

Hurworth Parish Council

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

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

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 7 members of the public.

294. Apologies for absence

None – all present.

295. Declaration of Interests

Jean Peacock HCA

Wilma Campbell HCA and EPICH

Graham Wylie Allotments

296 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

He expressed his hope that councillors had enjoyed their break and were now ready for the next set of challenges.

297. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 The Minutes having been distributed were accepted by the council. Proposed by Graham Wylie, and Seconded by Dorothy Oughton

298. Matters Arising

1. Plaques. Margaret Williams reported that two plaques have now been installed. One at Lychgate and the other on the gate at Knell Gate. The plaques tell the history behind the two names and look very smart with gold lettering on a black background.

2. Community Notice Boards.

The Chair reported that the two notice boards which are installed are working well and it is now time to make a decision on where to place the third unit. During the recess, councillors had been asked to consider the location, and, after a brief decision, it was decided to install it on the verge opposite Strawberry Cottage, on the roadside between the Otter and Fish Inn and Newbus Grange. There needs to be enquires regarding the land ownership, and permission to install it there. Also Paul Walters stated that the installation will be difficult due to the hard ground a specific location.

3. The Chair announced that the council has received letters of thanks from Hurworth Village Hall for the award made to them for the community event – the Outdoor Concert, which had attracted almost 1000 people.

A thank you was also received from PACT NE on Neasham Road, to whom the council had awarded a £300 donation.

299 Public Participation

A resident enquired whether DBC were going to carry out road repairs on Strait Lane, which is poor condition. The council responded that we have not been informed, but did believe that some repairs would be done within the next week or on 23th October, when further road works are scheduled.

There were no other matters raised by the public.

300. Open Spaces and EPICH Report

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

OPEN SPACES

The bench situated in Goblin's Wood has been removed and placed outside the Bay Horse.

All the parish benches will be inspected and repaired if necessary during the autumn months.

In Avon Close and Strait Lane allotments, hedges have been cut back and tidied up.

EPICH

Planning permission for the all-weather pathway at the Grange has been granted by DBC. K Pattison and P Allan need to be congratulated for all the time and effort they have spent in dealing with estimates, completing paperwork and liaising with several DBC departments over the last few months. Construction will begin on 20th September, after the Country Fair and should be completed by 11th October. Ken Pattison will act as project manager.

As a follow up from the grant application for the all-weather pathway at the Grange, Awards for All have recently been in touch to inform us that this community project is being given the opportunity to win additional funding up to the value of £50,000 by inclusion in the People's Projects 2018.

This would involve EPICH/HCA submitting either a five hundred word scrip or a short three minute video explaining ...

What our project has achieved so far

How it would be developed with the £50,000 to make our community a better place

How we would involve our community and bring people together.

The People's Projects is run via an online entry form, if shortlisted a television broadcast and then a public vote. The projects with the most votes will secure funding from the Big Lottery Fund. EPICH /HCA will register their interest in this opportunity to find out more details.

Fresh honey will be available to buy from the EPICH stall at the Country Fair.

Concerns about ragwort in the wildflower meadow have been acted upon. These plants must have self-seeded as they were not included in the original seed mix. They have been cut back to avoid seed dispersal and treated with weed killer. As ragwort is biannual the procedure may have to be repeated next year.

301. Allotment Report

Paul Walters reported:-

The grass has been cut regularly at Strait Lane and the external pathway has also been cut back to allow easier passageway. Some chippings have been received and used on the internal and external pathways.

One allotment holder has surrendered their plot and this has been re-assigned.

Sadly, one allotment holder has been asked to vacate their plot. This is because the allotment holder has indicated that they will not accept the Council's rules and regulations, as set out along with the Tenancy Agreement. After several communications, and their attendance at the April 2017 PC Meeting when they addressed the Council, a solution could not be found, and it is thought that the allotment holder is more likely to find an allotment elsewhere which will accommodate their specific requirements. This plot will be re-assigned on 1st October 2017.

The two 'Private Property' notices have been erected at Strait Lane.

The excess vegetable initiative has been discontinued due to lack of interest from allotment holders.

All plots are taken and there are seven persons on the Strait Lane waiting List; the Grange allotments are full and the Waiting List is closed.

Paul Walters also reported that the council has received a Freedom of Information request regarding the council's Equalities Impact Assessment. David Wood recommended that, before sending the document, we should have it checked by Luke Swinhoe, Head of Legal Affairs, DBC, to ensure our legislation details are current.

Cllr Kelley stated that this is not a mandatory document for Parish Councils in relation to allotments, which are basically used for gardening purposes. **Action Clerk** to check with DBC before responding to the requester, we have 20 working days to provide the information.

302. Planning Report

Jean Peacock reported as follows:

Planning Report – 7th SEPTEMBER 2017

17/00635/FUL 1 Bank Top Cottages

Single storey extension to the side to provide 2 additional

Bedrooms and a single garage.

Granted 22/08/17

17/00665/CON Bellway development

Approval of details reserved by Condition 4 (affordable housing)

Of Planning permission 16/00886/OUT

Granted 19/07/17

17/00654/FUL Hurworth Community Centre

Replacement of existing woodchip path with hard surfaced accessible path.

Granted 25/08/17

17/00623/FUL Land North Brickyard Farm Neasham Road

15 Holiday chalets – change of use of Land.

Letter has been sent to DBC to object.

17/00719/LBC 5 Tees View

Replace 3 UVPC windows with timber framed double glazed

Units in rear.

17/00649/TFC 7 Croft Road

Trimming trees – driveway and fell two cherry trees.

Granted 6/08/17

17/00754/FUL Rockliffe Hotel

Erection of timber frame toilet block for guests using new Play area (retrospective Application)

17/00675/PLU 4 Grange Avenue

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed development – conversion of garage into habitable accommodation.

17/00769/LBC Newbus Arms Hotel

LBC for replacement/repair of existing timber windows and the fitting of secondary glazing.

Cllr Tostevin updated the council about the Bellway Homes application. There appears to have been some misunderstanding about the delivery of statutory notices to all residents within the immediate area. However, as there was only one complaint, the application should go ahead.

David Wood suggest that the council should accept the situation and move on, but Carol Paylor proposed that the council should lodge their dissatisfaction that the proper procedure has not been followed. The vote was taken and carried by 7 votes to 4 in favour of lodging a complaint. **Action Clerk to lodge the complaint.**

The Chair advised the meeting that he council has received a potential claim from a resident who claims that tree roots have caused damage to his house at 16 Eden Close. The clerk has sent a copy of the letter and details to Zurich Insurance advising them of this matter. Peter Foster stated that the trees in question were initially planted by DBC to mark the green belt boundary. Correspondence shows that some of the original trees died of Dutch Elm Disease, and new trees were planted in 1993. HPC has carried out maintenance on some trees in this wood, from time to time, upon request from residents.

The Clerk was asked to contact DBC to establish who has the responsibility for these trees.

The Clerk will respond to the claimant that we are investigating the circumstances.

303. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that a lot of work has been necessary during July and August, particularly within Hurworth Grange, where several trees became a danger and have had to be felled.

The activities are summarised in the invoice received from G. Johnston, who have carried out the work. The details are as follows:-

To remove the dead top sections from 3 beech trees in the Grange, £630 two of these trees required felling completely, extra £200 per tree to fell, total for the 3 beech trees £1030.00 to fell a dead sycamore tree along the path at the back of the football field £285. To reduce the large beech tree in Goblin's wood as it is shedding branches £450.00

£1,765.00 less 10%, £176.50, net invoice total £1,588.50

The council discussed the condition of the trees, then voted, unanimously, that the invoice be passed for payment. (Peter Foster did not vote, because of a possible interest).

304. Highways

Carol Paylor reported that DBC has carried out remedial road work on Roundhill Road, while the road was closed for four days. Work is now being carried out on Neasham Road. Resurfacing a part of the main road outside the Emerson Arms is scheduled for 23rd October.

It is understood that some work will also be done on Strait Lane, but no road closure has been announced.

There are new residents who would like to enrol into the Speed Watch team, and training is required. **Action Clerk to make arrangements with Durham Police.**

Margaret Williams presented the Traffic Statistics for July and August, using the following data:-

Highways report

Speed monitor report Hurworth parish council

July 2017

Monitor Linden Court A167 Hurworth place

% vehicles over speed limit -30% Average speeder speed -33.5 mph
Max speed recorded - 65 mph on 7/7/2017 @ 21.50

August 2017

% vehicles over speed limit -32.5 % Average speeder speed -33.5 mph
Max speed recorded 60 mph on 3/8/2017 @ 21.00

Monitor Hurworth Road nr Academy towards Hurworth Place

July 2017

% vehicles-over speed limit -43% Average speeder speed 33.5mph
Max speed recorded 70 mph on 25/7/2017 @ 12.35

August 2017

% vehicles over speed limit - 49% Average speeder speed 34.2 mph
Max speed recorded 65 mph on 4/8/2017 @ 15.00

Monitor Roundhill Rd incoming

July 2017

% vehicles over speed limit -25% Average speeder speed 33.1 mph
Max speed recorded 60 mph on 15/7/2017 @ 15.20

August 2017

% vehicles over speed limit - 27% Average speeder speed 33.1mph
Max speed recorded 55 mph on 3/8/2017 @ 5.30

As always the Hurworth Rd monitor outside the Academy are the results showing excessive speeding with, on average, 46 % of all drivers exceeding the speed limit. This is the area where we are continually asking for some traffic calming or reduction of the present speed limit of 30 mph

On a different note-there has been a mixed reaction from residents to the filling of potholes on Roundhill Road and the filling in and marking of the roadside edges. Although the repairs may not be considered to have been completed at the 'right time' given the fact that there is likely to be much more heavy traffic on the road due to the proposed building of the new estate, we are fortunate the DBC has carried out the repairs as requested by the Parish Council some time ago. At this time most requested repairs have been executed by DBC.

Elaine Hedley reported that the team has carried out further Speed checks, and was pleased to report that only two vehicles had been found to be breaking the speed limit at Linden Court(A167).

David Wood reintroduced the suggestion that HPC should consider installing registration recognition speed cameras. It was agreed that detailed information and costs should be obtained. **Action Clerk to collect this information.**

Cllr Tostevin related to the meeting that the police have carried out a speed monitoring exercise, with covert cameras on Neasham Road. The results showed that the average speed along that particular stretch of road had been determined as between 43 and 45 mph; the speed limit being 60mph.

Peter Foster could not believe these figures, and Cllr Tostevin agreed to try to arrange a second check.

Cllr Tostevin reported that a meeting had been held between the residents of Strait Lane, DBC, StreetScene and HPC to discuss the parking problems on the area near the Otter and Fish.

Both DBC and StreetScene rejected the proposed solution of installing mesh on a section of the grass area. This could cause trip hazards and was therefore not acceptable.

A solution which DBC would consider is placing a number of concrete blocks where vehicles could park, but they would not allow dropped kerbs to access them.

This has become a matter between the residents and DBC, and Cllr Tostevin will continue to monitor the progress.

305. Parish Walks

Janine Forster reported as follows:-

Walk Report - Parish Council meeting 7/9/17

3 walks in August

Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Geneva Woods – Burma Road (paths 14,17,18+1)

5.58 miles

Way though from Newstead to Woods now clear

3rd stile along path 14 blocked – reported (Steve Petch)

Wednesday 9th August 2017

Neasham circuit

2.79 miles

Stopped from visiting lake by angling group, who insisted they owned the land.

Do deviate from path to see lake

Advised to ask permission next year.

Wednesday 16th August 2017

Hurworth Moor - Paths 1-7

4.75 miles

Check Peter Foster - no issues

No more walks planned yet – maybe a couple of Saturdays in October as now too dark on an evening

A total of 8 walks have been organised and walked this summer

Walking a total of 33.34 miles

Paths 1 – 7, 9 - 12, 14, 15, 17,18, 21

Margaret Williams commented that some of the walks did not start on time, and hence several people went away rather than wait for the delayed start.

Cllr Tostevin commented that the walks should be pre-walked to ensure the route is passable. They had encountered overgrown areas and difficulty with stiles. Nevertheless the walks had been enjoyable, and the commentary by Peter Foster most enlightening.

Paul Walters said that the Community Notice Boards should be used to make the public aware of the next walk, and encourage more people to attend.

306. Press and Village Calendar

Richard Lawley reported that the initial very detailed schedule of events had proved to provide too much information and has been modified. The All Saints Church monthly newsletter will provide the centre page spread of a 12 month rolling calendar of major community events. This will also be held on the council web site.

307. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Update

David Wood informed the meeting that Margaret Williams who has been heading up the Working Party recently, has stepped down. David thanked Margaret for her valuable help.

The Plan questionnaire is 99 percent complete, and will be finalised for printing by David Alban within two weeks.

Quotations are required from three printers, and it was agreed that Pronto Print, Tees Valley Printers and MY Print will be approached. **Action David Wood and the Clerk.**

David Wood said the Rockcliffe Hall were also checking to see whether they could help with the printing.

We have the pre-post licence, and will need to get a quotation for 1800 pre-paid envelopes.

Distribution should be in early October, and we will seek quotations for an organisation to put the questionnaires in the envelopes and deliver one to every residence in Hurworth Parish. **Action Clerk to investigate.**

It was agreed that when the date for the return of the questionnaires is approaching, the community notice boards will be used to advertise the 'Count Down'.

A prize for one or more people who has returned their questionnaire is being considered.

The council will engage a consultant to evaluate the future housing volumes which Hurworth should consider, and put into the final plan.

The Working Party will meet again on the first Thursday in November.

308. Newsletter – Parish Chronicle

Elaine Hedley informed the meeting that the next newsletter will go out in October.

All articles and input should be sent to her by 30th September. Elaine distributed a list of the items which each councillor should submit.

309. Matters of Interest

1. Hurworth Grange building extension.

The Clerk reported that the plans have been submitted to DBC. The project will cost £30,000, of which the council is committed to £15,000; this amount is in the 2017-18 budget, and has been covered by savings from other projects for which grants have been obtained. The Art Room is now completed and is in use; it looks excellent. The bar is being extended by redesigning the old 'Pool Room', into a comfortable lounge. David Wood questioned if the HCA had asked permission to alter the structure to change the lounge area. The Clerk confessed that permission should have been requested but HCA had not submitted a letter. **The Clerk will attend to this with an appropriate request.**

2. Best Council entry.

The Clerk reported that we have been informed that Hurworth is now on the 'long list'.

3. Bellway Homes development. Contact has been made with the Bellway management and they are in agreement with holding an informal meeting at their offices in Darlington.

Action: Clerk to arrange this meeting. HPC councillors wishing to attend are Jean Peacock, David Wood, Carol Paylor and Peter Foster.

It was noted that Bellway Homes are sponsoring the Hurworth Country Fair on 16th September, and will have a presence at the event, so that residents can talk and find out information of the Hurworth Manor project.

4. Circular Pathway. This had been covered in the Open Spaces report.

5. DBC Countryside Update. The Chair reported that there has been a meeting with Steve Petch, who has taken over from Malcolm Thompson as the Head of this Department.

The meeting was cordial and Mr Petch appeared very supportive of the HPC plans and activities. He said he would assist in the circular walk project as this required consultation with land owners.

5. Hurworth Country Fair

The Clerk reported that everything was organised, and informed the meeting that BBC 2 will be filming at the event. They are making a new series which will start in January 2018, and our Fair will be featured.

310. Police and PACT Report

Paul Walters reported:-

Crime reports:-

July 2017

Burglaries 2

- Westfield Drive – Pressure washer stolen
- Roundhill Road – Money and jewellery stolen from house

Criminal Damage – None

Anti Social Behaviour 8 incidents

Theft – general - 4

- Mowbray Drive – Theft of flower pots
- Mowbray Drive – Theft of Bay tree and flower pot
- Snipe Lane – Golf club stolen
- Church View - Theft of two planters

Motor Vehicles – 2

- Tawny Owl – A vehicle smashed into a fence
- Snipe Lane – Vehicle smashed into pond gate.

Drug Related – Police raid in Strait Lane

311. Accounts Payable

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 August 2017

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brunel Engraving plaques	102930	2 Plaques Open spaces, notice boards, handyman	515.40
M. Harrison	102931		250.00
B Green	102932	Allotment grass cutting	60.00
Royal Mail Licence	102933	Neighbourhood Plan mail licence	114.00
B Green	102934	Hedge cutting	100.00
M Harrison	102935	Handyman	65.00
HCA	102936	Newsletter printing	60.00
Bob Iles	102937	Salary	358.10
P D Allan	102938	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102939	PAYE	157.00
P D Allan	102940	Dog spray, N. Plan, and admin	116.59
HCA	102863	Newsletter & photocopying	111.36
Eden Landscapes	102864	Open spaces, projects.	160.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30

TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.61
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	25.20
Total for August 2017			2635.84

312. Financial Report The Financial report for the period up to 31st August, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was passed by the meeting. There were no questions raised.

The Report is in the addendum to these Minutes.

Carol Paylor requested a small budget for the organisation of the Hallowe'en Party. The council committed £300 for the event. Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Dorothy Oughton, passed unanimously/

313. HPC Web Site and Guest Book

Graham Wylie reported that all the Drop Box entries have been responded to, and appropriate actions carried out where necessary. There have been three recent comments.

The actions which have been taken are:-

- Removal of a dead tree in Bryan Close.
- Clearing the pathway from Hawkswood to the rear of Hurworth Grange.

314. Association Reports

1. Jean Peacock attended the Association of Darlington Parish Councils. The principle topic discussed was the allocation of funds derived from Section 106 relating to housing developments. HPC need to acquaint themselves with the Section 106 generated from the new Bellway Homes housing estate.

2. Peter Foster reported that he had attended the CDALC Meeting on 6th September which was held at Hurworth Grange. Those who attended praised the venue and thanks HPC for the finger buffet, which they enjoyed.

The meeting included an annual review, in readiness for the formal AGM.

It is noted that Middleton St George has joined CDALC as a member council.

3. Elaine Hedley attended the Small and Medium Sized Councils, and reported as follows:-

CDALC

County Durham Association of Local Councils

Small Council Meeting at Blackhall Cricket Club on Thursday 27th July

The first item was a talk on Durham's Citizen Advice. It was given by Sam Scotchbrook

She started by telling us that it had been financed by the Lottery since 2013. It started with Age UK, food banks and general advice. 2015 the funding ceased and Durham County funds it now. It has now grown to 139 citizen advice services to ensure vulnerable people have places where they can get advice. They now give monthly training on benefits, debt, fuel etc. They have recently developed a funeral policy. They can be contacted through a Network from various places. There is going to a Universal Conference based in Durham on Universal Credit. For those people will not get their money for 6 to 8 weeks because they don't have a computer. They have produced a brochure I have a copy if anyone is interested.

Universal Credit – everything is done on line and you need a bank account

We then talked about the Working Group. Prince Philip is retiring from public business. William is to take over. We then went on to talk about the arrangements for things to change. Do flags have to be up or down when a Royal dies. What about the anniversary of Diana. Apparently troops etc are practising at night in London for the Queen's Death now. We asked the question "Why can't we see the Royal Protocol". Local Meetings should talk about Royal Protocol.

The Charter and the Secretariat talked about Steve's job. *No increase in subs

*Use the Balance reduce it down to make up the shortfall.

*Should invest maybe £50,000

*Make arrangements to make sure the post continues after Steve retires. Maybe bring a new man in to work along by Steve for two days a week. It's gone out to Parish and Town Councils. Whoever the new person is will he want to go on and do 30 hours a week.

Revised Charter does not make sense. The County version has not been approved. So it has to be kept going until the all the points are agreed to.

AAP Are they the people who develop the Neighbourhood Plan?

People still having trouble getting the Direct Officer in Durham. They have asked for a list of who to get in touch with for specific things. I said I don't think we have that problem in Darlington.

Concerns County Durham are not getting in touch with Parish council about planning eg for housing. Again I don't think we have that problem.

If you want to get a copy of the Durham Plan or an update of the situation you can get it on line.

Next Meeting is on 23rd November at Hetton Town Council.

New legal briefing for Clerks Data Protection is causing problems Steve is sending it out.

Note: The CDALC meeting declared that there will be no increase in CDALC fees in 2018, as their surplus funds will be utilised.

Information about changes in the legislation regarding Data Protection has been distributed via E Mail to all councillors.

315. Any Other Business (Non-Financial).

1. Graham Wylie referred to Margaret Williams' recent health setback, and thanked her for her continued efforts and on behalf of the council wished her well.
2. Jean Peacock requested the Clerk to circulate the latest Councillor Surgery List.
3. Carol Paylor updated the Council on plans for the Hallowe'en Party, and asked if the Grange will print the tickets. See Financial Report reference costs.
4. Carol Paylor asked if the Council could assist in providing a meeting place for 40 refugees, so that they can meet and cook food. This was referred to the HCA Management Committee.
5. David Wood referred to a presentation which he had made to the HCA Management Committee, which he believed in retrospect had hit the wrong note. He believes that a new Sports Committee would help to encourage more residents to engage in sporting events and healthy activities.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45pm