

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 2nd March 2017 starting at 7:00pm.

184 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), David Wood, Graham Wylie, Carol Paylor, Paul Walters, Peter Foster, Janine Forster, Elaine Hedley, Jean Peacock. Wilma Campbell, Richard Lawley, Dorothy Oughton.

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

185. Apologies for absence

None, all present

186. Declaration of Interests

Jean Peacock	HCA
Graham Wylie	Allotment
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH

187 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

The meeting was videoed, and a record taken of the proceedings.

PCSO John Angus attended the meeting and introduced Becky, who has taken over from PC Foley.

The Chair reminded all councillors that there will be a Special Meeting of the council at Hurworth Grange on 30th March, to review the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, and offer assistance if required.

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188 Wilma Campbell introduced Mr Jamie Leeson, representing 'Fields in Trust' who made a presentation of the **Memorial Ground Project**.

His presentation included a comprehensive portrayal of the work this Group performs in arranging for the dedication of areas of land to commemorate World War 1 persons who lost their lives in the war.

He showed many examples where memorial plaques have been erected in dedicated areas of land, including pictures of the Royal family participating in events.

Discussions have taken place with Wilma Campbell about the opportunity for HPC to dedicate a piece of land and present a memorial. One major advantage is that the dedicated land is protected from building, and preserves the green area. The Chair thanked Mr Leeson for his attendance.

189. Hurworth Grange building extension

Mr Keith Sandick, Centre Manager of the Grange, made a presentation on behalf of the Hurworth Community Association, requesting the council to undertake the extension of the Fletcher Hall to provide a disabled entrance, and additional toilets.

Mr Sandick displayed plans of the proposed extension, and highlighted the benefits this project would bring to the Grange. The project is budgeted to cost £30,000.

Wilma Campbell then showed how the money could be raised to fund this project. This included a range of grants and a donation from Heineken Brewery.

The Chair opened the topic for questions and discussion.

A motion was tabled by David Wood, that the council undertake this project, dependent upon obtaining some grants, but committing £15,000 to the project, in case any of the grant applications fail. The motion was seconded by Elaine Hedley, and was passed by the ten councillors who could vote, with Jean Peacock and Wilma Campbell excluded due to their declared interest.

190. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 2nd February 2017, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Paul Walters and seconded by Graham Wylie.

191. Matters Arising

1. Graham Wylie reported that the 30mph sign has been erected.
2. Carol Paylor reported that the wheelie bin stickers have arrived and that a team of volunteers have distributed them to appropriate sites. Carol requested that the council purchase a further 50 stickers. **Action Clerk.**
3. The Chair circulated a copy of the proposed Agenda for the Annual Assembly, which will be held on 19th May. It was agreed that Rockliffe Hall Hotel should be invited to make a presentation of their plans for the future.

192. Community Notice Boards

Paul Walters reported that the three notice boards have been received. One has been erected near the Comet Inn, and initial feedback is positive. It looks a high quality product and is in keeping with the rural location.

The second notice board will be erected at the village entrance on Roundhill Road and the third will be installed opposite the Spar shop, near the bus stop.

193. Public Participation

- A resident expressed his dismay at the sight of the two ugly communication posts which have been erected on Roundhill Road. He strongly suggests that the council should get the communication providers, who installed the posts to disguise them as trees. This has been successfully achieved with some success at other sites. The Chair responded by saying as these posts are standing alone and not among other trees, this may still look very odd. **Action Clerk to investigate further.**
- Knell Gate- Mr David Crisp raised concern about the blockage of the passageway through Knell Gate.
Peter Foster responded that a meeting had been held with the neighbours on both sides of Knell Gate, and he, and the Parish Clerk had visited the site. The passageway is blocked

with ivy and tree trimmings, which the neighbours say they will remove to clear the way. However, at the river end of the passage is a small wall and then after a few yards the land falls away steeply into the river. This is potentially very dangerous, particularly for children. It is suggested that a gate be put at the entrance, with keys available from the neighbouring houses or Hurworth Grange. A plaque could be erected detailing the history of Knell Gate. The neighbours offered to pay for the new gate.

This solution did not receive much support, and the alternative of erecting a railing at the river end of the passage would allow visitors to walk through the short passage and look down to river, where the old boathouse used to be situated. A suitable barrier and warning signs would be needed.

This solution was favoured, and it was agreed that a further meeting will be held with the neighbours. **Action Cllr Peter Foster**

- Mr Don Nichol, representing residents of Strait Lane expressed the residents deep concern about the parking problems on and around the green area at the end of Strait Lane. There are insufficient parking spaces, and this is further exacerbated by staff from the Otter and Fish parking there on a regular basis.

This is an old problem and the council has tried to find a solution in the past. This land is owned by DBC and they would not allow HPC to insert webbing under the grass to allow a firm base while also protecting the grass.

Mr Nichol handed around some suggestions, and the council agreed to review this situation. **Action Graham Wylie and the Clerk.**

- A resident from Neasham complained bitterly about the deplorable state of Neasham Road, from the Arena to Lygon House. The road is covered in mud, the sides are not maintained and the road, being an entrance to Neasham projects a very poor image. Most councillors and the public agreed with this view. **Action the council will review.**

- The Chair invited Mr Billy Maguire to address the council.

Mr Maguire informed the meeting with the fact that his company has taken over the ownership and management of the ECO Lodge site at Skipbridge. This was welcomed by all present.

The site is targeted towards retired families and mature couples with grown up children. Mr Maguire outlined his basic plans and invited all-comers to an Open Day at Hurworth Grange on **Friday, 10th March from 5:00pm until 9:00pm**, when they will show pictures of the proposed site, and answer any questions about their objectives and timescales.

194. Accounts for Payment

The schedule, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was passed by the meeting. There were no questions raised.

Accounts for Payment as at 28th February 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Prestige Trees	102826	Treework	864.00
HCA	102827	Photocopying	70.30
M Harrison	102828	Handyman	158.51
Whitehill Direct	102829	3 Community Notice boards	3780.00
All Saints Church	102830	Delivery of newsletters	200.00
Bob Iles	102831	Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102832	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102833	PAYE	142.80
M Harrison	102834	Handyman	130.00
Percy Middlesbrough	102835	Children club subscription	49.00
P D Allan	102836	Wheelie bin posters and expenses	177.13
Charlotte Liddle	102837	Children's training	200.00
Prestige Trees	102838	Tree work Grange	1134.00
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.31
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	25.20
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
Total Payments for January 2017			7777.63

195. Financial Report to 31st December 2016

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councillors was presented at the meeting. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted.
Please see the Minutes addendum.

The Chair tabled a motion, seconded by Peter Foster, that Mr Gordon Fletcher be appointed as the HPC Internal Auditor for this year. This was passed unanimously.

The Clerk pointed out that this is the last meeting before the financial year end on 31st March. He requested permission to pay the following amounts, all of which are in this year's budget:-

- Ring-fence £1000 for the Flood Reserve. Jean Peacock suggested that the council continue to make this reserve until the total reached £10,000. All agreed.
- Pay the budgeted amount of £2000 to the Village Hall for the community outdoor concert in July.

- Pay the budgeted amount of £2000 as a sponsor of the for the annual Hurworth Country Fair.
- There is £900 in the budget for EPICH, dependent upon a project being defined. Wilma Campbell proposed a new project within the Grange grounds, for the re-development of 'Jean's Garden'. An amount of £800, as quoted by Wilma, was agreed.
- Paul Walters requested the council to purchase a pair of goal posts to replace the very old goal post on the Grange playing field. The quotation is £540 plus VAT. David Wood supported this proposal and requested that a white line machine be added to the project. A total cost of £800 plus VAT was agreed by the council.
- Peter Foster requested that the council purchase two benches to be sited near the Grange entrance. All agreed and an amount of £1500 was allocated.

196. Web site and Guest Book

Davis Wood reported that there has been 300 hits on the web site, and only one on the Guest Book.

197. Matters of Interest

1. The Chair announced that Philip Hill has resigned as chairman of the **Contingency Plan** team. The council agreed that this project be mothballed for the time being. Peter Foster agreed to this stating that the team and council would always be available if a disaster was to occur.

2. Elaine Headley reported that the **Parish Chronicle** has been printed and is already in the course of being distributed. The Chair thanked both John and Elaine for their efforts and hard work putting the Chronicle together.

3. **Knell Gate** had been discussed in the Public Participation and Actions agreed.

4. **Strait Lane parking** had been discussed in the Public Participation and Actions agreed.

5. Tees River Clean-up. After discussion, the council decided not to participate in this scheme as it posed risk to children, being too close to the river. However, the council decided to arrange a 'village clean-up'. Dorothy Oughton is to lead this project and organise the event. **Action Dorothy Oughton.**

6. Armed Forces Day. The Chair explained that the council could not donate to this fund, as it is outside Hurworth Parish. However, if an event is organised for the community, then a Section 137 award could be made. Two people have come forward offering to arrange an event on the Village Green, the preferred being a Sunday afternoon concert. The council agreed to make an award of £300 to pay for an orchestra or band. **Action Clerk**

9. Tees Valley Business Summit. Paul Walters agreed to attend this event at Peterlee to represent HPC. **Action Paul Walters**

198. Planning Applications

The Chair reported that the application for the Wedding Benue on Roundhill Road has been rejected by DBC.

Jean Peacock reported on the February applications, as follows:-

Planning Report –2nd MARCH 2017

17/00065/LBC	Strawberry Cottage Neasham Road LBC for erection of a single storey extension to the rear, erection of a detached double garage incorporating alterations to access and removal of existing outbuildings. No Comment
16/01261/PLU	14 Minster Walk Certificate of lawful use or development Conversion of garage into room. No Comment
17/00070/FUL	Land off Neasham Road opposite Lygon House Change of use to 5 Gypsy Traveller Plots (mobile home, touring caravan, utility block, hardstanding and fencing between plots). Object on the grounds of unsuitability of the land (referring to previous uses of the land as a refuse tip).
17/00007/PREAPP	. New Cottage, Oxney Flatts Farm, Croft Road Conversion of existing garage to utility and workshop and erection of single storey garage , pitched roof over front door. No Comment

199 Neighbourhood Plan working Group

David Wood reported that the team has made significant progress, and that an initial questionnaire format has been circulated to all councillors. Thanks were expressed to Nigel Goddard for the time and work he has devoted to this.

A Timeline schedule has now been drawn up, together with a work-sharing document.

Two meetings have been scheduled:

- A Questionnaire Review Meeting
- A meeting with David Nelson, DBC, to initiate the project.
- It has been agreed that the geography covered by the Hurworth Neighbourhood Plan will embrace the whole of Hurworth Parish.

Funding has been secured from the Community Rights Programme, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, who have awarded Hurworth Parish Council £5262, towards the Neighbourhood Plan production costs.

200 Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that the leaning tree near the entrance road to the Grange has been felled, and that two small beech trees will be planted to this area.

The very large tree next to the children's playground has been pollarded, and is now safe.

The Preferred Supplier with Prestige Tree Surgeon has been finalised.

Mr Foster emphasized that there is a huge number of saplings within the Grange grounds, and these can be used to fill spaces as required.

Mr Foster drew attention to the size of the willow tree opposite the Otter and Fish Inn. This has several broken branches and requires inspection and a severe pruning. It is in 'no man's land', so it was agreed that we approach DBC to see if they will take action. **Action Clerk.**

Also it was noted that the deterioration of the holding wall opposite the Otter and Fish has not been repaired, despite three calls to the inn to point out the danger. It was agreed a letter be sent to them – the land is believed to be owned by Punch Inns. **Action Clerk.**

Mr Foster asked if the council would request the developers of the new housing estate on Roundhill Road to see whether the council can name the roads on the estate; he suggested tree names. **Action Clerk.**

201. PACT Report

Paul Walters reported on the crime statistics for the two months, January and February 2017, as follows:-

Total of 5 crimes.

January

- Tools stolen from a house in The Chase
- A distraction robbery took place at a house on The Green.

February

- Sanderson Road – theft from a vehicle which had been left unlocked.
- Westfield Drive – theft from a car which had been left unlocked.
- Croft road – criminal damage to a tree.

202. Highways report

Andy Casey, DBC Highways Department provided the following update on outstanding issues in Hurworth:-

1. T junction sign is down on Neasham Road heading from the stadium to Burma Road
The sign had already been ordered and may now be erected. If not it will be erected in the next few weeks.
2. There are serious potholes outside All Saints Church and on Strait Lane
It is likely that a section of road at that end of the village will be resurfaced as part of a programme of works in the new financial year. We are awaiting confirmation of funding levels before we determine our full programme. In the interim the road will be inspected on a quarterly basis and any actionable defects will be repaired within 20 working days. It is unlikely that Strait Lane will be on this programme but as mentioned any defects will be repaired.
3. The white line has still not been repainted on Westfield Drive
What is the location of this white line? I do not recall this being an issue in the past but may be wrong. There was an issue with lining on the road between Neasham and Hurworth.

- Graham Wylie reported on the Traffic statistics for February 2017, viz:-
The speed monitors were moved during February.

February's Traffic Figures compared with those of January.

Roundhill Road incoming	Hurworth Road Outgoing
Average speed 31.9mph	Average speed 34.7mph
Maximum speed was 60mph on 4/1/2017 at 16.00	Maximum speed was 75mph on 2/2/2017 at 00.00
Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 33.2mph	Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 34.3mph
Lindon Court	Steel Bridge
Average speed 33.3mph	Average speed 32.9mph
Maximum speed was 60mph on 1/1/2017 at 8.30	Maximum speed was 60mph on 15/2/2017 at 8.00am
Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 33.5mph	Worst day for speeding is Saturday with an average speed of 33.5mph
Hurworth Road Outgoing	The Green Incoming
Average speed 34.6mph	Average speed 32.4mph
Maximum speed was 80mph on 20/1/2017 at 23.45	Maximum speed was 60mph on 15/2/2017 at 16:05
Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 34.3mph	Worst day for speeding is Monday with an average speed of 33.2mph

A farm vehicle has damaged the area at the corner of Roundhill Road, where the bollard was removed.

The parking issues at Strait Lane were addressed under Public Participation, together with the actions HPC will undertake. **Actions Clerk.**

- Carol Paylor reported as follows:-

Highways Report February 2017

- Feedback on all issues raised last month from the clerk:
 - 'T' junction sign is STILL down on Neasham Road prior to Burma Road and needs replacing;
 - White lines for first bend (near Hornby Close) on Westfield Drive.
- Potholes filled on Strait Lane and near All Saints – thank you DBC.
- Road markings throughout village need repainting. Especially at Hurworth Place with Bus-stop markings, white lines etc. Double white lines near Mustard Tree Café also.
- Letter has been drafted regarding overgrown shrubbery impeding access to footpaths. A lady made a complaint to Carol Paylor regarding overhanging bushes from the Grange towards the café on Hurworth Road. HPC have investigated and can't find any! Perhaps they've now been trimmed.
- Lamp-post along cut through between Coach Lane and Westfield Drive – a lamppost is leaning and looks unsafe. DBC investigate please.
- Cut near Primary School – gas hut needs demolishing. Has been taped off. (By whom?) The Chair reported that the owners of this box have been confirmed as the Primary School and a letter has been sent to the school asking for it to be made safe.
- Parking issues at Otter and Fish. Suggested way forward: Seek advice from DBC. Approach owners.
- Wheelie Bin Stickers are being distributed by our team of volunteers. Very positive feedback so far.
- Meeting with Cat Iley to arrange re speed camera loan.
- Dropped kerbs cracked on Roundhill Road

203. Parish Walks

Janine Forster reported that a walk is being arranged for April, from Stressholme Golf Club to Hurworth Place. This will be publicised this month, together with notices placed on the new community notice boards.

Other walks are being planned, and details will be placed on the HPC web site.

204 Allotment Report

Richard Lawley reported that all the allotment rents for 2017 have now been received.

Three plots became vacant at Strait Lane and these have been re-allocated and tenancy agreements signed.

The two new allotment notice boards have been erected, and Graham Wylie has repaired the old one at Strait Lane and has also erected this at the other end of the grounds.

The chippings have not yet been delivered to Strait Lane, but Peter Foster will make the arrangements.

There are no changes in the allotment holders at Hurworth Grange.

205. Association Reports

- Jean Peacock attended the DAPC meeting, and reported as follows:-

DARLINGTON ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS **1ST March 2017**

Facebook was discussed again but no progress seems to have been made.

Peter Foster 25 year award – has Peter been given an award?

David Nelson from the DBC gave a very long presentation on Local Planning for the period of 2016 – 2036. Building development and future development of the area were discussed in great detail and plans were given to give us a rough idea of the future planning in the Darlington area.

- Peter Foster had attended the CDALC meeting in Durham; full details have been circulated via Steve Ragg.
- Wilma Campbell distributed the EPICH maps of Hurworth walks to the councillors. These will be distributed to all the schools and public outlets.
- David Wood stated that Mark Middlemiss has offered to enter into discussions about establishing a graveyard in Hurworth. A working party will be set up to investigate this project. A member of the church will be invited to join the team. It was agreed that the team will comprise David Wood, Mark Middlemiss, Peter Foster and the Clerk
- Janine Forster reported that tiles are missing from the bus shelter roof opposite the dentist surgery. **Action Clerk.**
- Carol Paylor reminded the council that there is an Easter event being organised at Hurworth Grange, mainly for the younger people.

The chair closed the meeting at 10:35pm

