

Hurworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth
–on-Tees, on Thursday 4th February 2016 starting at 6.30pm.**

PACT Meeting – Chair Paul Walters

Attended by eight councillors, press, one Ward Councillor and seven residents

John Angus PCSO gave the police report for January 2016, as follows:-

Total Crimes	0
Burglaries	0
Burglary	0
Theft	0
Vehicle theft	0
Theft from vehicle	
Theft	4 four incidents, 2 milk bottles stolen, 1 plant pot, and small garden items.
Criminal damage	0
Antisocial behaviour	0
Criminal harassment	0

There were no Speed Watch or speed checks carried out in the month; these will start again this month.

A resident has written to the council reporting vehicles being parked on the pavement and restricting the passage of prams and disabled carriages. John Angus stated that this is now an illegal offence and he will look out for instances of this and will take action.

Parish Council Business meeting

160. Those present: Jean Peacock (Chair), Peter Foster, Paul Walters, Wilma Campbell, Margaret Williams, Elaine Hedley, Tony Winnett, Andrew Robinson.

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Derek Dodwell (Chairman Darlington Association of Parish Councils), Northern Echo, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

161. Apologies for Absence

Michelle Edwards (family commitment), Chris Pratt (holiday).

162. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Tony Winnett	HCA

Later: Graham Wylie -Allotments

163 Chair's Address

Having welcomed the councillors and guests and members of the public and past councillors, the Chair started the meeting by introducing Mr Graham Wylie who was then co-opted into the council by unanimous consent. Graham signed the Register of Acceptance and took his seat at the council table.

The Chair announced that the Annual Assembly would be held at Hurworth Grange on 15th April, which is prior to the forthcoming elections.

The grant has been received for the re-paving of the patio at the Grange, and the grant application for the induction sound equipment has reached the funders approval stage, so we should hear the outcome within three weeks.

The Chair introduced Mr Dennis Coates, who is the Chairman of the NALC Award Evaluation Panel for the Durham Region.

164 Dennis Coates addressed the council.

Dennis Coates is Chairman of the Durham Regional Panel for Quality Awards for the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Mr Coates outlined the process through which councils are evaluated when applying for NALC Awards. There are three levels – Foundation Level, Quality Level and ultimately the Gold Award. The process is lengthy and for Hurworth, being the first council in the North of England to attain Gold Status, it took almost one year of evaluation.

Mr Coates congratulated the Hurworth Council on this wonderful achievement and hopes that other councils in the region will take heart and embark on a similar course. Hurworth will be used as an example to others.

The Certificate of the Gold Award was presented to the Chair.

Jean Peacock responded thanking Mr Coates and the panel for the effort they had put into this evaluation. She also expressed appreciation for Tony Winnett and Peter Allan who had devoted a massive amount of time to gain this high level award. The Chair gave thanks and recognition to the previous councillors who made major contributions in bringing HPC to this level, in particular Ken Pattison and Don Parr who were attending this meeting.

Ward Councillors Lorraine Tostevin congratulated Hurworth Parish Council in achieving this award, and for the effort which had been made to attain this level of quality.

Derek Dodwell, Chair of Darlington Association of Parish Councils added his congratulations, and will be proud to relay this message to other councils in the area. Well done to all concerned.

Hurworth Parish Council are the only parish council in the whole of the North of England to attain this award. Indeed there are only five other parishes in the UK who at present have achieved Gold Status. These are all in the south of England being Ampthill, Loughton, Waltham Abbey, Danbury and Lydney.

165. Minutes of the PC Meeting dated 7th January 2016

The Minutes having been previously circulated were adopted,

Proposed by Margaret Williams

Seconded by Tony Winnett

166. Matters Arising

- a. The speed monitor post – DBC has informed us that the post and electric supply orders have been placed.
- b. The defibrillator has been registered and is now active. An announcement will be placed in the press next week.
- c. DBC has marked, in chalk, areas of the pavement which will be repaired on both sides of Strait Lane.
- d. Hurworth Community Association will be hosting a ‘Street Party’ at Hurworth Grange in April to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday. The council awarded HCA £300 as a contribution to the cost.
- e. Hurworth Village Hall wish to hold a ‘Street Party’ for the Queen’s 90th Birthday on the Village Green on 12 June. The council approved permission for the use of the Green and contributed £300 towards the cost of this event.

167. Public Participation

1. A lady resident addressed the meeting giving support to the item on the agenda about a second playground. Her family has recently moved into Hurworth and welcomes the concept of a playground near Manorfield. Several other mothers and families have expressed enthusiasm for this suggestion, and she suggested that the council contact the Mother and Toddler groups and Nurseries, who will be very supportive.

Two speakers expressed objections to this project, quoting that the Parish Plan. Dated 2010, did not provide statistics which suggested sufficient demand for a second playground. They suggested a public meeting should be convened before progress is made on this suggestion. Paul Walters stated that this is in the very early stages of consideration and that the next step is to distribute a questionnaire and make detailed inquiries to ascertain the need for this playground facility. He said that it will probably be available for public discussion at the Annual Assembly in April. The project will be grant dependant as the funding previously available is no longer obtainable.

The point was raised that there would be expenses incurred for ongoing maintenance and insurance.

2. Comments were raised about the latest cuts which are to be invoked by Darlington Borough Council. This indicated a reduction in the number of times the grass will be cut, the removal of the litter picker subsidy and a reduction of DBC Grants, which is likely to reduce the revenue of HPC by £3300, while we will incur higher costs. More details will follow soon.

168. Accounts for Payment as at 31st January 2016

The schedule of accounts for payment in January 2016, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council

Accounts for Payment as at 31st January 2016

			<u>31st Jan 2016</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Prestige Tree Surgery	102568	tree work	1404.00
J. Peacock	102569	Flowers for Val Hughes	32.00
M.Harrison	102570	Handyman	40.00
Cumbria Clock Co.	102571	Church clock annual maint.	150.00
Bob Iles	102572	Salary	294.90
P. D. Allan	102573	Salary	514.88
Inland Revenue	102574	PAYE	156.80
P. D. Allan	102575	14 HI-VIZ Tabards	93.90
P. D. Allan	102576	Admin expenses	80.98
I. Palmer	102577	Buffet for Contingency meeting	100.00
.	...		
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	12.23
Total outlay			2909.49

169.Financial Report

The Financial report to 31st January 2016, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council. The Report was accepted by the council.

170.Matters of Interest

1. Country Durham and Cleveland Regional Event to be held at Peterlee. Elaine Hedley volunteered to attend this event.

2. Burial facilities A resident has raised the question about future requirements for burials in Hurworth. The grave space at All Saints Church is fully taken, except for second bodies. Several years ago suitable land had been sought, but in several cases the water table was unsuitable, and one area proved to be too expensive.

The council agreed to investigate this again, in conjunction with the Hurworth and Neasham Burial Trust.

3. The grant for the renovation of the Grange patio will now proceed as a grant for £3850 has been received by the HCA.

4. The Scouts have requested use of the Grange outdoor area to construct an Orientation Course. The Community Association have no objection, and the council welcomed this initiative. Permission will be granted. **Action Clerk.**

5. A First Aid course will be organised on Wednesday, 16th March. This will be a refresher course as the last course was three years ago. The cost is £60 per person, with a maximum of 12 attendees. The council agreed to 'sell' the places at £40 per person and provide refreshments.

171. Project Reports

1. **Grange Disability Access**, The work will commence this month to modify the entrance to accommodate disability access and automatic door opening. (Jean Peacock)

2. **Alteration to the Hurworth Grange** road entrance has been defined and a grant has been applied for £8500. It may take five months to get a decision. (Margaret Williams).

3. **Second Playground** Paul Walters reported that the next step will be to prepare a questionnaire to investigate the requirement level for a playground near Emerson Road. The debate under 'Public Participation'; had indicated some strong support, but also a faction of opposition. It is hoped that this topic can be discussed in public at the Annual Assembly in April.

4. **Neighbourhood Information Centre**. Andy Robinson reported that he has addressed the Grange Ladies Group and received enthusiastic support. The PC has now been moved to his premises and he intends to implement the Parish Diary within the next phase.

5. **Circular pathway**. This project has attracted further interest with the suggestion that this pathway could be used as a cycle path. This would increase the usage and demand for the project.

Joe Kelley updated the council with the progress of the Darlington – Hurworth cycleway and reported that additional funding has been received and more applied for. He urged that Hurworth support this project as a combined community project is more likely to attract funding.

A new Project Leader and sub-committee is required for this project as the initiators are no longer with the council.

172. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that a huge tree in the Grange has been blown down, causing some damage to three other trees. Work has been undertaken to clear the pathway and repair the fences. The trunk is massive and will be left where it fell to assist insect habitation and could be made into a feature of the nature reserve. An arborist will be required to remove broken branches and tidy the surrounding trees where large branches are hanging. The area has been fenced off and notices erected.

The tree which is leaning badly near the Grange internal road will be removed on 6th February. Two quotations have been received and the lower one accepted.

All other trees in the parish appear to be in good health.

173 Contingency Plan. Tony Winnett reported:-

We held a successful meeting of Contingency Plan volunteers last Thursday.

Four Councillors attended and eleven new volunteers.

Everyone gave details of their skills and experience.

We were able to select an Emergency Coordinator, a Deputy Emergency Coordinator and a Communications Officer.

The Plan Template has now been updated with contact details for volunteers.

A further meeting will be held shortly to progress matters and to conduct a table top exercise.

The meeting agreed that this topic should be included in the Annual Assembly.

Derek Dodwell informed the meeting that Darlington Neighbourhood Watch has recently deployed an 'In the Know' project, providing essential information to assist with emergencies in the Borough.

174. Open Spaces Report.

Wilma Campbell said there was nothing significant to report. The bushes at All Saints Church near the bus shelter have been cut back and a small sapling removed as they were intruding onto the pavement.

EPICH held a meeting on 1ST February and discussed future projects. More details will be presented at the next PC Meeting.

175 Highways Report Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

HIGHWAYS REPORT JAN-FEB 2016

Croft/Hurworth Rd opposite Hurworth Academy

1/1/2016-13/1/2016 From Hurworth Place towards Spar shop

Weekdays 44.5% drivers exceeded speed limit

Weekends 51.5% drivers exceeded speed limit

During times when school was in session only:-

At school start times (8-9 am) in this period average speeder speed was 36.8 mph with 52.0% of all drivers exceeding the 30 mph plus 10% plus 2 value of 35 mph and 1 driver between 45-50 mph

At school end times (3-5 pm) in this period average speeder speed was 35.2 mph with 45.0 % of all drivers exceeding the 30 mph plus 10% plus 2 value of 35 mph and 1 driver between 45-50 mph

14/1/2016 - 31/1/2016 From Spar shop towards Hurworth Place

Weekdays 39.5% drivers exceeded speed limit

Weekends 51.5% drivers exceeded the speed limit

During times when school was in session only:-

At school start times (8-9 am) average speeder speed was 37.4 mph with 56.6 % of all drivers above speed limit and 2 drivers between 45-50 mph

At school end times (3-4 pm) average speeder speed was 36.3 mph with 40.0 % of all drivers above the speed limit

We have recently reported our findings about speeding outside the Academy to DBC and have requested flashing 20 mph signs to be activated at start and end times of the school day. Our request has been accepted but there is no money left in the budget for the plan to be implemented- perhaps next financial year?

Data from the other monitors in the village show similar patterns to those recorded in previous months and are summarised as follows:-

Roundhill Rd outgoing 1/1/2016 - 14/1/2016

34.6% drivers exceeded speed limit on weekdays with 41.5% doing so at weekends 65 mph max recorded at 19.00 hrs on 2/1/2016

Roundhill Rd incoming 14/1/2016-1/2/2016

23.4% drivers exceeded speed limit on weekdays with 31.8 % doing so at weekends 60 mph max recorded at 16.30 hrs on 23/1/2016

Steel Bridge - Otter and Fish -incoming 1/1/2016 -13/1/2016

24.8% drivers exceeded speed limit on weekdays with 23.5% at weekends 55 mph max speed at 19.25 hrs on 1/1/2016

Steel Bridge - Otter and Fish outgoing 14/1/2016-1/2/2016

15.0 % drivers exceeded speed limit on weekdays and 13.9% at weekends 65 mph max speed recorded at 11.30 am on 26/1/2016

176 Allotment Report

Allotment rents have been received, but there are still 12 rents to be collected. A tractor caused damage to the allotment internal pathway while delivering fertiliser. Graham Wylie (Chairman of the Allotment Committee) has visited the site and repairs have been made. The work to re-instate the very bad section, as previously agreed, will start in March as soon as the ground has dried out sufficiently.

One new person has signed a tenancy agreement, and there are now two people on the Strait Lane waiting List. The Grange list is still long.

177 Planning Jean Peacock reported that there has been only one new application this month.

15/01211/FUL 22 The Chase, Hurworth. The council agreed a 'No Comment' response.

The council has received several enquiries about activity on the field behind Westfield Drive. No planning applications have been received but areas have been marked out. **Action Jean Peacock to investigate.**

178 Newsletter Elaine Hedley reported that the newsletter has gone to the printer and should be available for distribution next week.

The new printer which had been identified has gone into administration and the new quotation submitted has been rejected. The work has been given to MT Print who have fully co-operated.

179 Association Reports

Peter Foster – nothing to report

Jean Peacock attended the CPRE meeting, but there was nothing specific to Hurworth Parish.

180 Any Other Business

1. The tabards have been ordered and will be delivered later this week. 14 hi viz tabards with 'Hurworth Parish Council' on the backs. Each councillor will receive a tabard and sign for it. **Action Clerk**

The meeting ended at 8:30pm

