

Hurworth Parish Council

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

340. Those present: Graham Wylie (Chair), Margaret Williams Paul Walters, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock. Dorothy Oughton, Elaine Hedley, Wilma Campbell

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 6 members of the public.

341. Apologies for absence

Richard Lawley, Janine Forster,

342. Declarations of Interests

Jean Peacock - HCA

Graham Wylie - Allotments

Wilma Campbell - HCA, EPICH

343. Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

The Chair announced that there will be an election on 30th November to elect the two new councillors. The closing date for candidate registration is Friday 3rd November.

The council is required to hold a Finance Working Party meeting to review the financial projections and to determine the Precept for 2018. The date of the meeting will be 15th November at 7 pm and this is a closed meeting. All councillors are urged to come prepared with suggestions for projects to be addressed within the next two years.

The Annual General Meeting of the Allotments Committee will be held on Wednesday, 29th November at 7:00pm. This is open to all allotment holders.

344. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 The Minutes having been distributed were accepted by the council. Proposed by Margaret Williams and Seconded by Paul Walters.

345. Matters Arising

1. Community Notice Boards.

Paul Walters said that he has talked to several residents about the positioning of the third notice board near the bus stop and the Green opposite the Spar shop. He has received negative reactions, and, therefore, does not recommend siting it there.

The most acceptable location will be within the grounds of Hurworth Grange, displaying on the main road.

Mark Middlemiss, from the public gallery said that this notice board should be located at the Otter and Fish end of the village, either on the main road entering the village or on the green area outside the Otter and Fish Inn. Jean Peacock and several other councillors supported this view. Paul Walters agreed to re-visit the issue and report back.

2. Halloween Party

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

Halloween Party.

The Halloween Party held on Sunday 22nd October in the Fletcher Hall was a big success. The Hall had been tastefully decorated with tables adorned with pumpkins and lanterns. One hundred and fifty children and adults dressed as witches, ghouls etc. attended. Unfortunately some people missed out as the free tickets were quickly snapped up!

During the first section Professor Nincompoop engaged the children with musical games and dances. After hotdogs, drinks and sweets the children and adults were then entertained with the Professor's magical tricks.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event. There was 100% positive feedback on the day and more comments on the Hurworth Together Facebook page.

Future ideas and suggestions:-

- organise a "best dressed" parade
- charge £7 per family ticket or £2.50 per child, adults free as they supervise
- run two events on same day then only one set up cost (this would avoid disappointment due to restricted numbers)
- room decoration as it was beautiful and quite formal assisted in children behaving really well. It didn't feel like a community centre and was worth the expense in my view.
- advertise bar open on posters and sign in room and entertainer to speak over Mic

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a successful and enjoyable event.

3. A meeting with Bellway Homes is to be arranged, when the Head Engineer and Sales Director are available. The sales director stated that construction will start in February 2018, a portable office will be erected initially and when the first house is completed a Show House will be opened.

4. The questionnaires for the Neighbourhood Plan have been printed and delivery to residences is in progress.

5. The comments about cigarette ends have been reported to the Grange Bar Manager and he has assured us that suitable bins are in place.

6. The plaque on The Green has been inspected and will be cleaned and the wording probably painted.

7. We have put in a reminder request for a litter bin to be placed between the Academy and the Spar shop.

8.

346. Public Participation

There was further support for the community notice board to be located near the Otter and Fish Inn. This was acknowledged.

347. Police report

Paul Walters made the following report:-

October 2017

Burglary – Hurworth Road – outer building broken into, drill charger and leaf blower stolen.

Criminal Damage – Snipe Lane – damage to signs by the road – small holes in the signs.

Westfield Drive – Plants from a garden have been dug out and thrown in the middle of the road.

Snipe Lane – Male shooting at CCTV cameras in the area.

The Wayside – Broken window of a property.

ASB - two incidents

Friars Pardon – Youths throwing stones at properties – no damaged caused

Paddock Lane – Youths throwing stones at passing cars - no damaged caused.

Theft - two incidents

Snipe Lane – Theft of golf flags from the grounds

Grange Avenue – Some copper piping and an old boiler stolen from the back yard.

Animals / Wildlife – no incidents

Other / Suspicious –one report

Belgrave Terrace – Someone has tried to open the door at victim's property, with no luck they walked off, the victim did not see who it might have been.

348. Tree Report

Peter Foster gave the following update:-

There are approximately 1000 trees in Hurworth Parish, including those in Hurworth Grange. Recent winds have been very strong, gusting at 70mph. Having inspected most areas, Cllr Foster is pleased to report that there has been no substantial damage.

There has been some natural deterioration to Elder trees along the pathway near the Glebe, and ten trees are actually dead, and require removal. They have been standing in water for lengthy periods and have suffered badly from the drainage limitations.

A cherry tree which proved to be internally dead, has been felled as it had become dangerous, in the Grange grounds.

The ancient oak tree in the Grange has been properly pruned and is in a healthy condition. This tree is thought to be 400 years old. The chippings have been used for the pathway at the Strait Lane allotments.

349 Open Spaces and EPICH Reports

Wilma Campbell gave the following report:-

October

OPEN SPACES

The original plaque on the Green informing visitors of the burial of plague victims there is being cleaned up and if necessary the engraved lettering will be painted to make it more visible and easier to read.

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

EPICH/HCA

The all weather pathway has been completed. K Sandick has received lots of positive feedback from the community and in particular from people who now find it much easier to access certain areas of the estate.

Eight hundred pounds remaining from the budget has been put aside to fund a maintenance programme for the future.

Our grant application to Awards for All for additional funding of £50,000 by inclusion in the People's Project has not been successful as we were not shortlisted.

EPICH

EPICH are continuing with their bulb planting this Autumn. Daffodils lifted from Jean's Garden will be replanted along the sides of the new pathway at the Grange. Suggested sites from residents in various parts of the village will also be included.

In November, with permission from HCA, step over apple trees will be planted along the Heritage orchard side of the new pathway. This will enhance the orchard and introduce added interest to the walkway.

Also in November, a sandstone circle will be constructed at the end of the pathway in Jean's Garden. The garden seat will be placed securely on top and the memorial stone moved nearer to the seat. This feature will hopefully provide a quiet, contemplative area for people to use.

350 PLANNING REPORT

Jean Peacock reported:-

Planning Report – 2nd NOVEMBER 2017.

17/00958/FUL18 THE CHASE

Erection of single storey extension to rear.

17/00952/TFC24 THE GREEN

Tree works in conservation area in accordance with Arborist report .

17/00997/TF SEVEN TREES, 5 CROFT ROAD

Works to Ash Tree (TPO) cutting back all branches to leave a central pillar to act as support.

17/00824/FUL Hurworth Community Centre Extension permission has been

given for the building of the extension.

351. Highways report

Margaret Williams gave the following report:-Highways report October 2017

The road between the Otter and Fish and the Chip Shop in the village has been well repaired in the last few days. We have now put in a request for the uneven pavements in that area to be repaired too.

Requests have also been put in to the DBC re the 'double' lamp posts numbers 293 and 292 on the path between Roundhill Road and the Primary school where new posts have been put up but the old ones have yet to be removed.

Re The excessive parking on Westfield Drive on the corner near the Priory School and the parking in the turn around cul de sac at the entrance to the Primary School. Several complaints have been made regarding these problems and attempts are being made to speak to the management at the Priory as a starting point but, so far, we have not had a response from the school regarding a meeting time.

The traffic data from the monitors are still showing the same trends as before. The one opposite the Academy on Hurworth Road still show that almost 50% of drivers exceed the 35 mph speed limit. This has always been a cause for concern regarding the implementation of traffic calming measures and continues to do so.

The monitor readings are as follows for the month of October:-

Roundhill Road Incoming:-

% drivers exceeding the 30 mph speed limit-24.9 %

Average speeder speed 33.0 mph

Max speed recorded 65 mph on 20/10/2017 @ 23.15 hrs

A167 Linden Court:-

% drivers exceeding the 30 mph speed limit-31%

Average speeder speed 33.4 mph

Max speed recorded 60mph on 2/ 10/2017 @ 00.15 hrs

Hurworth Road opposite the Academy:-

% drivers exceeding the 30 mph speed limit-44%

Average speeder speed 34.6mph

Max speed recorded 80mph on 28/10/2017 @21.00

We have previously asked DBC to extend the double yellow lines on Roundhill Road from Carvers office to beyond the Electricity sub-station to alleviate the congestion and chaos caused at busy times at the Spar shop junction. This request has been made again.

Regarding extra lines limiting times for the unloading of stock for the Spar shop to specific times, this has been requested of the DBC before and was refused because the area would have to be manned to enforce the restrictions.

Peter Foster, supplemented by other councillors reported problems about the road signs on Neasham Road and Roundhill Road, the following signs need attention:-

The sign on Roundhill Road approaching the 'T' junction

The sign on Burma Road to Neasham Road near Eurojag – the sign is leaning dangerously.

The major road sign between the top of Roundhill Road and the 166 is almost completely covered.

The sign near Lygon House is in the hedge.

The signpost at the top of Roundhill Road is pointing in the wrong direction.

Action: Clerk to talk to Andy Casey and request an inspection of the signs and remedial actions.

2. SpeedWatch Training

Elaine Hedley reported that a training session has been held, but only two new volunteers attended.

A SpeedWatch session was conducted near the Comet Inn, and only two vehicles had exceeded the limit.

3. It appears that several of the volunteers are not active at present. This may be because Carol Paylor, who was co-ordinating the project, has left. Elaine agreed to take over as co-ordinator, assisted by Dorothy Oughton.

352 Newsletter

Elaine Hedley reported that the October newsletter has been printed and that the Parish Chronicle is being delivered by the church volunteers this week.

353. Allotment Report

Paul Walters reported:-

There is an article in this edition of the Parish Chronicle that residents who would like an allotment at Strait Lane should make their application now. The year-end often brings vacancies, and they should place their names on the Waiting List.

The skip was delivered to Strait Lane allotments on 29th October and quickly filled.

The chippings from the old oak tree have been deployed onto the pathways. More chippings are required.

Mrs Powles spoke from the public gallery saying that she has attended a meeting with the council regarding the tenancy of plot 10b. It was established that this plot is registered to another person, who has apparently left the parish but who has not notified the council.

Several attempts have been made to contact the tenant, but have not been successful. The council, and Mrs Powles, agreed that as Mrs Powles was noted as a 'helper' on this plot, it was mutually agreed that she will continue with the upkeep of this allotment for the remainder of this year (2017). At the year end the current tenancy of this plot will be terminated. The Chair indicated that Mrs Powles may be allocated this plot from 1st January 2018.

It was agreed that the eviction notice given to Mrs Powles for 10b be withdrawn to allow her to tend the plot until the year end.

Mrs Powles then requested the council to withdraw their comments in the press which stated that another person on the Waiting List had been denied from being allocated allotment 10b. The Chair responded by saying the statement he had made was true, since the allotment in question is, in fact, not registered in the name of Mrs Powles.

354. Neighbourhood Plan.

In the absence of Richard Lawley there was no report.

355. Matters of Interest

1. Hurworth Primary School

Paul Walters read out a request for a Section 127 award for the school, which wished to create a Story Telling facility. a motion to award £300 was made by Paul Walters and seconded by Dorothy Oughton to award £300 towards the purchase of a Story Chair. This was carried unanimously

2. Priory Hurworth House School

There have been many complaints about parking problems around the school and a meeting is urgently required. The school has just had half term, so a date will now be arranged. It is hoped to arrange a meeting starting after 4:00pm so the Chair and Ward Councillor can attend.

356 Accounts for Payment

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

Accounts for Payment as at 31st October 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hurworth Juniors F.C.	102941	Section 137 award	1000.00
Hurworth Primary School	102942	Pending	
C Paylor - Halloween Party	102943	Party gifts	38.38
***	102944	Pending	
J Hedley print cartridge	102945	Admin expenses	14.49
J Redfern (Harrisons) Flagpol	102946	Flagpole repairs	84.00
Halloween Party expenses	102947	Party expenses section 137	320.00
Royal British Legion	102948	Wreath	20.00
Viking	102949	Stationary	220.28
G Johnston Tree Surgeons	102950	Treework	598.50
Bob Iles	102951	Salary	433.25
P D Allan	102952	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102953	PAYE	175.60
P D Allan	102954	Admin Exs Norton Antivirus software	198.91
B Green	102955	Allotment grass cutting	20.00
HCA	102956	Church newsletter	60.00
MT Print	102957	Parish Chronicle	690.00
HCA Receipt		Reversal	-111.36
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	25.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	13.75

Total Expenditure for October 2017

4325.58

357. Financial report to 31st October 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.

The Clark reminded all councillors to prepare their project suggestions for the Finance Meeting on 15th November.

358. HPC web site and guestbook

The Chair reported that this month's message focused on the dog spray project, and both complaints and positive comments had been logged.

359. Association Reports

1. Peter Foster has attended the CDALC Meeting, and stated that the information from the meeting has already been distributed to all councillors by the Clerk.
2. The Clerk reported that he had attended the Durham Association of Allotment Associations in Carville. He had managed to have a discussion with the Head of the Legal section of the National Association, who has also attended. The Clerk has started a dialogue with their Legal Section, and requested that HPC rejoin the National Association of Allotments, the annual fee being £55. The council agreed.

360. Any Other Business (non financial)

The Chairman announced that the council would hold a Christmas Party, the date being set in December is to be arranged. Nobody opposed this announcement.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm