

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 1st September 2016, preceded by the PACT Meeting starting at 6.30pm.

PACT Meeting – Chair Paul Walters

Attended by ten councillors, and eight residents. Also in attendance the Parish Clerk.

PCSO John Angus gave the police report for the period from 7nd July to 31st August as follows:-

Total Crimes	12	
Burglaries	0	
Burglary Other	4	Farm stolen 2 mobility carriers, Blackwell Golf Club two incidents of theft Neasham Road break in, nothing stolen
Theft	3	Rockcliffe Hall, two thefts of expensive watch and jewellery Bay Horse left without paying bill.
Vehicle theft	1	Grange Avenue
Theft from vehicle	0	
Criminal damage	4	Glebe, Blackwell G.C., Hurworth Comp School, Wayside (7 incidents following a youth's party)
Antisocial behaviour	1	Church Row - fireworks
Criminal harassment	0	

The speed monitor is now operational at Hurworth Place. However, the trees need trimming as they partially obscure the monitor.

Speed Watch

There were no checks carried out in August, due to the Duty lady having resigned. Regular checks will commence again in September.

Twelve volunteers are waiting for their training and clearance.

A resident informed the meeting about a new speed monitoring device, which encompasses an APR recognition system. This allows it to photograph the car registration numbers, and hence details of every vehicle are available. Regular speeders can be identified and action taken against them.

It was agreed that more details will be sought, with a view to Hurworth installing these units. It was also agreed that this topic will be discussed with Commissioner Ron Hogg, when he visits the Hurworth Country Fair on 17th September.

Parish Council Business meeting

60 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), Wilma Campbell, David Wood, Elaine Hedley, Graham Wylie, Janine Forster, Jean Peacock, Simon Coultas, Peter Foster, and Richard Lawley.

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

61. Apologies for absence

Carol Paylor (Holiday)

62. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

63. Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public and welcomed the councillors back from their vacation. The Chair emphasized that there is a long agenda, and hence discussions should be kept short, and that the questions relating to the Banks presentation will be halted after thirty minutes.

The Chair introduced Mr. Lewis Stokes, who will make a presentation on behalf of the Banks Group.

64 Banks Group presentation

Mr. Stokes informed the meeting that the Banks Group has submitted a planning application to Darlington Borough Council for permission to build up to 100 houses on Roundhill Road, Hurworth. DBC has validated the application, and it is going forward for evaluation.

The presentation included a Corporation Overview, a site plan and supporting maps and an outline description of the proposed estate, including road access, flood contingency drainage and green areas.

A number of 'Benefits' were outlined, which included the following:-

- Improved road conditions with traffic calming measures on Roundhill Road.
- A green corridor through the estate
- Internal footpaths with external integration
- Enhanced bio-diversity features
- Economic social benefits, which encompass
 - 30 on-site jobs,
 - A Section 106 payment to DBC OF £950,000.
 - Affordable housing
 - An evening bus service, paid for by Banks Group
 - A contribution to Hurworth Primary School

Also, Banks Group have a Community Chest, which offers financial help to community groups. Applications can be made for local community projects, to the value of £20,000, each. It is

understood that several applications have been made. (Neasham Reading Rooms has already received about £11,000).

Mr. Stokes then opened the session for questions, and two of his team assisted in answering a range of questions and comments, which included the following:-

- It was confirmed that the Section 106 payment would go to DBC and not be a direct benefit to HPC. However, the increase in houses would generate addition funds through the precept.
- Some residents expressed their happiness with the size of the parish of 4000, and would not wish to extend this population.
- This application is contrary to the Parish Plan dated 2010.
- Residents are concerned about extra pupils at the schools.
- Concern about the land on which Banks Group also has an option - could this increase the number of houses? Banks explained that the area proposed has passed all the geographical and technical assessments, including gypsum testing, whereas the other land has not been comprehensively assessed, and is not being considered. This land could, conceivably be used for service areas for the estate.
- There was a dispute as to whether the site is 5.3 or 5.4 hectares
- Mr. Stokes was asked whether up to 100 houses could be increased in number. Mr. Stokes stated that the entire plan and application is based on up to 100 houses, and a higher number has not been considered. It has always been a maximum of 100 houses.
- One resident is very concerned about the effect on the ECO environment, and the future of a tree sparrow which currently lives there. The lady questioned how Banks could claim bio-diversity as a 'benefit'.
- There was a discussion about the road access design and the effect on an already very busy road. The Banks Group stated that their recommendation would need to be assessed and passed by DBC and the Highways Agency.
- Concern was expressed about the upheaval during construction. Banks stated that a Traffic Management Plan will be drawn up and agreed by DBC, prior to the commencement of any work.

Cllr David Wood asked if Banks Group would postpone their application until the completion of the new Neighbourhood Plan. Mr. Stokes asked when this would be completed, and Cllr Wood stated it would be ready in 16 months. The Banks Group would not be prepared to shelve this project for this duration.

Ward Cllr Tostevin said that Hurworth was included in the DBC future planning documentation, but was not a High Priority, the DBC Plan was released in 1997. The need for houses in the Borough is in line with the National need and Government intent.

The Chair thanked the Banks team for their presentation, and informed the meeting that there are two copies of the full application available for perusal, one in the HPC Office, the other will be held at the Hurworth Community Association office, and can be accessed for reading in the Grange Library. The application is also available on the DBC Planning Dept. web site.

Objections and comments are due by 21st September and a decision is expected by 31st December 2016.

Notation for the record:

Following the presentation Mr. Stokes claimed that a member of the meeting had mouthed abusive words at him, which is unacceptable. The Clerk apologized on behalf of the Council. Mr. Stokes asked that the incident be 'noted' in the records.

65. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 7th July 2016, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council, Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Richard Lawley. Mr. Jackson, in the public gallery, asked why his suggestion that the Centenary Field project should be funded by personal contributions rather than by the council, has not been recorded in the Minutes. The Clerk explained that as Mr. Jackson is not in the council, and was not speaking within the Public Participation section of the meeting, his comments were 'off the record'. After discussion, the council agreed to add his suggestion to the Minutes dated 7th July 2016.

66 Matters Arising

- a. Cllr Joe Kelley reported that he has had discussions with DBC and BT regarding the broadband connectivity to Hurworth. This has been a long saga, and is ongoing, however, the current situation is that Hurworth central area was in Phase Two, but is now in Phase Three. This means that the 1.7 megabyte broadband will not become operation here until 2017-18.
BT state that 97 percent of the country will have the high-speed facility by 2020. This will include the new ultrafast features.
Cllr Kelley agreed to continue to monitor and follow up on the issue. The Chair thanked him.
- b. The speed monitor post and installation at Hurworth Place is now complete and a monitor is already positioned there. The first readings have been taken, and Graham Wylie will report during the Traffic Review.

67. Public Participation

Val Hughes asked for clarification of the duration of a Tree Prevention Order (TPO). Peter Foster stated that it is 'for the life of the tree'.

Concern was expressed that extensive work is being carried out at the corner of Friars Pardon and Roundhill Road, which includes tree felling and for which permission from DBC had been given. It was observed that the contractor had applied a temporary pavement closure notice to ensure the public were not exposed to risk. However it was noted that the trees that were felled from a garden that backed onto the Glebe, no such precautions were taken to protect walkers using the Glebe footpath.

It was also observed by a resident that there is a gap in the tree line on the trees that line the Glebe footpath. However, as this is private property, no action can be taken. Cllr David Wood

contributed that trees and the environment will be considered and addressed in the new Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr John Hedley requested permission from the Chair to ask the status of the council's plans for a second playground. The Chair informed Mr Hedley that this project has been postponed and will not be re-visited this year. Mr Hedley sought a statement that the project has been closed.

Cllr Paul Walters summarised the council's position by stating that although there is a demand, as indicated by the questionnaire response, the project is going to be delayed by 16 months. This would allow time to re-appraise after the result of the Bank Group planning application is known, and how it may effect possible playground location options.

A resident commented, that he would be more concerned if DBC decided to build on the Manorfield.

Cllr Joe Kelley requested access to the traffic data from the new monitor at Hurworth Place, as there is considerable unhappiness being caused by the A1 diversion through Croft.

68 Accounts for Payment

The Schedules for Accounts for Payment for July and August 2016, having been distributed to all Councillors, were accepted by the council.

<u>Accounts for Payment as at 31st July 2016</u>			
			<u>31st July</u> 2016
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque</u> <u>No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Northumbria Water	102739	Allotments	59.92
M. Hannaford	102740	Hogweed poison	100.00
MT Print	102741	Newsletters	690.00
Skipbridge Signs	102742	Dog signs	60.00
Hurworth Village Hall	102743	Rent of hall	60.00
B Green	102744	Allotment grass cutting	40.00
Tees River Trust	102745	Hogweed spraying, and Section 137 £1000	1837.20
B Green	102746	Hedge cutting and clearance	270.00
Bob Iles	102747	Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102748	Salary	522.48
Inland Revenue	102749	PAYE	142.60
All Saints Church	102750	Newsletter delivery (3 deliveries)	75.00
The Wedding Invittion Co	102751	Neighbourhood Plan leaflets	67.20
B Green	102752	Allotments - repairing agte and grass cutting	340.00
Public Loan Board	DD	Mortgage repayment	258.62
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	13.61
Total outlay			4865.63

Accounts for Payment as at 31st August 2016

31st Aug
2016

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
E Hedley	102753	Travelling expenses	39.04
Prestige Trees	102754	Treework	660.00
CDALC	102755	Annual subscription	474.66
Bob Iles	102756	August Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102757	August Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102758	PAYE	142.80
Eden Landscapes	102759	Moving traffic monitors	40.00
Swarco	102560	New speed monitor fittings	1020.00
P D Allan	102561	Admin expenses	122.49
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
Total outlay			3352.57

69. Financial Report to 31st August 2016

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councillors was presented at the meeting. There being no questions, the Report was accepted by the council.

- a. The external audit for 2015-16 has been completed, and we will receive the final documents within a few days.
- b. The Litter Picker Refund claim has been submitted to DBC, for the period to 30th June 2016.

70. Matters of Interest

a. Dog Fouling Competition

In the absence of Carol Paylor, Jean Peacock said that the Fair Committee have this in hand, and that Carol would be finalising entries with the schools.

b. Web Drop Box

In response to requests from members of the public, the council has set up a Guestbook tab on the HPC web site. This allows people to send comments and for them to be accessed by the public. Mr. John Hedley has set up a trial site, and explained how it will operate. After

discussion the council agreed to give this a one month trial, with Cllr David Wood acting as the Mediator, to decide which messages are appropriate material for public consumption. It was agreed, that if the test proves satisfactory, the facility will be announced in the next Newsletter, in October.

71. PLANNING REPORT, July and August 2016

Jean Peacock gave the following report:-

Planning Report – September Meeting 2016

16/00603/FUL62 Friars Pardon – Erection of first floor rear extension.

16/00600/FULCote Ghyll Hurworth Road GRANTED 19/08/16
Erection of single storey extension to rear and addition of one dormer window to first floor rear elevation.

16/00765/FUL2 Neasham Road
(1600274/FUL Refused 16.06.16) Dismantling, relocation and conversion of existing agric. Storage building to form residential dwelling and erection of single storey extension to side (revised application). NO COMMENT

16/00405/CON 7 The Green to approve conditions (16/00405 8.6.16) GRANTED 19/06/16.

16/00395/CON 7 The Green (16/00395/FUL 8.6.16) GRANTED 19/08.16

14/0086/CON 7 Croft Road
Approval of conditions for dwelling House (won on Appeal 26.8.14) APPROVED

16/00739/FUL22 The Chase
Erection of 2 storey dormer ext. Over garage and vestibule ext. to rear.
Re-submission of appeal

16/00759/TC Mast Roundhill Road
Removal of existing mast and erection of 12.5m mast 02 Telecommunication NO COMMENT

16/00677/FUL27 Church Row
4 Roof lights to rear elevation NO COMMENT

16/00723/TFC44 The Green
Trees NO COMMENT

16/00808/FUL1 Banks Terrace
Surveillance Cameras (back and front) (retrospective) NO COMMENT
16/00810/LBC “

16/00683/FUL11 Elmfield Road

Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof over existing garage
NO COMMENT

16/00812/LBC

30 The Green

Alteration of dormer windows, erection of detached double garage /workshop/store and pergola to rear of garden and assoc. alterations. Most of this work seems to be complete or in progress. It is hideous, an eyesore and too 'modern' for the character of the building and certainly not at all in keeping with the beauty and environment of the Village Green and the type of houses that line it. The neighbours are very unhappy about the development. So ADVISE OBJECTION FROM PC to DBC.

16/00821/FULEmerson House 24 The Green

Erection of single storey rear extension installation of lantern style rooflight, window and flue to rear.
(take care of environment)

16/00008/APPEF
(16/00310/FUL)

4 The Potteries, Neasham Road
Appeal against refusal of Planning Permission decision (1.08.16)
Det. Bungalow and double garage.
(Same objections as before)

16/00886/OUT
11.11.16

BANKS DEVELOPMENT Roundhill Road
up to 100 dwellings outline planning
(plans can be viewed in Parish Office or from Grange office)

Target date

Decision by 31st December 2016

Objections and comments regarding the Banks application need to be submitted by 21st September; the Chair proposed a Special Meeting be convened to discuss and prepare the council's response. All agreed. **The Clerk will convene the meeting for next week.**

71. Planning Development Working Group Report

David Wood reported that leaflets were now available for distribution asking for volunteers to participate in formulating the new Neighbourhood Plan. These leaflets will be distributed to all households in the parish. **Action Clerk** to arrange distribution along with the Grange newsletter, hopefully in the week commencing 5th September.

David Woods added that Mr. David Nelson from DBC is assisting in the development of the plan, so that DBC stay conversant with the content.

CDALC have distributed a document with a template which should assist the compilation and formatting.

It was also agreed that David Wood would meet with the Clerk to discuss funding of the Plan.

72. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that a 200year old beech tree in Goblin Wood has suffered from broken branches high up in the tree. This became a hazard and risk to the public. Some branches have been removed and the tree made safe. The council noted that Guy Foster / Prestige Tree Surgeons had responded very quickly to the council's request, and had attended the site immediately and carried out the work the following day.

A stump needs to be ground out in Emerson Road, next time we are doing work in the area.

Peter Foster will obtain quotations for the work needed on the Green to raise the canopies and trim back trees, and also for the Tree Survey on the Green. **Action Peter Foster**

The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether Street Scene will remove the massive amount of leaves which fall in the main road areas in the autumn. **Action Clerk**

72 Parish Walks

Janine Forster distributed an illustrated booklet describing the walks which have taken place throughout the summer.

Six walks have been organised and had been well supported. The pathways 1 to 8, 10 to 14 and pathway 18 have all been walked.

A number of problems have been identified, and it was agreed that a meeting with Malcolm Thompson, DBC Countryside will be arranged to talk through the problems and make arrangements to correct them and repair stiles and broken fences. It had not been possible to access pathway 17, due to private fences being erected. This will be reported to DBC.

The final walk ended with a talk and tour of Hurworth Grange conducted by Val Hughes. This had proved most interesting and the council thanked her. This was followed by a BBQ hosted by the council, and was attended by over thirty walkers.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Forster and Lawley for organising the walks this year and for bringing the problems re broken stiles and inaccessible footpaths to the fore.

73. Open Spaces

Wilma Campbell gave the following report:-

Open Spaces

1. Centenary Field

A meeting with Jamie Leeson, Development Officer for Fields in Trust, is being arranged for the end of September to discuss matters in more detail.

2. Hogweed

The giant hogweed has been sprayed again, and no further work is anticipated before next spring.

3. Open Spaces register and audit.

The Clerk and I are on our second draft with the register. Ownership and responsibility for the majority of our Open Spaces has been identified and recorded however there are a few still to be clarified. One such “no man’s land is in Lychgate which is currently in a very untidy state. Last year HPC organised for low hanging branches on the trees which were overhanging into residents’ gardens to be trimmed and also the weeds to be cut back.

On behalf, of and with the Council’s permission, I would like to investigate and, if possible, register interest in obtaining ownership of this area which would then become our responsibility.

4. EPICH

At our AGM in August we decided to continue with our bulbs and planting project around the village. We will be asking the local community for suggestions as to which areas they would like bulbs to be planted. Hopefully they would also be willing to help with the task.

One of our members has produced a very informative child friendly leaflet covering some of the wildlife to be found when walking along our Public Pathways. The intention is to distribute these into local schools and community areas to encourage more families to go walking together.

EPICH would also like to redesign Jean’s memorial garden to make it more user friendly and less high maintenance. Wholehearted approval for this makeover has been given by F Butterfield. Designs are currently being researched.

Approx. cost:-

Bulbs and planting around village £1,200

Production of wildlife informational posters and flyers £400

Jean’s memorial garden makeover £900

This plan is in line with the figure of £2500 which was previously agreed in principle by the PC. EPICH now hope the monies can be released so that the above projects can proceed.

Peter Foster commented that the hogweed was now rampant on the Yorkshire of the river, and that the seeds were blowing across the river. Tees River Trust need to be advised of this problem.

Action Clerk to talk to TRT.

The Chair asked for more details about the re-planting of Jean’s Meadow, and queried the cost estimate. Wilma Campbell stated that the final plans have not been formulated, and the matter is up for further discussion, the cost is still an estimate.

The council approved the release of £1600 to EPICH, but withheld the cost of Jean’s Meadow until more details are submitted. Proposed by Jean Peacock, Seconded by Richard Lawley, all agreed.

74. Project Reports

1. Community Notice Boards

Paul Walters reported that he has obtained details, designs and costs for suitable notice boards, which can be erected at three locations in the parish.

The three proposed sites are:-

- Roundhill Road, entering the village
- The Otter and Fish grassed area entering the village from Neasham.
- Near the Comet, entering the village from Darlington.

The designs of the notice boards were considered by the council, and having made their selection, a motion was tabled by Wilma Campbell, seconded by David Wood to purchase and erect three notice boards, at a cost not exceeding £3,000, as outlined by Paul Walters. The motion was carried unanimously. Does permission for the erection of noticeboards on the sites suggested needs to be gained from DBC? **Action Clerk.**

2. Grange entrance alterations.

The Chair, Margaret Williams, reported that this project has been delayed and the work is now scheduled to start in early October, so it will not interfere with the Country Fair.

3. **Neighbourhood Information Centre.**

David Wood reported that this is still ongoing, and will be co-ordinating this project with the new Neighbourhood Plan.

75. Allotment Report

Richard Lawley reports as follows:-

All the allotments are occupied; one plot has changed tenancy in the last two months. All are paid to the end of the year.

There is a waiting List at Strait Lane with six names.

There is a waiting List at Hurworth Grange with eight names, and this list is now closed.

The Strait Lane gate entrance has been repaired and is now working well, and the pathways surrounding the Strait Lane allotments have been cut back to make easy access.

76. Highways Report.

Graham Wylie reported as follows:-

July's traffic figures:

Roundhill Road- incoming.

85th% average 32.8mph

Most popular day for speeding is Saturday, average person speeding is 30.9%.

Maximum speed 65mph on 02/07/2016 at 11.45pm

Steel Bridge-incoming.

85th% average 33.3mph

Most popular day for speeding is Monday, average person speeding is 33.3%.

Maximum speed 65mph on 18/07/2016 at 10.45pm

Hurworth Road-incoming towards the Spar shop.

85th% average 34.8mph

Most popular day for speeding is Sunday, average person speeding is 55.5%.

Maximum speed 70mph on 02/07/2016 at 12.30am

- Volunteers have been waiting months to join speed watch
- Wheelie bin stickers
- 30 mph flashing sign is working now on Croft Road

Still awaiting confirmation from DBC

- Are we allowed 30pmh repeater signs through the village?
- Will Zig Zag lines be extended from the Spar?
- When will the parking spaces outside of the Spar be done?
- When will the 20mph flashing signs outside of the Academy be done?
- Dropped curbs on Westfield drive

Pathways

A few places have been brought to my attention as certain walkways have become inaccessible due to overgrown bushes and weeds. These will be sorted within the coming weeks.

The new speed post is now operational, and data will be extracted during September for the next Traffic Report.

30mph Stickers

It is planned to launch the wheelie bin sticker project in September. Carol Paylor has made preliminary plans for resident contact and to order suitable stickers. **Action Carol Paylor**

Peter Foster stated that the vehicle congestion at Eurojag has been addressed, as Eurojag have now taken over the property next door.

However, there is still a flooding problem, which DBC need to address and clear the ditches and drains. **Action Clerk to contact the Highways Department and StreetScene.**

Graham Wylie questioned why DBC ended the pavement resurfacing in Strait Lane before covering the area up to the allotment entrance. **Clerk to enquire.**

77. Association Reports

1. Small and Medium Council Group

Elaine Hedley attended the meeting and reported that the main topic had been the development and roll out of Parish and town Contingency Plans. Hurworth was used as an example of what should be considered and how a plan should be compiled. This included the arrangements, contacts and interactions with local authorities and emergency services. Hurworth P. C received positive acclaim.

Elaine circulated material relating to 'Equality'. This is considered an issue in local parishes and towns, and embraces gender, race, colour and religious beliefs. She requested that councillors read and consider this material, and suggested that the subject should be discussed at the next PC Meeting. This also raised questions about the monitoring of the Parish Guestbook. **Action Chair**

78. Any Other Business (Non-financial).

Cllr Tostevin made reference to the National, Borough Council's concern over 'Hate Crimes' and racialism. She asked Hurworth Parish Council to adopt and support the latest DBC initiative to improve this situation and take a positive approach. A motion was tabled by David Wood and Seconded by Richard Lawley that HPS send a letter of support. All agreed. **Action Clerk.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:20pm

Draft