

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 5th January 2017 starting at 7:00pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 14 member of the public.

140. Apologies for absence

Jean Peacock (Sickness), Elaine Hedley (Sickness).

141 Declarations of Interest

Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

142 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

The Chair informed the meeting that the date for this year's Annual Meeting will be Thursday, 4th May, and the Annual Assembly will be on Friday, 19th May; the Fletcher Hall has been booked. The Chair requested that a presentation be made at the Annual Assembly covering the objectives and progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Wood agreed that this will be included.

The Chair alluded to the planning application or Banks Group to build an estate on Roundhill Road which has been granted, and the council should position itself to negotiate the most favourable terms and concessions, once the final application is submitted.

The Chair announced that Simon Coultas had resigned from the Council and requested that the Clerk outline the procedure for the recruitment of a new councillor to fill the current vacancy.

The Clerk stated that notices were already on the parish notice boards, stating that if ten residents request an election, in writing, then an election must be held. The probable cost to HPC being £4,500.

Should there be no qualified request for an election, DBC will inform HPC that we can co-opt a new councillor.

The procedure will be for HPC to display notices on our notice boards advertising the vacancy, and requesting interested candidates to inform the Clerk.

In the event that there are several candidates, the council, in full, must make their selection by elimination ballot.

The council agreed that notices will now be displayed, and the selection will be made at the PC Meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2017.

The Chair then introduced Mr Mark Middlemiss, who has submitted a planning application to construct a new Wedding Venue on his land on Roundhill Road.

143. Presentation by Mark Middlemiss.

Mark Middlemiss made a presentation, supported with a site plan and pictures of the structures, of his proposed Wedding Venue.

The location is on his own land, where he currently has a barn and outhouses. The cost of the project is budgeted at £1.2 million.

Mr Middlemiss outlined his target market and business objectives, emphasising that this would fill a void for a high quality wedding venue at a cost which will be acceptable to many couples.

The project includes 30 over-night chalets, a security/ Reception block, toilet block and ample parking space.

The principal objections which he has encountered included:

- Flooding risk, to which he responded that a detailed flood risk plan is in place, and that the complex will be 50 feet above Cree Beck, and that his field does not flood.
- Traffic – The planning application embraces a traffic analysis, and he showed how he envisaged traffic movements. The volume of additional traffic should be low, and only on wedding days, which may be two days per week. He also stated that he intended to get the speed limit reduced to 40mph on this stretch of Roundhill Road.
- Noise – Mr Middlemiss went into detail about the insulation concepts of the buildings, and equipment which will monitor and reduce noise levels. Sound proofing wallpaper will also be used.
- The ‘caravans’ - This section of the planning application has been largely misunderstood. The ‘caravans’ are small units, which will be used for overnight accommodation only, and will not be used as residential or longer stay units. Wedding guests will have the option to stay overnight, using the chalet from 5:00pm until 9:00am the next morning. This is designed to stop guests drinking and driving, and reduce the possibility of accidents.

Mr Middlemiss is seeking the support of Hurworth Parish Council with this planning application. He has not received initial enthusiasm from DBC, and would welcome the views and support of Hurworth residents. The Middlemiss family have been residents of Hurworth Parish for several generations, and he, himself, owns 400 acres, and members of his family considerably more.

Members of the public asked questions, and expressed their concerns, largely on the topics he had outlined, as above. Flooding and traffic being the major concerns.

The Chair thanked Mr Middlemiss, and agreed that the council will give his project considerable thought at a special meeting to evaluate the application.

144. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 1st December 2016, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Peter Foster and Seconded by Graham Wylie.

145. Matters Arising

a. Broadband – Cllr Kelley reported that he has held further meetings with British Telecom and Mr Ian Williams. Organic Growth Dept. of DBC.

The progress is extremely slow, and appears to be held up by a decision as to whether Hurworth is in the 'White Intervention Area'. BT is concentrating on the areas which yield the highest commercial return, and are delaying a decision on Hurworth, as a subsidy may be available. DBC has been promised some funding, but it is not specific to Hurworth or Neasham. Cllr Kelley is of the view that 'it should have happened' and that Hurworth is commercially viable. He will report further at the March meeting.

b. Contingency Plan

There was nothing to report, and Peter Foster agreed to become the council's representative. It is hoped that a meeting can be convened shortly.

c. Dog Fouling Stickers

Nothing to report.

146. Public Participation

There were no questions from the floor.

147. Accounts Payable

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

Accounts for Payment as at 31st December 2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Prestige Trees	102809	Tree work	918.00
Peter Foster	102810	Travelling exs	21.96
Northumbrian Water	102811	Allotment	58.02
Viking	102812	Stationery	155.93
Bob Iles	102813	Salary	363.15
P D Allan	102814	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102815	PAYE	158.20
P D Allan	102816	Admin exs	72.92
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	25.20
Bank charges	DD	Admin charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	12.88
Total expenditure			2313.14

148. Financial Report to 31st December 2016

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councilors was presented at the meeting. David Wood asked if any items had taken the council over-budget, and the Clerk reported that it had been a low cost month, and there was no item that exceeded the budget. There being no other questions, the Report was accepted by the council.

Please refer to addendum.

149. HPC Action Plan for 2017

A draft Action Plan had been distributed to all councillors, in preparation for this meeting.

The Plan was discussed and a number of modifications and additions made. A motion was put to the council, Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Wilma Campbell, that the modified

version should be adopted by the council. This was carried unanimously. The modified Plan will be distributed to all councillors, and will be placed on the council web site.

150. Matters of Interest

a. The council received an intimation of a possible insurance claim, relating to a resident who has fallen in the passage way near Lychgate. He claims that the pavement is in bad condition due to a large number of apples on the path, which have fallen from the nearby trees.

The Clerk has referred this to DBC, who are responsible for the pathways, and StreetScene are responsible for the cleansing of the pathways. The claimant has been informed, and should now deal directly with DBC.

b. Web site and Drop Box.

David Wood reported that there has been 4352 hits on the council web site, and one message received in the Drop Box.

c. CDALC has invited the council to nominate one person (couple) to be put into the draw for an invitation to a tea party at **Buckingham Palace**. Graham Wylie and Paul Walters expressed their interest, and Graham withdrew, to allow Paul's name to go forward.

151. Planning Applications

In the absence of Jean Peacock, Margaret Williams reported on the applications under consideration in December, viz

Planning Report – 5th JANUARY 2017

16/01174/FUL	Rockliffe Hall Hotel Creation of new garden area with children's play area, 2 tennis courts and walled kitchen garden. Comment Blind Lane is a Private Road The council discussed the above application. The council has received calls of concern about the contractors using Blind Lane as an entrance. Blind Lane is a private road, and hence the council will write to the Planning Dept. to express the requirement for Rockliffe to use their own entrance roads. Action Clerk
16/-1226/FUL	50 Friars Pardon Porch and canopy at front, alterations internal works to also erection of chimney existing doors and windows. 'No comment'.
16/01210/FUL	Field OSGR E430340 N512157 Roundhill Road. Demolition of Agric. Shed and erection of Wedding/ Function Venue , and security lodge. Siting of 30 caravans and 3 amenity

blocks, provision of access from Roundhill Road and assoc. landscaping.

The council will call a special meeting on Thursday, 19th January at 7 pm to discuss this application. Councillor's comments can be sent to David Wood prior to this date, to shorten the length of the meeting.

16/01056/LBC

41 the Green

Consent to replace 3 UPVC windows and 3 doors with timber ones.

'No comment'.

16/00830/NMA

33 Church Row

Demolition of detached garage
(Granted originally 16/00810/FUL
10.10.16

'No comment'.

For information The application for retrospective (LBC) planning consent for 30 The Green has been refused.

152. Planning Development Work Group Report.

a. David Wood reported that the Group have had a meeting, and have discussed the Banks Group decision. They will now be focusing on the Wedding Venue application.

b. The Neighbourhood Plan working group have also had a meeting, and hope to complete the questionnaire content at their next meeting on 9th January.

They will be updating the PART Chart and delegating tasks and timeframes to the members.

They have invited Mark Middlemiss to join the Group, as a land owner; It is hoped that this will give a broader spectrum to the analysis.

153 Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that he has made an inspection, and is pleased to report that all the trees are in good health, and no remedial work is required at this time.

He recommended that the Grange Tree Survey should be commissioned soon, as it is now due.

The council debated the importance of periodical surveys, and the requirements of the insurance companies. Enquiries made by the Clerk had not provided a definitive answer to the timeframes required; it appears that many councils do not carry out formal surveys.

The conclusion of the meeting is that tree surveys should be performed every three years, and that this will be entered into the HPC Procedures Manual. However, this will be submitted to our insurance company (Zurich) for their confirmation. **Action Clerk**

154. PACT Report

Paul Walters reported as follows:-

For the month of December the following crimes were reported:

Burglaries	3 burglaries 2 at The Birches and one at Roundhill Road.
Burglaries - Other	One bicycle stolen - this was later retrieved when it was advertised on 'Gumtree'. Tools stolen from vehicles in Peaceful Valley
Theft from Vehicles	Tools stolen from a vehicle in Roundhill Road and All Saints area. Slashing of van tyres at Church View.

155 Highways and Traffic Report

- **Graham Wylie gave the traffic statistical report, viz:-**

Traffic data December:

Hurworth Road

Total vehicles 73,263

Vehicles travelling between 35mph and 40mph = 22,309. This means 30.4% are in this category.

Vehicles travelling between 40mph and 45mph = 7,099. This means 11.3% are in this category.

Lindon Court

Total vehicles 130,013

Vehicles travelling between 35mph and 40mph = 30,601. This means 23.5% are in this category.

Vehicles travelling between 40mph and 45mph = 8,067. This means 6.2% are in this category.

Roundhill Road

Total vehicles 53,236

Vehicles travelling between 35mph and 40mph = 9872. This means 18.5% are in this category.

Vehicles travelling between 40mph and 45mph = 1718. This means 3.2% are in this category.

- The bollard on the chicane has been moved over to the side and needs putting back onto the island. **Action Clerk**
- The bollard opposite the farm/Westfield Drive has been knocked over. Do we actually need this?

The council agreed that this bollard is not required and DBC Highways Dept. will be asked to remove it and make good the pavement. **Action Clerk**

- It was agreed that the council will purchase a 30mph sign, to be located where an obsolete sign has been removed. **Action Clerk.**
- Peter Foster reported that the hedge on Neasham Road from Skipbridge Garage to Neasham junction required cutting and a traffic sign re-positioning. **Action Clerk.**
- It was noted that the white line in the centre of Neasham Road has still not been repainted by DBC. **Action Clerk.**

b. Carol Paylor reported that the 13 Speed Watch volunteers were almost ready to start their work. They need to register their 'date of birth' with the police, and the formalities will be complete.

Carol has received a complaint about an overhanging tree at Bryans Close, and she offered to visit the resident to resolve this.

c. It was agreed that the next meeting with Priory Hurworth House School will now be arranged. David Wood asked to be included along with Carol Paylor. **Action Clerk to make the arrangements.**

156. Open Spaces report

Wilma Campbell reported:-

Open Spaces

Centenary Field

The planned meeting with Jamie Leeson on Thursday 15th December went ahead. Councillor Hedley and I showed him around possible areas within the Grange site, all of which he thought were suitable. He expressed an interest in making a presentation to the whole Council. With the Council's consent I will organise for him to either attend a future Council meeting or perhaps the Annual Assembly in May.

EPICH

EPICH have put in a grant application for £8,500 to Awards for All to cover the cost of the all-weather pathway around the Grange as previously discussed. Two supporting letters from HPC and HCA have been included with the application, as EPICH are not the landowners. Hopefully this will satisfy their criteria!

157 Project Reports

Paul Walters reported that the three notice boards have been ordered, and are scheduled for delivery on the week of 6th February.

Graham Wylie asked whether local residents have been approached in preparation for the installation on the notice boards. David Wood supported this, and said it was understood that residents should be advised, and their comments respected.

Graham Wylie agreed to approach the residents around the Otter and Fish, and David Wood will talk to the Comet Inn. There are no resident houses near the Roundhill Road installation.

Actions: Graham Wylie and David Wood.

158. Allotment Report

Richard Lawley stated that January is the month when all the allotment rents are due. To date 4 rents have been received out of the 57 plots.

It is expected that a few plot holders will relinquish their allotments, and there are 7 people on the Strait Lane waiting list.

The two new allotment notice boards are being constructed, and will be installed in February.

Graham Wylie asked Peter Foster if he will arrange for the wood chippings, due to be delivered, to be dumped at the Lychgate end of the allotments. This was agreed.

159. Association Reports

Paul Walters and Peter Foster had attended the airport meeting, and reported that most of the dialogue was about the need for more tourist flights; however it appears that this airport is not competitively priced for package holidays.

The airport has been re-named as '**Darlington Durham and Tees Valley Airport**'

160. Any Other Business (Non-financial).

a. David Wood requested that each Councillor should have an individual council E Mail address, such as **david.wood@hurworth parish council.org.uk**. The council **agreed, and the Clerk will arrange this with Namesco.**

b. Carol Paylor advised the council that a children's craft week has been arranged for the week of 20th to 24th February, at Hurworth Grange Art Room. This will be free to families participating. It will take the format of a 'Drop in' session, and is targeted towards younger children with their parents.

c. Margaret Williams reported that unacceptable posters have been stuck onto the walls of the bus shelter opposite the Spar shop. **Action Clerk to inform StreetScene.**

d. The wall surrounding Mr Fulton's house has had painted messages painted on it; also an amount of rubbish appears to have been dumped on their property. **Action: Clerk to contact Mr Fulton**

The meeting closed at 9:45pm

