffic would put immense strain on the village. JB suggested that it should be up to Bedburn Parish Council to discuss sewage and water, which affects them most. Hamsterley Parish Council to discuss issues that predominantly affect the village, highlighting detriment to the environment and traffic. DB mentioned importance of large, reasoned opposition to the plans. No resolutions necessary.

- **Finance a) invoices received:** Molehills to be placed on next agenda (Molehill pest control – Garry Lowdon - to be paid) Gary to be ordered to continue next year, to be put on agenda conjoined with another mole item. JS pay, cheque.
- **B) Payments received:** none.
- **Correspondence:** Neil Malkin questioned sale of land behind the pub, brought attention to gravelling of public bridleway HK mentioned lane was once used for tractor run, but vehicle access is not granted in that lane to new owner. DB mentioned ambiguous nature of access rules in Green Lane and Pub (Cross Keys) car park. Green lane access to be put on agenda. NM further mentioned animal welfare issues, turning shed into an accommodation, and new owner access. SH mentioned new owner regularly lit bonfires. DB mentioned that animal welfare is on it, and that there is a planning permission breach. HK mentioned that the Planning Portal can be used to report it. SH questioned whether it was an offence to lay down asphalt on a public bridleway, which depends on whether it's an adopted highway or bridleway. JS to report on planning breach.
- **Dog Waste Bins:** knocked over; HK questioned whether it needs reporting. Disappeared. Eric W mentioned asking to replace it with a newer, better one. Plus, having more of them. DB received email stating that if HPC funds 2 bins (at £550), 2 more will be donated to the village. (Ideally to fund dual-purpose bins). DB to proposed that in principle it's a good plan, but the location needs to be discussed in the next meeting.
- **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Thursday 13th March, 7pm. Meeting ended at 8:34pm.

Hamsterley Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting

Thursday 30th January 2025

Item:

- **Present:** Dominic Bayne (Chair) - DB, Jane Bee - JB, Ronnie Maughan - RM, Sue Heslop - SH, Julia Hunter - JH
- **In Attendance:** Joe Sammut – JS
- **Apologies for Absence:** Helen Kirby – HK
- **Precept Approval:** DB mentioned number of properties in the village has increased. DB mentioned Band D property increased by 25%. Discussed increase of Precept by 2%, from £4750. Grass cut price could potentially increase. DB mentions prices have been going up. RM proposes to increase Precept by about 5.1% to £4900. **Proposed, JB. Seconded, SH**
- **Dog Waste Bins:** DB received confirmation from James Cosslett, to match the 2 bins bought by HPC. £550 cost for 4 bins. No objections to placing bins at Tennis Courts and Hollin Bank. SH questioned safety of bin wagon, to consider placement. No objections to placing bins at Tennis Courts and Hollin Bank. DB suggested for councilors to meet with Councilor Cosslett and Aiden at 2:30pm on Tuesday 4th RM and SH. Councilor Cosslett to give update on the C31. DB mentioned Green Lane, talked to the planning officer regarding the issue. DB's proposal: that the Parish Council pays for 2 bins, RM and SH to meet Cosslett on Tuesday. JB stressed a preference for black bins. **Proposed, JB. Seconded, SH.**
- **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Thursday 13th March, 7pm. Meeting ended at 8:12pm.

Hamsterley Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13th March 2025

Item:

Present: Jane Bee (JB), Ronnie Maughan (RM), Julia Hunter (JH), Helen Kirby (HK), Sue Heslop (SH)

In Attendance: Joe Sammut (clerk)

Apologies of absence: Dominic Bayne (DB), Nigel Whitfield, (NW)

Minutes: Correction to 9th January Minutes, HK would write planning document with help from JB. Proposed: RM, Seconded: JH. Approved as correct record. **Proposed: SH, Seconded: RM**

Declarations of Interest: None

Oakwell Lodge: Carried over to next meeting.

Pond: No response to the email sent 17th January. Hamsterley Parish Council to resend an email asking if they acknowledge the email we sent on 17th. JS to send email asking if they received the email.

Policy Review: Carried over to next meeting.

Budget for 2025/26: In the absence of three councillors, it was decided to have an extraordinary meeting to discuss it with last year's accounts and other councillors here. Proposed 27th March, can be changed if others can't meet on that date.

Speed Trap: Carried over to next meeting in absence of DB

C31: Remains closed with no prospect of opening in the near future, RM mentioned complications with forest roads and traffic if opened.

Charles Spence War Memorial: Carried over to next meeting.

Trees: a) Neil would like to plant tree on Tuesday 22nd April at 4pm.

b) sapling had been planted.

Linburn Bridge priority system: RM asked Cosslett, but it requires a formal address to DCC. JB to send an inquiry to Highways at DCC for what needs doing to install it.

Grass Cutting: Grass cutting costs to go up to £155.00 per cut. Believed to be still a competitive price, Council will accept the increase. JS to contact Steven Hutchinson to ask him to not cut right up to wall on village green or too close to the trees and to tend to the area around MUGA on his first cut.

War Memorial fund: It was noted that confirmation is needed from South Bedburn PC that war memorial fund is a joint one with Hamsterley.

Clerk Training: will cost £120 + VAT. Payment **Proposed: JB, Seconded: RM.**

Planning Applications: HK mentioned Knavesmire planning application, already approved by DCC. No other planning applications except for in the forest.

Finance: a, Invoices recieved) after much negotiation with DCC, agreed by DCC that 2 bins would be replaced free of charge and 2 more delivered and installed at a cost of £327.50 to cover maintenance for five years (not to be paid on 13th march).

Forvis Mazars LLP £504.00, **Proposed: HK, Seconded, JH**

DB, £190.00 for trees, **Proposed: SH, Seconded: RM**

JS/clerk wage: £246.40, **Proposed: RM, Seconded: SH**

Grass Cutting: £217.00, **Proposed: SH, Seconded: JH**

Mole Removal: £125.00 **Proposed: HK, Seconded: RM.** Council suggested not to change price for service (£125.00)

MCW Digger Hire: £22,800 **Proposed: JB, Seconded: JH**

JS to ask Barclays for bank statements for the last year.

B, Payments received) None.

Correspondence: None.

Items for next agenda: Encroachment of Weardale Buses and Gritter wagons on Spinning Wheel car park HPC land, Access to new estate (Hamsterley Pastures), North Star Housing access

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 28th March 2025, 7pm. Meeting Ended: 8:26pm.

Hamsterley Parish Council Meeting

Friday 28th March 2025

Item:

Present: Dominic Bayne (DB), Jane Bee (JB), Sue Heslop (SH), Julia Hunter (JH), Ronnie Maughan (RM), Helen Kirby (HK)

In Attendance: Joe Sammut (clerk)

Apologies of Absence: Nigel Whitfield (NW)

Declarations of Interest: None.

Budget 2025/26: Budget plan required before making final decision, to be agreed upon by DB and JS.

VAT Reclaim: To be discussed in future meetings.

Correspondence: None.

Items for Next Meeting: To add: Green Lane and whether logging wagons parking on PC land should be charged

Date and Time of next meeting: 15th May 2025, 7pm. Meeting Ended: 8:01pm.