

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 1st February 2018 starting at 7:00pm.

407. Those present: Paul Walters, (Chairman) Margaret Williams, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock. Dorothy Oughton, Elaine Hedley, Nic Prior, Mark Middlemiss (Middi). Wilma Campbell and Richard Lawley.

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Nick Gullin (Press), plus 11 members of the public.

408. Apologies for absence

Graham Wylie Janine Forster.

The meeting was recorded on video.

409. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and all the members of the public. I am pleased to report that the disabled-friendly pathway through the woods in the Grange is now complete, and last week the End of Grant return was submitted. This pathway is proving to be very popular with people of all ages. Sadly, we have now received the bill for the by-election which was thrust upon us through a dispute with an allotment holder. The election has cost £5,250 of resident's money. It also means that, unfortunately, we are probably not now be able to move to phase two, which was to continue the disabled-friendly pathway through the Glebe and link up with Roundhill Road. This will be very disappointing to wheelchair bound people and to young families who use pushchairs and prams. The complete pathway would have provided a circular route from Roundhill road to the Community Centre and playground, and continue to the main road at the Academy.

410. Declarations of Interests

Jean Peacock – HCA

Wilma Campbell – HCA and EPICH

411. The Chair stated that Mrs Powles had written to our lawyers, Wellers Law Group, to ask the Council to allow her to address the Council at this meeting. However, she is unable to attend and requested that her letter is read out, and a motion put before the council.

Margaret Williams read out the letter:-

' I sent a letter to you (the solicitor) on 16th January and as of today 25th January I have had no reply, as my letter dated the 4 th January received an immediate reply dated 5 th January 2018 I would ask that you confirm receipt of the letter dated the 16th

I have been asked via email to address correspondence to the HPC through yourself or the parish office (which is only open one day a week). As the matter below needs 8 days notice to be included on the agenda for the next council meeting I am emailing it to you to forward to the councillors.

To All Councillors

The matter of my tenancy of Allotments 10 A and 10B Strait Lane had I believe been settled at the November and December Parish Council meeting of 2017 where it was clearly stated that I would be given tenure of the said allotments on January 1st 2018

Your Christmas gift opened 24th December telling me that I would not be given tenure, and your subsequent letter from Wellers Hedley solicitors displays a shocking turn about of this decision.

I believe you are in error in your judgement and accusation that I am in breach of allotment rules A, 6 and 10

As I do not accept that I am in breach of these rules I ask that the matter be added to AOB and a motion is tabled to allow me to continue my tenure of Strait Lane allotments 10 a and 10b

Respectfully Mrs M Powles

Margaret Williams then responded by reading out a precis of the events appertaining to this allotment dispute.

The Parish Council offered a time on the February agenda to Mrs Powles to allow her to speak on this matter, but, unfortunately Mrs Powles is unable to attend in person due to a family wedding.

Mrs Powles has also requested an extension to the 5th February 2018 deadline (imposed by the Council) to vacate the plots in question due to the inclement weather.

Bear in mind that Mrs Powles was given a month's notice in January to leave the plots and that a request to remove the concrete base on plot 10b was made several months ago

The time has come to put on record and to inform those who do not know the background to this matter via a precis of the main events of this unfortunate saga, which has been ongoing for the last 10 months

Mrs Powles, in April 2017, requested permission to build a structure 10 ft x 8 ft on an allotment at Strait Lane site. The intended structure was, and has always been, of a greater size, outside the permitted limits (6 ft x 4ft) as given in the HPC allotments rules. Since the proposed size of the structure was to be more than 3 times larger than that allowed, this proposal was unanimously rejected at the full Council meeting which Mrs Powles attended.

Mrs Powles then raised an appeal to this decision, which was re-evaluated, and she was informed that permission was again rejected, again due to the size of the structure. She was asked to remove the structure that had been erected on the site as well as the concrete base on which it stood. The concrete base still remains as of 29th January 2018.

A formal complaint to HPC was then made by Mrs Powles. The council held a formal Complaints Committee meeting, in accordance with the Council's procedures. The outcome was that the Council believed it had acted correctly, but to ensure this, they engaged a specialist lawyer in Parish Council matters who confirmed that all the actions and decisions made by the Council, were legal and correct. The complainant was informed of this outcome.

Mrs Powles then demanded a full review. The Council convened a Special Meeting and held a comprehensive Internal Review. The outcome of this review further confirmed the decisions which had been taken.

The Council was then threatened in public at a PC Meeting, when Mrs Powles announced that she 'would go public', which was clearly an attempt to bring the PC in disrepute

Following this announcement, Mrs Powles instigated the publishing of an article, including a photograph, in the local paper reporting that the Council were depriving disabled friends of hers from accessing the allotments. This is untrue, these 'friends' certainly have never been prevented from visiting the allotments. In fact, one of them has an allotment and the husband of the other also has an allotment at the Strait Lane site.

Next, a formal complaint was submitted by Mrs Powles to Darlington Borough Council stating that six named councillors and the Clerk were not answering her questions and not complying with the Council's procedures. An independent enquiry was carried out by DBC, and the Council and all those named in the complaint were totally exonerated.

This is only a brief resume of the main events for this issue - there is, in fact, a large file which holds all the documentation (and its ramifications) together with details of all those associated with this unfortunate matter. It should be remembered that Councillors are volunteers working for the best interests of the residents and the village and should not be subjected to calls to their homes which this matter regarding the allotment issues cited above has engendered

The reason the Council has not renewed Mrs Powles' annual allotment tenancy or granted her another allotment, as in their opinion she has, by her actions, lost this privilege. She has not only breached the Allotment rules on several counts but also the etiquette which other allotment holders are entitled to expect when a shared facility (such as having an allotment) is there to be enjoyed by all.

The motion which Mrs Powles wishes to be put before the Council for consideration is as follows:-

'As Mrs Powles does not accept that she is in breach of the allotment rules she asks that she is allowed the tenure of Strait Lane allotments 10 a and 10 b for the year 2018'

Before consideration is given to this motion the Chair will give details citing how the allotment rules A, 6 and 10 have been breached by Mrs Powles

In response the Chairman set out the reasons why the Council had taken the action not to renew Mrs Powles annual tenancy.

Section A

HPC as the landowners reserves the right not to renew annual tenancy agreements. Mrs Powles' conduct over the past eight months illustrates why the Council has this clause. It is to try to ensure that the allotments attract people who respect the Allotment Committee, abide by the rules, accept the Council's decisions and perform in a manner that is conducive to upholding a friendly and inviting community environment. In addition,

Mrs Powles put a person on the Waiting List for a second allotment, despite being told by this person, that she did not want one, and it would deprive another person from getting a plot. This could be construed as both unethical and certainly not in the spirit of the allotment community.

Rule 6

Tenants must not cause nuisance or annoyance to other tenants or neighbours. or threaten or cause alarm or distress to other... this is a public order offence, and will not be tolerated and could result in forfeiture of tenancy.

1. Threats by Mrs Powles legal representative that this case could cost individual Councillors huge amounts of money, and threatening losing their homes.
2. Threatening to bring the council into disrepute by 'going public', and following this up by initiating a press article.
3. Threatening, in writing, that the Council will need a Court Order to get Mrs Powles off the site, and threatening to involve the new tenants by involving them in your crusade.

Rule 10 Size of the construction. Despite having had the request for a larger structure rejected on several occasions, Mrs Powles took it through internal and external Reviews. You have still now, eight months later not removed the concrete base. This alone could result in your tenancy not being renewed.

Nobody from the council or the public made comment, and nobody came forward to Second Mrs Powles motion, so the motion failed.

The Chair reconfirmed that the Council's decision is final, and that Mrs Powles must vacate allotments 10a and 10b by 5th February, in accordance with the notice served.

412 Section 106.

Cllr Joe Kelley addressed the council and made the following presentation.

I have been asked to talk about section 106 tonight because there is a mixed level of understanding what it is and how it works.

It is usually triggered by a developer planning to build 5 or more houses in one development. This is seen as the level that number of new houses will have an effect on an area.

It is a planning obligation document that sets out how the developer will mitigate any detrimental affects the development will have on an area.

S106 obligation must meet these legal tests:

- **NECESSARY** to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- **DIRECTLY RELATED** to the development
- **FAIRLY AND REASONABLY** related in kind and scale to the development.

These are also now the policy tests in the NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

Different local authorities have different formulas but it is supposed to be a transparent process that leads to the developer accepting some financial responsibility for their actions.

Some of the themes are: affordable housing, roads, cycle paths, open spaces, school places and sports facilities.

There is a process whereby the developer works with the planning department to agree what these responsibilities are and how they can best mitigate those affects by providing funds for each of these issues.

This is Northumbria's take on the process:

http://committeedocs.northumberland.gov.uk/MeetingDocs/13886_M4118.pdf

If undertaken properly and in accordance with policy it is envisaged that early engagement through the pre-application process will produce realistic Section 106 obligations which will fulfil the aspirations of the local community.

Collaborative discussions at an early stage will help to shape better quality schemes and improve the outcomes of a proposed development. Members are encouraged to get involved in discussions and negotiations on Section 106 agreements. They are a part of the proper planning process and are not confidential. However, it is essential that such arrangements are operated in a way that is seen to be fair, open, transparent and reasonable in order to retain public confidence in the fundamental principle that planning permission cannot be bought or sold. This has been widely acknowledged as a concern of the planning system for some time with negotiations on S106 agreements being perceived as taking place “behind closed doors”. This protocol provides a firm commitment to address this issue in Northumberland and, in addition to providing opportunities for Member involvement in S106 discussions, also provides the opportunity for Town and Parish Council’s and local communities generally to better engage in the process.

And Hence when I asked John Anderson who is **Assistant Director, Economic Initiatives**. He said:

I think the way forward is to ask the Parish in its view what is required in the way of planning gain to make the site acceptable. If the Parish has local evidence to support their view that is helpful.

The usual suspects are:

1. Offsite highway works. Usually covers improving junction capacities or resolving dangerous situations.
2. Sustainable Transport. – usually to provide connected places, safe routes to school, leisure and formal routes. Enhanced bus services.(But note that the enhanced service needs to be commercially viable as a consequence of the development.)
3. Affordable homes. – Usually a mixture of social rented and intermediate housing products. Policy preference is to have 20% on site. But is there local evidence of what the housing needs are in the village?
4. Formal and informal play. Only required as a consequence of the development.
5. School place provision. Only required if the local school needs to be adapted as a consequence of the development.
6. Biodiversity mitigation – Any special measures required to mitigate loss of natural habitat?

Note that S106 cannot normally provide revenue funding but there are exceptions.

What would be helpful is after the discussion is for the Parish to set out their representations / wish list and for a discussion on that with Planning officers. We will be able to advise what could be regarded as a legitimate consideration for inclusion in the S106.

This is all set out in the 2013 Planning obligations document. Written by Karen Johnson who is no longer with the authority and is looking to be updated. But is available on the DBC website.

http://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/143574/Planning_Obligations_SPD_Dec_2013.pdf

If the developer believes that if the section 106 has been set to point that it could be argued that the development is unviable. IE the profit margin too slim he can argue that the requirements can be reduced. This is when the District Valuer is called upon to make sure that case is properly argued.

So in summery

An application is made, the impact is assessed on each aspect allowed by s106, a formula is applied to calculate the costs to the development and that is then scaled back if the developer makes the case the development is unviable.

In the last development this was the 106 agreed. 14 December 2016 (9.30 am)

signed on 9th Feb 2017 between the council and owners John & Anne Ramsden, Chapel House Farm, Dalton on Tees and Banks Property Ltd

Developer Contributions

The application includes proposals in the form of Heads of Terms for developer contributions in line with the requirements of the Planning Obligations SPD.

Where a relevant determination is made which results in planning permission being granted for development, a planning obligation may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission for the development if the obligation is:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- Directly related to the development; and
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

APPLICATION REFERENCE NO 16/00886/OUT PAGE

The Draft Heads of Terms proposes the following:

i) £98,400 towards sustainable transport projects towards all or any of the following purposes;

a) General highway improvements within the vicinity of the site;

b) A traffic calming scheme close to the proposed site ensuring vehicles are reducing speed to 30mph as they pass the site and continue towards the primary school and village; and,

c) A safer routes to school scheme along Croft Road including improvements to crossing facilities and a 20 mph zone near Hurworth Secondary School;

ii) £273,000 towards public transport provision to provide an hourly evening service between Hurworth and Darlington for a period of five years;

iii) £305,000 towards enhanced educational infrastructure at Hurworth Primary School to improve existing internal or external areas to assist with increased numbers;

iv) Affordable Housing

The development shall not begin until a scheme for the provision of affordable housing as part of the development has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The affordable housing shall be provided in accordance with the approved scheme and shall meet the definition of affordable housing in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

OR An off-site financial contribution to be paid to the Local Planning Authority through a Unilateral Undertaking.

Both the above to be subject to the results of a viability assessment of the proposed development.

This was last time agreed as Off Site Affordable Housing Contribution of £589K

This money becomes available in Thirds triggered by 1st house, then the 50th, then final sum handed over when the 85th house is built.

That is about it from me. Apart from a thing I found about

Play Areas and have been talked about many times at the Parish Council and is definitely something worth pursuing

This is nicely set out on East Devon county council website.

<http://eastdevon.gov.uk/consultation-and-surveys/participatory-budgeting/guide-for-town-and-parish-councils/how-to-spend-money-available-for-play/#article-content>

The group (our officers and your parish council steering group) should:

1. Look at how much money is available for play and where it could be spent. This is within 600 metres of the development the section 106 contribution has come from.
2. Look at your parish plan if you have one. This is a useful starting point and may help you decide where to spend the money.
3. Consult local children on what they do and don't like about play areas and what the important activities are in a play area for example, sliding, climbing, rather than ask them to select specific pieces of equipment. This ensures that the play companies have some flexibility and can perhaps put in new and exciting pieces of equipment the children may not know about.
4. Send at least four play companies an invitation to tender detailing what you want them to provide and what your budget is. If it is a council owned play site, then we will do this for you. If it's owned by you or the community then we can help you with this process.

Cllr Kelley then answered a number of questions from the public gallery and Council members.

Several residents urged the Council to request a postponement of the Planning Application Hearing until the Hurworth Neighbourhood Plan findings were defined. Cllr Kelley explained that the Government were eager to press ahead with house building throughout the country, and that delays are unlikely to be tolerated.

The Chair stated that the Council will give this urgent consideration.

Cllr Kelley ended his address saying:-

I advise getting in touch with John Anderson as soon as possible with your intent to form a 106 wish list with the help of parish councillors and public consultation. I think it is important that the developers know you mean business as far as their contributions are concerned – the more weight you can add as far as evidence (which you now have as far as the neighbourhood plan questionnaire) the better.

I think the comments made are right to request more time to formulate this. I think they are right about the council being fully aware of the consequences of the development and objecting on those grounds. This will again strengthen your hand as far as section 106 contributions.

413 Public Participation

Most questions had been answered in the Section106 session.

One resident asked whether the Council could get the width of a pathway broadened as it is too narrow for a wheelchair. The width of pathways is regulated by DBC, however, the Council will look at this particular case.

414 Guest Book

Paul Walters stated that there were two topics on this month's Guest Book.

- a. The use of the community notice boards. He stated that a process was now in place for the putting up and taking down of community notices on a timely basis.
- b. Loose horses on Neasham Road. Paul stated that he had reported the incidents to the police, who showed little interest and referred him to the RSPCA. The RSPCA were interested in the animals but showed no interest in the danger to the public.

Mark Middlemiss has taken up the case, and has written to Commissioner Ron Hogg, who has not yet replied.

There has also been a variety of comments and questions on the Guest Book about Section 106, and this is partly why the Council arranged for Cllr Kelley to make his presentation.

415 HPC Web site

Mark Middlemiss addressed the Council saying that the Council web site needed a major modernisation. He offered to develop a new site, which will be easier to maintain, can be updated without difficulty and will project a clearer and more attractive image.

Mark also undertook to take over the Village Calendar, and he would incorporate it into the new web site.

The Council agreed that this would be beneficial, and it was agreed unanimously that he should undertake this project.

416 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2018

The draft Minutes having been distributed were adopted by the Council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Dorothy Oughton.

417 Matters Arising

All matter arising will be covered in the main agenda.

418. Planning Applications

Jean Peacock made the following report.

Planning Report – 1st FEBRUARY 2018

17/01194/OUT ROUNDHILL ROAD BANKS 2nd phase
Outline permission for up to 95 dwellings.

17/01190/FUL BLACKBANKS FARM , SNIPE LANE

Construction of 2 stable blocks each comprising 4 stables and 1 tack room.

17/01188/FUL OLD BRICKWORKS, SKIPBRIDGE DL21QL
Leisure Park residential permanent chalets 122 in total (over 45 years old). ***Details of this are available.***

17/01167/CU GARDEN COTTAGE 2 NEASHAM ROAD
Partial conversion of existing dwelling for use as holiday let.

18/00015/FUL SPRINGFIELD FARM, CROFT ROAD
Conversion of triple garage into a residential dwelling and a two storey extension at the side.

18/00043/LBC NEWBUS GRANGE
Installation of wall mounted external and internal CCTV cameras.

For information only
18/00059/VAR RICHMOND COUNCIL – St. Peters Church
Variation of conditions.

17/01172/ADV Banks Development – Advertising signs etc. Have been given Planning permission.

The large signs erected by Banks Group have now been authorised by DBC.

419. Tree Report

Peter Foster said he has nothing to report.

420. Police Report

Mark Middlemiss reported as follows:-

Crime Figures Hurworth January 2018

Burglary - 2

22/01 – Hunters Close – attempted burglary, an individual walked into the house and ran out as soon as they realised caller was home – nothing taken

29/01 – Blackwell Golf Club – attempted burglary – an individual broke into the property however it appeared that nothing has been taken.

Criminal Damage - 0

ASB - 1

12/01 – Strait Lane – report of group of youths being loud and pushing each other, appeared to be fighting – when police arrived on scene youths were quiet and stated they were play fighting

Theft - 0

Road Related - 6

04/01 – Neasham Road – a driver hit a deer – when arrived on scene moved the deer to the side of the road and informed Council.

13/01 – Roundhill Road – a drive has come off the road and ended up in the bushes – male taken to hospital however believed to be fine.

17/01 – Croft road – A vehicle has been found partly in the bushes, no driver present at the scene

18/01 – Neasham Road – tree found on a road – Council has been notified and moved the tree off the road within 40 min of the call.

18/01 – SAME INCIDENT AS ABOVE, different part of Neasham road – dealt with council again

25/01 – Croft road – two vehicle accident, road blocked – one driver fine, one taken to hospital but believed to be fine

Animals/Wildlife - 1

09/01 – Neasham Road – loose dog on the road – the dog has been returned to the owner.

Other/suspicious - 4

04/01 – Evesham grove – Suspicious male in the back garden - left prior to police arrival.

08/01 – West End – Suspicious male knocking on caller's door trying to sell overpriced items – male left prior to police arrival.

10/01 – Emerson Road – suspicious male knocking on callers door trying to sell items – male left prior to police arrival

12/01 – Comprehensive school – suspicious account made online, someone puts a lot of random and abusive messages on there – police dealt with and it appears the account has been taken down.

421 Open Spaces and EPICH Report

OPEN SPACESAfter several complaints from residents, the ivy which is invading the area of Coach Lane nearest to the main road, will be trimmed back.

EPICH

EPICH have organised an apple tree grafting course to be held at the Grange on Saturday 24th March from 10:30am to 3:30pm. With expert guidance you can choose and graft two different varieties of trees to take home with you as well as enjoying a buffet lunch. More details and application forms are available from the Grange and EPICH Facebook page.

Ongoing poor weather has delayed the planting of the stepover apple trees at the Grange .

To increase flora and fauna within the village, bluebell and snowdrop bulbs have been planted in Lychgate orchard.

We are waiting to get quote for planters to go underneath the Council notice boards.

EPICH have applied for a grant to help cover cost of a Murder Mystery event to be held at the Grange in August. We are waiting for the response.

422. Highways report

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

Highways report February 2018

Three councillors, Middi, Paul Walters and myself met with Andy Casey, Head of Highway Network Management at the DBC to discuss various highways issues. The outcome was:-

1. Parking near Priory School on Westfield Drive-Yellow lines -DBC are currently drafting up differing proposals for comment - plans awaited. A copy of two proposals were considered by Councillors who opted for Option 2

2. Spar shop/Roundhill Road junction-extension of double yellow lines on side opposite the Spar shop-this has been put for consideration of traffic order requests. Consultation on changes probably due in March, advertising in April, and any changes may be implemented in June 2018, allowing for potential objections

3. Academy 20 mph speed restrictions - insufficient funding at present, (but this may be met by Banks)

1. Sanderson /Emerson Road bus thoroughfare will be discussed further with Arriva to find out the extent that they consider the parking in this area to be a problem and, if there is a problem, where it occurs. Awaiting feedback.

2. Signage on Neasham Road has been rectified

3. Garage areas just off Sanderson Road-the garages are maintained by Neighbourhood Services and has Ben reported to David Toward for review.

4. Burma Road potholes -31 potholes have been repaired on this stretch of road.

a. Cat Iley no longer deals with **Speedwatch** issues and traffic monitor data from our monitors - Jeff Summerville is now the contact.

There are no speed monitor data statistics since the monitors were only moved round in mid- January.

With regard to Westfield Drive around the Priory School, DBC has offered to remedies using yellow lines in designated areas. Margaret circulated the two suggestions, and after discussion the Council agreed to adopt Option 2. **Action Clerk to advise Andy Casey.**

b. SpeedWatch

Elaine Hedley reported that they had made one speed check in January, but due to bad weather, other checks proved inappropriate.

They have now contacted other members of the team, and are about to arrange further speed checks in the villages this month.

c. **Nic Prior addressed the council**, explaining that he has been approached by a number of residents from the Otter and Fish end of the village. The residents have raised a number of issues, and Nic has made an initial investigation and has some suggestions, viz:-

1. Vehicles are parking along Church View with their tow bars jutting into the pavement, potentially causing a risk of pedestrian injury.

2. Parking around the Otter and Fish Restaurant, partially on pavements and near the corner is causing obstruction, and a potential accident zone.

3. Nic suggested that speed bumps could be introduced on Strait Lane to reduce speeding. Speed bumps could also be introduced just outside of the village boundary en route to Neasham.

Margaret Williams suggested yellow line areas, but the marshalling of them could be difficult.

Mark Middlemiss expressed serious concern about the devastation being caused by vehicles parking on the grass area opposite the end houses on Strait Lane. Photographs and the Council's concern have been sent to DBC, who have promised an inspection.

It was concluded that Margaret Williams and Nic Prior would look at all of Nic's concerns, and would make recommendations on how to address these problems. **Action Nic prior and Margaret Williams.**

423. Neighbourhood Plan

Richard Lawley reported that the next meeting of the Team has been convened for 8th February.

Some progress has been made on three fronts, viz:-

- a. Judith Ashton has had discussions with a housing consultant, who appears ideal to tackle the Hurworth requirements. The consultant will be attending the meeting on 8th February, and it is expected that a contract will be awarded.
- b. The questionnaires tick box answers have now been processed and a detailed analysis is now available in three formats.
- c. A team of ten people has been co-opted to analyse the written comments on the 430 questionnaires. Their exercise is expected to be completed by 12th March.

It is hoped that the first draft of the Plan could be ready for a presentation at the Annual Assembly in May.

424. Allotment Report.

Dorothy Oughton gave the following report:-

The Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Committee was held on 10th January. 18 people attended, and Graham Wylie Chaired the meeting.

The new committee for 2018 was voted in, as follows:

David Crisp – Chairman

HPC Representatives Dorothy Oughton and Richard Lawley

Grange allotments – Tony Sayers

Strait Lane representatives – David Crisp, Peter Akers and Brian Cooper.

Most of the allotment holders have now paid their 2018 rent which is now £20. Every allotment has been asked to sign a new Tenancy Agreement this year, which incorporates the updated rules.

There are thirteen people on the Waiting list; all the Strait Lane applicants should be allotted a plot in February. There are no vacant plots at Hurworth Grange.

The meeting agreed that it looked forward to the New Year, and hope that the unsavoury dispute of last year is finally at an end.

David Crisp and Dorothy will be attending the next National Association of Allotments meeting in April.

425. Newsletter

Elaine circulated a list of the contents of the next Parish Chronicle, which will be published at the end of March. Councillors were asked to provide their input by 28th February, as the document will go to the printers on 12th March.

426. Parish Walks

In the absence of Janine Forster there was no report.

However, the Chairman stated that a schedule of walks was being created and there may be a walk announced for the end of February.

427. Matters of Interest

1. Events on the Green

Mark Middlemiss updated the meeting with his progress, as follows:

a. The feasibility of staging an open air concert on Manorfield were in progress, but there were difficulties to overcome.

b. An outdoor cinema session on the Village Green has proved feasible. An organisation will be able to stage the entire event at a cost of circa £1600. Other considerations must include providing toilets, security and ticketing. The Council will need to decide on the pricing strategy, and logistics.

2. Zurich Insurance Potential Claim

Margaret Williams reported that the Council has provided all the information requested by Zurich Insurance, except for the latest Tree Survey of the Hawkswood copse. We are waiting for this from G. Johnston Tree services.

3. Training

The Chair reported that Mark Middlemiss and Margaret Williams will be attending the next Data protection training, and are awaiting details from CDALC.

428. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment in January 2018, having been circulated to all Councillors was accepted by the Council.

Accounts for Payment as at 31st January 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
N Water	102986	N. Water	49.25
HCA	102987	Photocopying Tenancy Agreements	51.72
M Harrison	102988	Handyman	90.00
DBC Grit	102989	Highways	45.88
Bob Iles	102990	Salary	433.25
P D Allan	102991	Salary	522.48
Inland revenue	102992	PAYE	175.40
P D Allan	102993	Cable, printer cartridges, admin exs	197.18
HCA	102994	Newsletter	60.00
Royal Mail	102995	N Plan	7.92
DBC Election services		Local election	5258.02
Public Works Loan Account	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
TalkTalk	DD	Calls	13.76
Rates for Hurworth Grange recovered	Credit	Refund	909.91

429 Financial Report

The Financial Report as at 31st January 2018 having been distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting was accepted by the Council.

Please see the addendum for the detailed report.

The Clerk then asked for a motion to engage Mr Gordon Fletcher as the council's Internal Auditor. This was passed unanimously.

The clerk stated that one of the Councillors had suggested that the Council approach the landowners who have sold the land for the two new Banks Group housing estates, asking them to make a contribution to the community. The Council accepted this suggestion, and requested the **Clerk to prepare a suitable letter.**

430. Association Report

Cllr Tostevin stressed the importance of the new Data Protection Act, which introduces new regulations as from 25th May 2018. Huge penalties can be applied, and it is essential that the Council acquaint themselves with the new obligations, and ensure that individual Councillors have adequate insurance cover to indemnify themselves.

No other reports

431 Any Other Business

Dorothy Oughton reported that there has been 162 incidents of dog poo abuse in the last 27 days. During the snow period, there were 15 incidents on one day.

The Chairman encouraged Dorothy to keep up the good work and keep a register of the count.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:58pm

