

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 1st June 2017 starting at 7:00pm.

253 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), Paul Walters, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Richard Lawley, Dorothy Oughton, Elaine Hedley

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 5 members of the public.

254. Apologies for absence

David Wood (Holiday), Carol Paylor (Holiday), Wilma Campbell - Holiday), Graham Wylie (Holiday). Cllr Joe Kelley (Holiday).

255. Declaration of Interests

Jean Peacock HCA

255 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

- The Annual Assembly was at Hurworth Grange on Friday, 19th May. The Chair thanked the Clerk and the staff of Hurworth Grange for their efforts in making the event very successful. Representatives from All Saints Church, Hurworth Village Hall, HCA, The Mustard Tree Cafe and Methodist Church, Tees River Trust, Virgin Broadband, Rockcliffe Hall Hotel, Rockcliffe Cricket Club, Hurworth Rogers Trust and Parish and Ward councillors all had tables and talked to the public. In total 93 people registered their attendance. The main theme was the launch of the neighbourhood Plan and the presentations focused on this subject. Cllr David Wood made the keynote presentation, outlining the process and timescale for the Plan to be developed, concluding next May with a referendum for the Plan's adoption.

256. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2017 The Minutes having been distributed were accepted by the council. Proposed by Dorothy Oughton and Seconded by Elaine Hedley.

257. Matters Arising

1. Village Clean-Up. Dorothy Oughton reported that the event was scheduled for Saturday, 27th May, and about thirty people turned up at the Green to assist, and children assembled at Hurworth Grange. Sadly, StreetScene did not arrive and deliver the litter picking equipment, so the event had to be postponed. It was an excellent turnout, and most people said they would come again on the rescheduled date. Following this report, Dorothy Oughton suggested that HPC should purchase the equipment, this being defined as 20 Pickers, 30 Hoops, 30 pairs of gloves and 1 Sharp Box.

The meeting requested the Clerk to obtain a quotation, and a decision will be taken at the next PC Meeting. **Action Clerk**

It was further agreed that if the total cost is under £500, the Clerk should purchase the items.

Dorothy Oughton reported that the dog spray operation was working well, and that there is evidence of improvement in the cleanliness of the roads and pathways.

258. Public Participation

Mr Don Nichol, speaking on behalf of three residents of Strait Lane, requested an update on their parking problems and suggested alterations to the grass area in front of their houses.

The Chair read out Minute 241 from the May Parish Council meeting, which stated that DBC has responded in an E Mail to Cllr Joe Kelley, stating that they will not consider any changes to this grass area.

Paul Walters reiterated that he and the Clerk had held a meeting with the Head of Street Scene, and they had said that they could not consider the modifications, in their case due to cost constraints, and well as trip risk to a mesh solution.

The Parish Council has also received objections to the suggested changes to the grass area, and messages have been received in the Parish drop Box.

HPC has closed this issue, but Cllr Tosteven has agreed to try to set up a meeting between the residents and DBC.

259. Allotment Report

Paul Walters said there was nothing to report.

260. Planning Applications

Jean Peacock reported:-

Planning Report – 1st JUNE 2017

Croft House – Yorvic Homes have a sign to say 6 Executive houses to be built on the site which is what planning permission was originally passed for.(23/4/15 - 13/01001/FUL).

16/01174/NMA	Rockliffe Hall Hotel Non Material Amendment of Planning Permission 16/01174/FUL.
17/00303/TF	8 The Chase Fell one tree T.P.O.
17/00343/TF	West Wing, 4 Blind Lane Tree work under T.P.O.
17/00410/FUL	2 West End Erection of Wooden Portal Over Garden Gate.
17/00001/APPREF	Field at OSGR E430340 N512157 Roundhill Rd. Appeal of refusal of Planning 16/01210/FUL Wedding Venue.

16/00849/NMA	Abbey Farm Cottage, Neasham Road Hurworth Moor 916/00849/ful (9.11.16) For replacement of timber windows to uvpc.
17/00238/FUL	8 Hurworth Road (Station Hotel) Conversion of vacant pub to two dwellings and Erection of 2 dwellings in rear car park.
17/00442/FUL	Orchard Garden Croft Road Conversion of garage into habitable annexe to main house.

261. Tree Report

Cllr Peter Foster reported that a number of trees in the Grange need attention. The branches on one tree are hitting the roof of the Fletcher Hall, and could do damage, while another is touching the windows of the outhouses. Some other trees need cutting back, but none of them require felling. In total about ten trees require attention. A quotation of £895 has been obtained from Prestige Tree Surgeons, less our ten percent; this was accepted by the council, Proposed by Richard Lawley and Seconded by Elaine Hedley. **The Clerk will arrange for the work to be carried out.** A suggestion by Janine Forster for some additional trees to be planted, included a tree on Manorfield, was rejected, as Manorfield is DBC land and we already have an abundance of trees in the Parish.

Cllr Foster suggested that the council has a field trip at the next meeting to see some very old oak trees, which must be preserved, but require maintenance. The council agreed to look at these trees.

262. Highways

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

Traffic analysis May 2017

Location -Outside Academy on Hurworth Road

Average speed 31.9 mph

Average speeder 33.4 mph

What is of concern is that 47.2% of drivers exceed the speed limit

Location- Steel Bridge from Neasham

Average speed 27.4 mph

Average speeder 33.4 mph

27.5% of drivers exceed the speed limit

Location- Linden Court on A167

Average speed 30.6 mph

Average speeder 33.5 mph

30.6% drivers exceeded the speed limit

Peter Foster expressed his concerns about the road signage at the main junctions onto Neasham Road, specifically from Strait Lane and onto the main road at Neasham, The road signs have worn away and require repainting. **Action Clerk.**

The bus stop sign outside the pharmacy is leaning badly, and needs re-positioning.
Action Clerk.

The chevrons outside the Mustard Tree Cafe require re-painting. **Action Clerk.**

263. Pathways and Parish Walks

Janine Forster reported:-

There have now been three walks, all interesting and covering Neasham and Hurworth. The walk on Sunday, 30th May was well supported, and the attendance is now picking up as the word is spreading. Facebook is attracting new people, and the E Mail data base is expanding. More posters will be produced and the new community notice boards will advertise the forthcoming walks.

There are two walks already planned for June, and two for July. It is important that the Hurworth Parish walks are reported and placed on record, so that the right of way is preserved. All are welcome on these walks, most also welcome dogs.

264. Press Officer

The meeting thanked Richard Lawley for his superb first edition of the Village Calendar, which appeared in this month's All Saints Church newsletter.

The council has agreed to take four pages each month in the church newsletter, provided the church PCC agree, and will show all the current month's activities, plus the annual calendar of future events scheduled, with event details advertised, where appropriate.

Richard also agreed to take over from Peter Allan as the Editor for the D & S Times and Northern Echo.

265. Newsletter - Parish Chronicle.

Elaine reported that most of the material has now been received, and the remaining articles need to be sent to her by 4th June. The newsletter will go to print within another week, and then delivery will need to be arranged.

266. Matters of Interest

1. Hurworth Grange building extension

The Chair reported that the grant application for £10,000 has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund.

2. Best Council Award.

NALC are operating an evaluation of various aspects of town and parish councils, one of which is the judging of 'Best Council'. It was agreed by the council that Hurworth will enter this competition, as we are leaders in many fields, certainly within the North east area.

Action Clerk.

3. Training

The Chair informed the councillors of the training available for councillors within the next three months. Certain councillors agreed to attend appropriate courses, and their names will be submitted by the Clerk. Absent councillors will be made aware of the training available.

Action Clerk.

4. Parent and Child Together (PACT NE).

PACT is one of the UK's leading independent adoption agencies, placing children with secure and loving families and supporting them with specialist therapeutic support. Our award-winning FACTS service includes counselling, Theraplay, creative art therapy and life story work which help children to overcome difficulties in childhood, adolescence and early adulthood which have resulted from early trauma and neglect.

PACT also runs community projects supporting vulnerable children and adults facing a range of issues including domestic abuse, homelessness and debt.

Jean Peacock and Margaret Williams attended an Open Day session at the six lodges on Neasham Road, and were impressed by the objectives and dedication of this group. Land has been donated to PACT, and they have constructed six dwellings, which are being used for deserving cases. Jean Peacock would like the council to make a donation (Section 137 Award) to PACT; The Chair handed out booklets and asked all councillors to read the information, so that a decision can be made at the next PC Meeting.

5. The Chair reminded the council that they had agreed to prepare and install two plaques recording historical information about the village. One will be installed near Knell Gate and the other in the grass area near Lych Gate. Cllr Peter Foster agreed to prepare the historical facts.

6. It was agreed that the council will purchase a Red Ensign flag to express support for the Merchant Navy. This will be flown on 3rd September on Merchant Navy Day, and the council will arrange short ceremony for the hoisting of the flag. **Paul Walters offered to arrange the event. Action Clerk to purchase the flag - cost £49.**

267. Police Report

Paul Walters reported that he has received some information from our new PCSO (Patrick), but it does not contain the many details, and is not as complete as previous PACT reports.

April statistics:-

Burglaries	1
Anti-Social reported incidents	2 - One concerning quad bikes, one for excessive noise and aggressive attitude.
Theft	1. Cash stolen.

May statistics

Theft	1 - pedal cycle stolen
Damage	1 Caravan damaged
Antisocial behaviour	2 - Excessive noise of revving car - Misbehaving children
Other Theft	1 Two horses missing, believed stolen
Other	1 - llama loose on Roundhill Road,

Paul reported that the Police PACT page on the police web site is not up to date, and hence recent incidents are not readily available. He is trying to get this rectified

268. 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 31st May 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
J Spence Tarmac	102857	J Spence Tarmac	600.00
J T Atkinson	102858	J T Atkinson	101.64
Skipbridge Signs	102859	Skipbridge Signs	108.00
H. G. Soc Club buffet	102860	H. G. Soc Club buffet	280.00
Zurich Insurance	102861	Zurich Insurance	275.69
Cumbria Clock Co.	102862	Cumbria Clock Co.	150.00
G Wylie Honorarium	102891	G Wylie Honorarium	100.00
Gordon Fletcher	102892	Gordon Fletcher	250.00
M Harrison Eden Landscapes	102893	M Harrison Eden Landscapes	445.00
Cancelled	102894	Cancelled	0.00
Tees River Trust	102895	Tees River Trust	1000.00

Team Valley Print	102896	Team Valley Print	93.60
B Green	102897	B Green	50.00
Boyd Sports	102898	Boyd Sports	58.20
Eden Landscapes	DD	Eden Landscapes	175.00
Bob Iles	102900	Bob Iles	418.85
P D Allan	102901	P D Allan	522.48
Inland Revenue	102902	Inland Revenue	174.80
P D Allan - Bookers	102903	P D Allan - Bookers	188.59
P D Allan	102904	P D Allan	246.08
HCA	102905	HCA	60.00
TalkTalk	DD	TalkTalk	13.86
TalkTalk	DD	TalkTalk	25.20
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	TalkTalk	14.79
Total for May 2017			5356.38

269. Financial Report to 31st May 2017

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councillors was presented at the meeting.

See addendum.

The Accounts have now been submitted to the external auditors, BDO.

270. HPC Guestbook and Parish web site.

Richard Lawley reported that there are no new messages in the drop Box.

David Wood has now taken over as the Communications Administrator, and will arrange first level support. He intends to give similar access rights to Richard Lawley, when arrangements have been finalised with Namesco and Spanglefish.

John Hedley will be providing access to Richard Lawley, who will be able to update the Parish web site with calendar and event information.

271 Association reports

Elaine Hedley attended the Small and Medium Sized Council meeting and reported as follows:-

SMALL COUNCIL MEETING ON THE 25th MAY AT PETERLEE SHOTTON HALL

To begin with we had to vote in a Chairman and a Vice Chairman Ralph Harrison was voted in as Chair and Michael Taylor as Vice.

Council Training was discussed. Have we had the information if not it is my notes.

Code of Conduct has been revised Do we adopt it? See notes if necessary.

How often do we meet with Darlington Council? Durham Parishioners have difficulty meeting up with Durham Council. They often cancel but do not make another date.

Steve Rag's salary was paid historically by Durham County Council, this has now ceased due to budget cuts. The question was raised as to the best way to resolve the issue. Steve Rag's job may change, see notes. Basically do we want him to work less hours. If we do not want him to work less then several options exist:

CDALC have £90,000 in the Bank. Out of 103 parishes 101 have paid their money. How much do we pay to CDALC?

OPTION 1: Our subscription would have to rise in order to fully cover the shortfall between his salary and the subscriptions raised. A figure of 30% was mentioned.

At this point Steve left the room so we could discuss the problem. Someone mentioned that Durham City might be turning into a Parish if that was to happen they would bring a lot more money into our association. The larger councils had agreed a rise in subscription. But obviously some smaller council cannot afford it. However they would not make a decision until they had talked about with their Council.

OPTION 2: A second option would be to use some of the money out of the £90,000 then increase the subscriptions in 2/3years time, as by that time Durham City may have joined. We also asked if some sort of investment could be investigated as some thought that all that money should not be lying dormant. It's going to be brought back to council as an agenda item next time.

OPTION 3: Leave the subscriptions as they are and run down the £90,000 paying off the difference.

All local Councils will be asked to vote on the matter.

Then Clerks of council were discussed. Apparently their Contract for Employment is to change but it does not affect present employees. New Contract will state 20 days employment and 8 bank holidays. Clerks are not happy. NALC, ALCC, Unison, GMB are making noises. The National Committee have been told to vote against it. So it has been differed.

The next meeting is on 27th July at Blackhall at the Welfare Centre.

The council discussed the report and expressed their appreciation and the value which Steve Ragg and CDALC give to this council. They agreed, unanimously, to accept an increase of 30% in the annual fees, which equates to £130 per annum. **Action Clerk to advise CDALC.**

272. Any Other Business (Non-financial).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15pm

