

Hurworth Parish Council

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

361. Those present: Graham Wylie (Chair), Margaret Williams, Paul Walters, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock. Dorothy Oughton, Elaine Hedley, Wilma Campbell, Richard Lawley, Janine Forster, Nic Prior, Mark Middlemiss.

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 8 members of the public.

362. Apologies for absence

None, all present.

363. Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and public, and introduced the two newly elected councillors, Nic Prior and Mark Middlemiss (Middi).

364. Acceptance of Office

Nic Prior and Mark Middlemiss signed the Register of Acceptance as Parish Councillors for Hurworth. The Clerk countersigned their acceptance, and they became councillors.

365. Declarations of Interests

Jean Peacock - HCA

Graham Wylie - Allotments

Wilma Campbell - HCA, EPICH

Mark Middlemiss - Planning application, if it arises.

366 Mr Billy Maguire of Maguire Leisure Parks addressed the council to update them on the progress of his new project at the ECO Park at Skipbridge,

The planning permission has now been approved, after difficult and elongated negotiations. All the reports have now been completed and will be signed on 12th December.

The new development will be for retirement homes and the layout will effectively be starting from a completely new plan. The site will utilise the existing roads, and the present residents will be disturbed as little as possible during the construction proceedings. Work is scheduled to start in January 2018 and is likely to take 12 months. Whereas the existing lodges are constructed in wood, the new ones will be in a cell product which requires little or no maintenance.

Mr Maguire answered questions and was thanked by the Chairman for his update of the project.

367. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2017.

At the request of a member of the public, an additional sentence was added to Section 353 of the November Minutes. The Minutes were then accepted, proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by Elaine Hedley.

368. Matters Arising

1. Paul Walters reported that the location of the third **community notice** board has been finalised, and it will be erected before Christmas, weather permitting.

Nic Prior asked how many objections were received to the first location, and Paul answered five, all from the bottom end of Strait Lane, near the Otter and Fish.

2. Broadband

Joe Kelley reported that some progress has been made. Virgin has withdrawn their proposal to implement in Hurworth due to not receiving enough positive feedback. However, BT have been installing the fast fibre down the main road, through the Green and down to the Otter and Fish Inn. At present it is BT's aim to provide the high speed service to 99 % of residences within the Tees Valley region. The Hurworth roll out should start in early 2018, but the estates may have to wait until 2019, as extensive trenching will be required.

369. Public Participation

Carol Paylor informed the meeting that there is concern about icy conditions near the Primary School entrance, and requested the council to arrange for a grit bin to be located there. The council agreed to ask DBC to provide one, and in the likely event that this will be declined then HPC agreed to purchase a bin, and arrange for DBC to keep it filled. **Action Clerk**

370. Planning Applications

Jean Peacock reported as follows:-

370. Planning Report – 7th DECEMBER 2017

17/01060/FUL Stable Cottage Newbus Grange, Hurworth Road

Replacing existing French Doors with Bi-Fold doors to south elevation of building.

17/01092/PA The Old Kennels Strait Lane

Prior Approval for the conversion of an Agric. Bldg to
a dwelling.

17/01106/FUL 37 The Wayside

Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, conversion of loft to form habitable space, insertion of dormer windows and creation of roof balcony to rear elevation.

17/00238/FUL Station Hotel.

Passed 8/11/17

2 dwellings in the existing building and 2 dwellings behind.

17/00623/FUL Land Brickyard for 15 chalets **Refused 17/11/17**

17/01064/CON Approval of Conditions 5,7,10,14,15 (Banks Dev.).

Banks Meeting 7.11.17.

Extra land Roundhill Road being developed for 100 further dwellings.

Planning Permission end of 2017.

Considerations of the new Banks proposals:-

Consult with the parishioners, school and surgery.

Section 106 Agreement goes to DBC.

Further meeting with Banks 30th November Clerk circulated minutes from this meeting.

Benefits – Affordable houses

Bungalows

Highways – 3 areas from first development 2 Roundhill Road and 1 at Secondary School

106 linked to building area

It was stressed that the Council and community should press for maximum benefits from this new application, both through Section 106 and from the Banks Community Chest.

Councillors were urged to bring forward their suggestions, and also that notices be put up requesting residents to make suggestions. Middi reported that there had been 515 hits on the Village Facebook page with suggestions of benefits that Hurworth community should request.

Councillor Williams gave several reasons why the Council should raise objections to the Banks application. The Council debated this issue, hearing views from both sides. The Chair called for a vote on the issues and the result was 5 voted to object, six voted for 'No comment' and there was one abstention.

Councillor Kelley stated that 20% of the houses should be affordable housing and should be built in Hurworth.

The Council agreed that an upgrade to the Grange playground and a MUGA should be requested

It was recommended that a bus service with stops on Roundhill Road will be required

371. Neighbourhood Plan Report

Richard Lawley reported that the response to the questionnaire has been good, and that the next process is the analysis and statistical compilation. These processes will be outsourced.

Richard said that there are grants available for the Housing Assessment, and that the team would apply for one.

There is also a grant available for 'Technical Support', which they are considering. However, there are still funds available from the Groundwork grant, which is due to expire on 31st December. It is important that the data processing is started immediately so that the costs can be included within the existing grant.

372. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that all the trees were currently in good condition.

He was very complimentary about the Christmas tree on the Green, which looks excellent with a colourful display of Christmas lights. Paul Walters took a bow!

373. Allotment Report

The Allotment Committee AGM has been postponed until January 2018, due to a number of pressing issues.

Paul Walters reported that the council had held a Special Meeting to address complaints made, and a full Internal Review has been carried out.

The outcome of the Review has resulted in immediate changes in the Allotment Rules and also changes in the Administration procedures. New Tenancy Agreements will need to be signed from the 1st January 2018 accepting the rules which came into effect on 1st December 2017.

The rent for 2018 was discussed and a motion put forward by Margaret Williams, Seconded by Jean Peacock that the rent should be increased to £20, and the council will continue to pay the water bills. The motion was passed unanimously.

374 Open Spaces and EPICH Report

Wilma Campbell reported:-

OPEN SPACES

We are waiting for an invoice from David Parker for his ongoing maintenance work around the village.

The hedge at Westfield Drive will be cut back/tidied up.

EPICH

Planned work has been delayed due to bad weather.

The posts for the step over apple trees are in place. Planting should take place next week.

The sandstone circle in Jean's Garden should be completed today. The garden seat will be placed securely on top and the memorial stone moved nearer to the seat.

375. Highways report

The monitors were only moved in the middle of November so the next data analysis figures up until the 31st December will be reported at the January 2018 meeting.

DBC has refused the request for a grit bin in Mowbray Drive on the grounds that the gradients in that area do not warrant one.

The DBC has been asked if the double yellow lines on Roundhill Road could be extended to alleviate congestion near the Spar Shop.

Punch Taverns have again been approached regarding promised repairs to their wall opposite the Otter and Fish which is in a dangerous state. They promise to attend to this in the New Year.

Openreach have been installing Broadband along the length of the Village Green and have generally tidied up in a satisfactory manner.

The footpath sign on Manorfield has been broken and thrown over the fence onto another property **Clerk action- request DBC to replace**

Recent Village Projects

It is worth noting that ALL of the following projects in the village have been funded by grants:-

- The widening of the Grange entrance
- Refurbishment of the Art Room, two grants.
- The new patio area at the Grange
- The wheelchair and pram friendly pathway through the wooded area through the Grange
- The production and distribution of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire

376. Finance Working Party Report

The council held a Working Party meeting on 15th November to appraise their financial position and to formulate the budgets through to 31st March 2020.

The Action Plan for 2017 was updated and the Plan for 2018 drafted.

The Projects for 2018 and 2019 were re-evaluated and new projects introduced by Councillors.

Based on the deliberations of the Working Party, the precept for 2018 was calculated.

The Minutes of the Working Party dated 15th November 2017 were distributed to all the councillors, including the two newly elected councillors.

The Chair tabled a motion, Seconded by Peter Foster, that the decisions taken at the working Party meeting be adopted by the council. Upon the vote, acceptance was unanimous.

The precept will be set at £54000, an increase of 1.88% on the currency year.

377. Press and Village Calendar Report

Richard Lawley reported that the calendar is up to date, and that he is co-ordinating this with the Church magazine.

It was agreed that Richard will put the Village Calendar on the HPC web site. **Action Richard Lawley.**

378. Parish Walks,

Janine Forster reported that there are no walks scheduled for the winter period. It is thought that the pathways are dangerous through flooding and icy weather.

More walks have been planned, but will be re-introduced in the Spring.

379. Matters of Interest

1. Richard Lawley raised the topic of the volunteer community evening bus service.

Graham Wylie offered his services as the bus driver, and will check that his licence is satisfactory for the size of the school mini bus.

The council supports the scheme, and Graham and the Clerk will try to make suitable arrangements with the school. **Action Graham Wylie and the Clerk.**

2. Margaret Williams reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Priory School some time ago to discuss several pressing concerns and for an update. The meeting, scheduled for 7th December, was subsequently cancelled by the Priory and so will have to be reorganised for next year.

3. Building extension.

The new entrance to the Fletcher Hall is planned to start construction in February 2018.

4. Priory Hurworth House School

The most important matter is, once again, the traffic congestion on the bend at Westfield Drive and the road leading into the Primary School. Middi proposed that we should apply for yellow lines along the stretch outside the priory property. After lengthy discussion, Middi tabled a motion, Seconded by Nic Prior, that HPC should request DBC to implement yellow lines from the bend to the turning point, on the Priory School side of the road. The motion was carried **Action Clerk to initiate.**

380. Police report

Paul Walters made the following report:-

November 2017 – Hurworth

Burglary - 4

6/11 – Rockcliffe Court – Business burglary – investigation ongoing

6/11 – Snipe Lane – Business Burglary – nothing taken

8/11 – The Chase – Residential Burglary

15/11 – Tees View – Residential Burglary – 2x bikes taken from an unlocked garage

Criminal Damage - 0

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ASB - 1

10/11 – Woodlands Way – Group of youths ringing doorbells, shouting and chanting – I spoke to the caller, unfortunately no ID's of youths

Theft - 2

12/11 – Rockcliffe – Theft of personal clothing items

27/11 – The Green – theft from the shop – suspects caught and dealt with

Road Related - 5

1/11 – Church Row – Large Lorry parked up, partially blocking the road – When attended the lorry has moved

2/11 – The Green – Vehicle crashed into railings, damage only – Driver arrested

2/11 – Hurworth Rd – Vehicle hit a dog without an owner – dog taken to the vets

4/11 – The Green – Intoxicated male has driven away in a car – police could not locate the driver or the vehicle when completing an area search

17/11 – West End – Vehicle obstructing a driveway

Animals/Wildlife - 1

25/11 – Neasham Rd – loose black horse on the road near the Eurojag garage – horse returned onto a field by police

Other/Suspicious - 6

6/11 – Belgrave Terrace – Males knocking on doors asking for home details – area search complete, could not locate the males

13/11 – Friars Pardon – Suspicious noise coming from the bottom of rear garden- when officers arrived found sheep on the field near the callers garden, nothing else which was suspicious. The noise was probably the sheep.

14/11 – Evesham Grove – Suspicious male in the garden seen by a little boy – When officers arrived the could not find the male

16/11 – West End – Male selling items going door to door – male not located

18/11 – West End – Male selling items going door to door – male not located

19/11 – Hurworth Moor – Males knock on farmer's door asking if they can enter their land, owner refused – area searched by police no trace

381. Accounts for Payment

The schedule having been distributed to all councillors, was accepted by the council.

Accounts for Payment as at 30th November 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A Skingley Grange grass cutting	102958	Grange allotments grass cutting	160.00
G Johnston Tree Surgeons	102959	Tree work	900.00
Norma Kyle	102960	Allotment bond refund	30.00
TVRCC Data	102961	Data analysis software for N plan	50.00
Nic Prior	102962	Delivery of questionnaires	500.00
Bob Iles	102963	Salary	358.10
P D Allan	102964	Salary	522.48
Inland Revenue	102965	PAYE	156.80
D B C Grit bin filling	102966	Grit for bins	267.32
A C Metals	102967	Skip for Strait Lane allotments	216.00
HCA Newsletters Nov	102968	Church newsletter printing	60.00
Nat Society of Allotments	102969	Annual subscription	67.00
P D Allan	102970	Admin expenses, mileage	21.18
MT Print	102971	Printing questionnaires	2080.80
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	2.30
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.06
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	25.20
Total Expenditure for November 2017			5435.24

382. Financial report to 30th November 2017.

The Financial Report, having been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting was accepted by the council.

Please see the addendum for the detailed report.

383. HPC web site and Guest Book

Graham Wylie repowered that there has been quite a lot of activity of the Guest Book, it is proving to be a valuable interaction media with the residents. Graham has responded to the questions raised. One action is required; there seems to be a problem delivering the Parish Chronicle to Church Row flats. This is because of their internal security. **Action. The Clerk will talk to the church volunteers, to see how this can be overcome.**

384. Association Reports

1. Jean Peacock reported on her attendance at the meeting of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils, viz:

DAPC MEETING 8TH NOVEMBER

Updates on DBC Planning document. Still preparing document.

Main topic 106 Agreements presented by John Anderson DBC Asst. Director of Economic.

Mr Anderson was restricted to what he could say owing to a meeting with the full Council shortly – he promised to return to report again after this meeting has been held.

106 are agreements between land owners and DBC all we can do is to suggest to developers what options we would like for the Parish.

2. Peter foster had attended the meeting of CDALC in Durham. The salient details of the meeting have been distributed to the councillors by the Clerk.

3. Elaine Hedley reported on the meeting she attended for the Small and Medium Councils, viz:-

Small Councils Meeting Held in Hetton on Thursday 23rd November

To begin with Keith Appleton gave a talk on The Skill Mill. He works with Youths who have offended -12 to 16 year olds. I have a leaflet if anyone wants to see it. The kids have a great potential he tries to move them onto full time employment. They work 4 days a week.

Types of work:

Clearance, Garden Maintenance, Park Benches etc

Try a look on the web site

Service Cost- A price is agreed before they begin the job.

On Allotments they take the weeds away and burn them. They build fences. All rubbish goes to a recognised tip. The average figure for a days work is £150-200.

They always bring their own equipment

The next person to speak was Ian Holt from Durham County about allotments. He explained that he was involved in a Scrutiny Review. He said it was a mixed bag. He said that allotments are a good place to meet people but is the legislation between County / Parish the same. He mentioned Newcastle where they have given their Parks to private concerns. What is going to happen to their Allotments? Durham County own 115 allotment areas. Parishes own the rest (do we own the land of our parish allotments?).

Next he talked about Enforcement Opportunities Relating to the Environment Crime. Do we have a staff member who is responsible for loose dogs. Does there need to be an Enforcement Officer who needs legal advice. Stray dogs are a problem in County Durham they sent 1300-1600 dogs to kennels last year. He said this is actually a reduction. They also have a great difficulty in catching owners whose dogs foul.

Sam Scotchbrook asked if any Council has opened a Food Bank or were going to open one.

Next topic was DATA PROTECTION NALC Smaller Councils Committee have nothing on their web sight about it. There was a meeting at Spennymoor about it but no one appeared to know anything about it. The Government are not providing information. The Data Protection issue is going through the Lords. It comes in to place in May. Steve Ragg will send out a report on a London Conference on DP.

He would like to know if we want to pay someone or not, it can't be anyone on the council. We need to have a Financial Officer and a Data Protection Officer by the 25th of May. We need to fight for more time.

1998 Act on Data Protection Do we know what it is?

There will be a meeting about Data Protection next month (Details to follow).

The trouble being there will be 100's of people who will say they are qualified in Data Protection and will offer their services. What will they cost?

Steve Ragg is to write to NACL Can we have a list of What and Wherefores. What we can and cannot do. If they have the knowledge can we use it?. Will County Hall or Darlington Borough Council have people we can ask for help?

Registration is £35 its going up to £55 in May but if you pay before May you get it for £35 for the year.

Someone asked about CCTV

On Allotments again Pelton asked Does anyone have any Appeals Against Eviction guidance available. She was told it is different between Parish Owners and County Owners. The Chair said he would look into it and have something for the next meeting.

At the close they gave out the dates for the next year's meetings

Tuesday 22nd February at Murton

24th May at Bishop Auckland

26th July at Newton Aycliffe

22nd November at Horden

385. Any Other Business (non-financial)

1. The Chairman invited all Councillors to an informal get-together at Hurworth Grange on Friday 15th December.

2. Dorothy Oughton asked for the dog spray paint supply to be restocked. It was agreed the colour should be yellow. **Action Clerk**

3. Middi suggested that he would like to record PC meetings and that they should be shared on Facebook and live-streamed so that people could watch without being present. For the moment, this suggestion was rejected by the majority of the Council, as it was thought that, as previously, residents who have an interest in a subject would attend the meetings.

4. Middi drew attention to a phallic symbol engraved into the tarmac near the Primary School entrance from Roundhill Road. It was agreed this will be removed. **Clerk to arrange**

5. Peter Foster drew attention to the intrusion of plant growth in the Kent and Cree becks, and asked if the council could arrange a representative of Tees River Trust to attend the next PC Meeting. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:25pm

