

Hurworth Parish Council

Finance Sub Committee

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 1st December 2011 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending:-

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes,
Norma Kyle. Tony Needham, Jeff Kemp; John Howard, Gill Hepplewhite,
Jill Russell, Ian Holme. Chris Pratt,

also in attendance: - Peter Allan - Clerk

Apologies for absence:-

None

Declarations of Interest:-

None declared.

Minutes of the Meeting dated 27th June 2011.

The minutes, having been distributed to all councillors, were accepted as read.

Precept for 2012-13

The Chairman opened the meeting, referring to the letter from DBC informing us that we will receive the DBC Grant of £9785 in 2012, but it is most unlikely that it will continue thereafter. This implies that the Precept will need to be raised by £7.52 in 2013-14 to cover this shortfall.

With this in mind, the Chair recommended that the Precept for 2012-13 should not be increased. Holding the precept at the same as this year, will be in keeping with the present austerity climate.

This was briefly debated, and all councillors agreed to this suggestion. This was formally proposed by Ian Holme and seconded by Jill Russell, and was carried unanimously. **Action Clerk to inform DBC**

It was agreed that the January newsletter would make reference to this decision, and the Chairman would cover it in his remarks. **Action Chairman**

Best estimate 2011-12

The Clerk presented the current year's figures, which have been updated to reflect the latest 'best estimate' of expenditure for this financial year. This should a net saving of circa £20,000 against the budget. This will be carried forward into the computation for the two years future budgets.

Budgets for 2012-13 and 2013-14

The spreadsheets for the future suggested budgets had been previously distributed to all councillors.

Assumptions:-

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Year 2011-12 | Reductions in expenditure, as shown on revised 'best estimate' schedule.
This shows a saving on this year's budget of £21000. |
| 2. Year 2012-13 | Assumptions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. We know we will receive the DBC grantb. We assume we will get the litter picker rechargec. We assume the allotment fee will remain at £10pa.d. We assume no increase in the Precept. |
| 3. Year 2013-14 | Assumptions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. We know we will receive no DBC grantb. We assume we will not get the litter picker rechargec. We assume the allotment fee will rise to £15 pad. We assume the PC will increase the Precept by £7.54 per household + revenue circa £10,000 |
| Overall strategy | We always ensure that our projections reserve remains at £12,000.
The Burial Fund remains ring-fenced. |

The 2012-13 figures showed an expected surplus available for Projects of **£18,000**, plus the amount of £4,000 ring-fenced for the skateboard project.

The 1013-14, bested on the above assumptions, would provide £10,000 for Projects.

The following Suggestions had been put forward for consideration.

Suggested Projects for execution in the Year 2012-13

The meeting went through the list of suggestions, and gave their initial views, which allowed one or two to be eliminated.

Hurworth Parish Council – Suggested Projects for execution in the Year 2012-13

1. Exercise equipment to be installed in the playground at Hurworth Grange. Each device costs circa £1500; suggestion that 3 pieces are installed circa £4500. This will encourage fitness training and the pursuance of community well-being. Submitted by **Jill Russell**.

Possible grant from Sports UK

This project was widely received, and should be included in the 2012-13 budget, provided a grant can be secured.

2. Purchase of small ride-on grass mower for use at Strait Lane allotments. This will be kept in the new shed, and can be used at the allotments and for any other HPC groundworks. Cost quote circa £1500. Submitted by **Val Hughes**.

Objections to this included security of the housing, and the need for a risk analysis; also the tractor cutter would require annual servicing. The alternative of paying a person to cut the grass every two weeks appears to be preferred. Cost of labour circa £300 pa. Alternatively volunteer allotment holders can use the existing PC lawnmower, at the cost of petrol.

3. a. Resurfacing of the internal road leading to the Hurworth Grange buildings. Submitted by **Val Hughes** (£3,000)

This is regarded as a high priority; a grant is doubtful, and we should get an accurate quotation. Ken would like to extend this to construct another entrance, as this is required for future large events like the Country Fair.

b. construction of pathway linking the main building at the Grange from the internal road. This should be fitted with street lighting, as appropriate. Submitted by **Jean Peacock**. (£2,000) **Possible grant via HCA**

This is another high priority, but a grant may be possible. **Clerk to investigate.**

4. Three possible acquisitions for signs for speed highlighting in the village as suggested by Mick Straugheir. He is supposed to be speaking with DBC and coming back to us. Price unquoted, but we were earlier informed that each unit costs circa £2,000..Submitted by **Ken Pattison**. **Open to discussion, Ken will follow up on accurate pricing.**
5. The moving of the Spar monument onto the Green to facilitate traffic movement, DBC are investigating this suggestion, to see whether they could handle the work. Submitted by **Ken Pattison**.
6. Metalling of parts of the road on the north side of the Green by DBC. Price £6,320 as at 09/09/11. Submitted by **Ken Pattison**. **Should be deferred for the time being, as a lot has already been spent on the Green.**
7. Planings-patching isolated areas on the south side of the Green; DBC quotation 23rd November 2011 - Area 14 - £1525 Submitted by **Ken Pattison**. **. Should be deferred for the time being, as a lot has already been spent on the Green.**
8. Kerbing around No 59 The Green with probable contribution from resident, DBC quotation 23rd November 2011 –Area 16 - price £1,647 plus local planings £445.

Submitted by **Ken Pattison**. . Should be deferred for the time being, as a lot has already been spent on the Green.

9. Areas 9 and 10 local kerbing on south side of Green. Quotation from DBC, 23rd November 2011 – Area 9 - £1000; Area 10 - £171. Submitted by **Ken Pattison**. . Should be deferred for the time being, as a lot has already been spent on the Green.
10. Installation of bollards in Green Area 15. DBC quotation dated 23rd November 2011 - £1500. Submitted by **Ken Pattison**.
11. Budget for £3000 which will be paid to DBC Arborist Dept. (Phil Haines) to carry out trimming and other tree work around the parish. Submitted by **John Howard**.
Is this in addition to the amount we have included for normal expected ‘tree work’? Open for further discussion and evaluation.
12. Perform a feasibility of purchasing and installing a MUGA and youth club building within the parish. This is in accordance with the Parish Plan. Suggestions for the location include:- Primary School, Comprehensive School; with Hurworth Grange facility, land belonging to St John of God, playing field belonging to Priory Group, and as an attachment to the youth playground at Croft. Submitted by members of **Hurworth In Partnership**. This will be grant- dependent, but it is suggested a start up fund is put into the budget for £4,000. **Ian Holme will address**.
Open to debate; this was in the Parish Plan, and if the project is feasible and can be funded, it should be included in 2012-13 budget.
13. Kerbing an area of the Green to the east of the Bay Horse opposite the church. DBC quotation 15th November 2011 - £1868. Submitted by **Tony Needham**.
This is supported, and should be put forward for further discussion.
14. Funds to be made available for tree planting in the Hurworth villages. Amount suggested £3,000. **Submitted by John Howard**.
May get funding via Big Tree grant.
This will largely depend on the availability of the Big Tree Grant. Decision should be postponed.
15. Alan Gibson worked for Hurworth Parish Council and Hurworth Community Centre for over 30 years and I would like to see this acknowledged by the planting of a big deciduous broadleaf tree in the grounds of the Grange,

I suggest we look to the future and acknowledge the past by planting a well grown broadleaf, deciduous tree as a memorial to Alan Gibson. Cost unknown at present, but could be circa £800.

Submitted by Val Hughes

It was agreed that the PC should go ahead with the revised recommendation of purchasing and planting a tree which will cost £66. Val Hughes can proceed. HCA have already agreed.

16. Comprehensive clean up of the roadside area in Westfield Drive. Our efforts to get DBC to do this have so far failed. Estimated cost £2,500. **Submitted by Tony Needham and John Howard**.

Definite requirement, and is open to further debate and accurate quotations.

17. The planting of a large number of bulbs throughout the green areas in the villages.
Cost unquantified, but include as £1000. **Submitted by John Howard.**

May get a grant if applied for by FOTC

John agreed to postpone this, but it can be further discussed.

At this stage, it was agreed that a separate meeting will be convened to examine and evaluate these projects. The Chairman will convene this meeting in January 2012. **Action**
Chairman

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.