

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 1st December 2016 starting at 7:00pm.

117 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), Wilma Campbell, David Wood, Elaine Hedley, Graham Wylie, Jean Peacock, Carol Paylor, Paul Walters, Peter Foster, and Janine Forster,

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus one member of the public.

118. Apologies for absence

Simon Coultas (Business)

119 Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

120 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public, and introduced Catherine Iley, from Police Headquarters, Durham, who was accompanied by PC Paul Foley.

121 Address by Catherine Iley, Durham Police Head Quarters

Catherine explained her position in the Police, and that she was here to answer questions about the collection and use of traffic data, and how this information can be used to best advantage. The Chair asked what is the best way to submit the Hurworth data, so that we can get statistics illustrating peak traffic times and related speeds, so that the council can take appropriate action. Catherine responded that she has not received any data from Hurworth, and hence nothing has been processed.

Carol Paylor and Graham Wylie were surprised at this position, as they have been submitting the traffic data every month via Catherine's personal E Mail address. No explanation was identified, but the Clerk confirmed that he was in contact with Catherine, using the same address. It was agreed that Carol and Graham would send the data to the Parish Office, and the Clerk will transmit it to Catherine, until the link is established and the data is arriving at the Police Head Quarters,

Moving on, questions were asked about how the data can be used effectively, leading to enforcement against speed offenders. The person who is responsible for this is Paul Emerson, who can take appropriate action to address offences and peak period concerns. Paul Foley stated that since the parking restrictions outside the Academy have been introduced, the speed of traffic has increased; the parked cars used to act as a slowing factor.

Concern was expressed regarding the safety of the lollypop lady at the Primary School entrance

on Roundhill Road, PC Foley said that the distance from the street entrances make it unrealistic to do speed checks, although he is conscious that traffic can speed up before reaching the lollypop lady crossing.

Carol Paylor asked how we can get the 'mini police' involved, thus using the school children. Catherine Iley explained that the funding for this was withdrawn in 2012, and nobody is now available to do the school liaison and training. However, Catherine agreed to approach the schools, and to see whether a campaign could be organised.

Questions were raised about the Hurworth Speedwatch volunteers and the lack of progress being made to use them. Catherine explained that the trainer had left the Force, and there is no replacement. Carol Paylor stated that the police checks on all the volunteers have been completed, and they are ready to commence their duties. Catherine said that she will arrange for the equipment to be available, so the project should now be able to move forward. **Action Clerk and Catherine Iley**

Questions were asked about the implementation of the '20mph signage with flashing lights' this needs to be followed up through Paul Emerson.

Catherine informed the meeting that she has engaged two more staff, who will be available soon for traffic duties, also the Special Constables have been active on Croft Road.

Asked whether the police converse with DBC, it was clarified that Paul Emerson is the interface between the two organisations.

The Chair thanked Catherine Iley and PC Paul Foley for attending the meeting and clarifying a number of points.

122. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 3rd November 2016, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Jean Peacock.

123. Matters Arising

- a. Broadband** – Cllr Kelley reported that he has been pressing for progress, but unfortunately two meetings, have been postponed due to Ministerial priorities superseding them. However there are signs of good news as Virgin have indicated that they are moving into this arena, and there could be real progress to report in January 2017.

The high speed boxes in Hurworth, but it is thought that they are not commercially viable, and hence connectivity has stalled.

The meeting felt that the two new broadband masts look obtrusive, and wondered whether they could better disguised. **Joe Kelley to enquire.**

- b. Contingency Plan**

As Simon Coultas was not present, there was no report.

However, Mr Peter Bodo, from Durham County Council, who assisted with the Hurworth Plan has been in contact and wishes to remain involved.

c. Dog Fouling Stickers

Carol Paylor reported that she has deployed a lot of the stickers; they are sticking well, and look attractive. The children who designed the stickers have shown their appreciation and are delighted to see their work being displayed. Carol has received positive feed-back, and hopes they will help to improve this issue. The question was asked whether offenders could be 'fined' by the parish council. Cllr David Wood researched the question, and reported that it would be legal for the council to raise fines.

124. Public Participation

There were no question from the floor.

The Chair read out a letter from Mr and Mrs Stiller, as per their written request.

The content of the letter relates to their Retrospective Planning Application for alterations at 30 The Green, Hurworth. to which the council, and several residents have raised objections. This being a Listed Building, scrutiny is deemed important. The letter took particular objection to the wording of the council's objection, and questioned whether all the councillors were in agreement with this.

The Chair asked each councillor, going around the table, if they remembered this topic, and the content of the council's decision regarding the retrospective planning application.

One councillor had not attended the September meeting, and one councillor was absent from the meeting last evening. Of the remaining ten, nine remembered the discussion and the decision of the council to raise an objection, and the wording of the objection was put into the Minutes verbatim. It was also conveyed to Darlington Borough Council verbatim. One councillor could not recall the debate and thought that he had voted 'No Comment'.

With regard to the actual structural work carried out, to date, the feeling of the council, echoed by residents near the house are:-

The work done to the front of the house is excellent, and totally in-keeping with the listed building environment. This is to be commended.

With regard to the rear of the building, the view is entirely different, and the council re-confirmed their opinion. The work carried out has been done without planning permission, and is at variance to the roofing design and structure which was initially incorporated in the plans. The council will continue to oppose this retrospective work, and have requested that the building is restored to the original plan.

The wording of the objection was accurately recorded in the September Minutes, and was used verbatim, for the objection.

125. Accounts Payable

The Schedules for Accounts for Payment for November 2016, having been distributed to all Councillors, were accepted by the council.

Accounts for Payment as at 30th November 2016

30th Nov 16

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A C Metals	102791	Allotment skip	228.00
HCA - Jewson	102792	Grange entrance	123.60
MT Print	102793	Newsletters	690.00
A Winnett	102794	Wreath	25.00
Enterprise Construction	102795	Grange entrance	576.00
John Spence	102796	Grange entrance	4980.00
Pronto Print	102797	Dog poo stickers	153.00
Eden Landscapes	102798	Grange entrance	200.00
B Iles	102799	Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102800	Salary	522.48
Inland Revenue	102801	PAYE	142.60
Prestige Trees	102802	Treework	993.60
David Parker	102803	Open spaces work	466.00
Prestige Trees	102804	Treework	631.80
A Sayers	102805	Allotment grass cutting	120.00
G Wylie	102806	Admin exs	13.00
P D Allan	102807	Expenses	101.90
Eden Landscapes	102808	Hedges, and new Grange fence	440.00
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	25.20
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	11.94

Total Payments for November 2016

10750.22

There is one additional payment to be processed. Prestige has submitted their invoice for reducing the tree in Goblin's Wood, total £918; the council confirmed agreement to all the above.

126. Financial Report to 31st August 2016

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councillors was presented at the meeting. There being no questions, the Report was accepted by the council.

Please refer to Financial Reports tab on the council web site.

127. Report from the Finance Working Party, held on 15th November 2016.

The Chair referred to the Financial Working Party meeting held on 15th November, which had reviewed the financial status of the council, made a list of recommended Projects for the period 2016-2020, studied the Budget Projections for the periods up to 31st March 2019, and calculated the recommended Precept for 2017.

All these recommendations needed to be confirmed and accepted by the Parish Council at this meeting, so that the new Plan can be activated and the Precept figure presented to DBC.

Since the Working Party Meeting, the revised Budgets were distributed to all councillors, along with the new Project Schedule and Precept recommendation.

David Wood suggested that an amount should be added to the 2017 budget, in case the current Parish Clerk retires and a new Clerk needs to be engaged and trained. It was agreed that a figure of £500 will be added to the 2017 budget.

No other queries or objections have been received.

The Chair asked for the following motions to be tabled for acceptance.

1. Acceptance of the Schedule of Projects for the period 2016-2020.
Proposed by Graham Wylie, Seconded by Elaine Hedley, carried unanimously.
Please refer to the Schedule of Projects which is contained within the council web site.
2. Acceptance of the Budgets for the periods up to 31st March 2019.
Proposed by Jean Peacock, Seconded by Wilma Campbell, carried unanimously.
Please refer to the Future Budgets which are contained within the council web site, under Financial Reports.
3. Acceptance of the Precept for the year 2017.
Proposed by Paul Walters, Seconded by Jean Peacock, carried unanimously.
The Hurworth Precept for 2017, which now excludes any discretionary grants from DBC, which have been terminated, will be £53,000.

128 Matters of Interest

a. Web site and Drop Box update

David Wood reported that there has been 1557 hits on the council web site in the last month; this is slightly less than the previous month. There has been very little activity on the HPC Drop Box. The latest messages relate to queries about the 'smell' within the village. Cllr Peter Foster stated that the cause is from the sewage works, and occurs when there is a heavy frost and the gases cannot be contained if a sewage hold up is caused by the frozen piping.

A new Hurworth Facebook site has been launched, named Hurworth Together, and this has already attracted 150 members.

A link between the council web site and the new Facebook site will be created.

b. Christmas tree lights

Paul Walters reported that the Christmas lights are ready to be put on the tree, but Dr

Bagshaw has said they he cannot make the arrangements this year. It was agreed that the Clerk will make arrangements for the lights to be put up this week. **Action Clerk.**

129 Planning Applications

Jean Peacock gave the following report:-

Planning Report – 1st December 2016

I attended a Planning Meeting at the DBC on the 16th November for 30 The Green 16/00812/LBC and 16/00809/FUL - the planning department wanted to pass them but after reading a statement from the Parish the Councillors decided to delay the LBC plans and wanted a site visit as a lot of items had been done without permission. The Full application was delayed until the LBC application had been decided on 14th December (after the site visit). I have rung the neighbours either side and informed them of the position at the moment. Apparently some of the building work was approved on 18/03/15 (14/01119/LBC)

Erection of single storey extension to the rear and enlargement of extension to front entrance porch.
No Comment

16/01066/FUL 3a Roundhill Road
(14/00101/FUL Erection of dormer extensions to front and rear elevation.
1/4/14) No Comment

16/00939/FUL Hill Top Farm
Variation of condition 4 to permit permission for alteration, size & location of windows and roof lights of garden room extension.
No Comment

16/01133/FUL Priory House School
Erection of 2 pairs of timber gates and fence above existing dwarf wall to south elevation fronting The Green.
Contact Priory for more details on the materials to be used

16/01196/FUL Garden Cottage 2 Neasham Road
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans 16/00765/F 7.9.16.
No Comment

16/01176/FUL The Old House, 4 Blind Lane
Demolition of timber garage and erection of detached
4 bay garage with Gym and storage area above.

16/01142/FUL Methodist Church, 5 West End
Change of use from Caretakers cottage to Community Facility and Associated alterations.
No Comment

16/01142/CU	As above (Change of Use)
16/01090/TF	6 Roundhill Road Trees under P.O. to gain up to 3m. Clearance over apex of house and reduce branches overhanging to 2 Sycamore Trees. No Comment

Following the report, it was agreed that the Methodist Church management should be invited to attend the January P C Meeting, so their community plans can be discussed. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

Concerns were expressed about the material to be used on the style of the proposed fence at the front of Hurworth House Priory School. Further details will be sought.

130. Planning Development Working Group

A meeting was held on 30th November, with four of the team present, and three apologies for absence.

Discussion had been largely around the possible future of the ownership and development of the land around Strawberry Cottage. A copy of the deeds was being obtained covering two adjacent areas.

The Objectives of the new Neighbourhood Plan have been outlined, and would follow a similar format as the Parish Plan, but with greater emphasis on Green areas and Open Spaces. Also more attention will be placed on 'Youth', and with Lynn Hatch's participation in the team, a greater understanding of the requirements can be obtained.

Action: Peter Allan was asked to provide information from the compilation of the 2012 Parish Plan.

The next meeting will be on 15th December.

131. Trees Report

Peter Foster reported that the large tree in Goblin's Wood has been reduced and is now safe.

A resident has reported that there is a tree beside Manorfield which has a broken branch, which may cause an accident. Peter Foster has inspected the tree and recommends that it is monitored. It was agreed that we will take another look, and if it is a minor task, we will remove the branch.

All the other trees are in good condition.

132 Police Report

Paul Walters reported that there have been three criminal incidents in the last month, viz:-

1. Number plates stolen from a parked vehicle.
2. A break in at a garage on The Green, which triggered an alarm, and nothing was stolen.
3. A wood cutter was stolen from Hill Top Farm.

133. Highways report

Carol Paylor reported as follows:-

Highways Report for November 2016

- **Arriva** – Swift action by John Rochford regarding Strait Lane blind-spot. All Number 12 drivers are now briefed about the blind bend with a visual warning. Thank you ARRIVA.

- **Darlington Road Safety Group**

Service 12 Hurworth Estate



Beware of parked vehicles and vehicles approaching round the blind bend – exercise caution and proceed at a slow speed.

- **DOG POO POSTER COMPETITION** – Posters have started to go up around the village. More dry weather will see more– it's been a bit too wet to get them to stick
- Concern as to why HPC aren't receiving advance warning of roadworks in the village.
- Dropped kerbs completed on Roundhill Road.

Carol has talked to the Primary School with regard to the dis-used gas cabinet. They state that this is not within their grounds, and is not their responsibility. It was agreed that we will try DBC again, otherwise we should make it safe ourselves or demolish it. **Action Clerk.**

A request has been made to get white lines implanted at the centre of the road on Westfield Drive, near the corner into Horny Close. There have been several near-misses when vehicles cut the corner. **Action Clerk**

Graham Wylie made the Traffic Report, viz:-

November's Traffic Report

Linden Court, Incoming:

Max speed 60mph 12.15pm

Average Speed 33.1mph

Out of 135,274 cars, 22% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mph

Hurworth Road Outgoing:

Max speed 80mph 23.45pm 16/11/2016

Average Speed 34.6 mph

Out of 76,037 cars, 30% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mph

Roundhill Road, Incoming:

Max speed 60mph 23.30pm 1/11/2016

Average Speed 33.1mph

Out of 59,958 cars, 14% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mp

134. Open Spaces report

Wilma Campbell reported:-

Centenary Field

There is a meeting planned with Jamie Leeson on Thursday 15th December to discuss details.

Open spaces audit is complete and will be published on HPC website.

Hedges along Avon Road have been cut back.

David Parker has been paid £466 for work carried out in village over last three months.

EPICH

Bulb planting.

Narcissi bulbs have been planted on riverside opposite the Comet and on grass area next to Lime Cottage. Woodland bulbs have been planted at Hawkswood, on roadside area at entrance to Grange Avenue, on grass area beside the Otter and Fish and beside the footpath on Emmerson Road corner.

At the Grange two apple trees and a vine have been planted against the West wall opposite the Heritage Orchard. The wildflower meadow has been strimmed and raked and some areas reseeded.

135 Project Reports

Paul Walters reported that he has investigated the notice board manufacturer in Kendal, and after lengthy discussions concluded that they could not supply the style of boards that HPC require. Also the cost was going to be similar or even a little higher than his preferred supplier.

Now that we have received clearance from DBC Planning Department, the council agreed we should proceed to order the three units, and arrange installation.

Action: Clerk to place the order.

136. Allotment Report

Richard Lawley stated that the AGM took place on 22 nd November, and reported as follows:-

- a. Two people were put forward for Chairman, but one stood down and Graham Wylie was duly voted to be Chair for 2017.

b. Financial Report for the year to 31st October 2016.

Repairs to gate at Strait Lane	340.00
Grass Cutting at Strait Lane	220.00
Water Charges	102.55
Skip Hire at Strait Lane	190.00
Total expenditure	<u>£852.55</u>
Total Revenue 37 plots @ £15	<u>£855.00</u>

Tony Sayers said that an invoice will be coming for the grass cutting at the Grange allotments, amounting to 6 months at £20, total £120. This will be added to the 2015-16 accounts.

In accordance with the Council's decision at the October PC Meeting, the Chair confirmed that the rent for 2017 will remain at £15, which included free water.

c. Allotment Committee for 2016-17

Maureen Powles and Bryan Cooper were elected as the two additional representatives for the Strait Lane allotments, in addition to Graham Wylie who represents the Strait Lane allotments.

Two Parish Council representatives will make up the Allotment Committee. These are currently Richard Lawley and Janine Forster

d. Allotment Rules and Procedures.

At the request of the Parish Clerk, it was agreed that the formal Procedures and Allotment Rules, dated 2011, should be reviewed. Several anomalies had emerged, and clarification is required. This includes Rule 14, regarding fires at allotments.

e. Requirements for 2017.

- a. Grange allotments would like another notice board. Agreed.
- b. Strait Lane require a new notice board. Agreed.

Action Clerk to arrange.

f. Allotment Sharing Scheme.

George Lawman related the benefits of implementing a scheme which allows persons, recommended by their doctor, to get exercise and fresh air by helping on an allotment.

The meeting embraced this suggestion, and one of the committee will discuss this with the Hurworth Doctors, and get their views, with the intention of implementing the scheme. Allotment holders will need to co-operate in sharing their plots or working with these visitors.

This will be reported in an article in the next Parish Chronicle. **Action Elaine Hedley**

137. Association Reports

Elaine Hedley reported that she has attended the Small & Medium sized local councils meeting.

Hurworth was asked to make a decision whether to remain in the Durham County Association or join the Stockton & Cleveland Area organisation.

More details are required, and the **Clerk undertook to discuss this with Steve Ragg, and report back to the council.**

138 Any Other Business (Non-financial).

It was agreed that Cllr David Wood would represent the HPC at the Planning Meeting, to discuss the Banks housing application. **Cllr Wood will register, and Clerk to advise the Planning Department.**

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

