

Hurworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Village Hall,
Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 7th July 2016, preceded by the PACT Meeting
starting at 6.30pm.**

PACT Meeting – Chair Margaret Williams

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

John Angus PCSO gave the police report for the period from 2nd June to 7th July 2016.
as follows:-

Total Crimes	2	
Burglaries	0	
Burglary Other	1	Priory School playing field
Theft	1	Linden Court
Vehicle theft	0	
Theft from vehicle	0	
Criminal damage	1	
Antisocial behaviour	3	all at Blackwell Golf Club
Criminal harassment	0	

John Angus reported that several bee hives have been upturned and some damage done.
The person responsible has been identified.

There was a minor crash on Westfield Drive, caused when a car was used without the
owner's permission. Limited damage and no personal injury.

Hugh Jackson stated that the continuous activities by youths at the pavilion on the
Priory School playing field could lead to an accident, and suggested the building should
be taken down.

Residents have been circulated by DBC regarding new proposed short-term parking in
four marked bays outside the Spar shop. The Parish Council had suggested this over 12
months ago, and DBC were now seeks comments, before endorsing the action. This
land belongs to HPC. The meeting concluded that the parking time should be limited to
30 minutes.

Speed Watch

There were ten sessions carried out in the last month, resulting in 29 vehicles exceeding
the speed limit out of 300 speed tested. Three volunteers have been diligent in carrying
out this work. Twelve more volunteers are waiting for further training, before becoming
active.

The meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Parish Council Business meeting

39 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), Wilma Campbell, Carol Paylor, 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 eight members of the public.

40. Apologies for absence

Paul Walters (Family commitment), David Wood (Holiday abroad).

41. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

42. Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public and introduced Mr Andrew Casey, Head of Highways Dept. DBC.

43. Mr Andrew Casey addressed the meeting, and covered the following topics.

Andrew is Highways Manager, in charge of moving traffic, which included speeding and parking. Andrew reports to Dave Winstanley.

Steve Brennan is in charge of Road Maintenance including potholes and pathways. The Highways Inspector is Neil Campbell. He inspects both roads and pavements. These inspections are every three months. Specific rules apply for maintenance and repairs, including:-

Potholes will receive attention if they are 40mm deep, and pavements if they are 20mm deep.

Repairs required will be carried out within 20 days of the inspection.

Bigger road problems are generally caused by water penetrating the road foundations, and these can cause major construction work and road closures. They are also very expensive.

In addition to 'temporary pothole repairs', work is scheduled for hot sealing and resurfacing. Due to budget restrictions these schedules can take a little time.

The new taller street lights will save DBC money, as the running costs are reduced and the maintenance is also expected to be less. However, in Hurworth, as the lights are taller, the trees are impeding the light. Andrew agreed to look into this and arrange with StreetScene to address the problem. He will also consult with Phil Haines, the DBC Arborist.

Andrew also co-ordinates the activities of the Traffic Wardens in the urban area.

Carol Paylor raised a number of traffic issues relating to Roundhill Road and the Spar corner. Andrew agreed to meet Carol on site to review these problems.

Residents raised their concern of the speed of traffic within Hurworth. Andrew stated that the casualty rate is actually down by nineteen percent over the last twelve months.

It was suggested that the bollards on the island coming into Roundhill Road are being damaged regularly, and perhaps this requires a re-think. This stretch may be improved if the proposed housing development goes ahead on Roundhill Road.

The Banks Group project was discussed, and Andrew outlined the financial benefits for DBC under Section 106. A resident requested details of these benefits, and it was agreed that Andrew will try to get them specified. More information will become available when a Planning Application is submitted and the full assessment completed.

Carol Paylor asked why Hurworth cannot install 30mph repeater signs. Andrew put forward the regulations, recently modified, which prevent this. However cost also is an issue. HPC decided to discuss funding an appropriate number of signs.

The plan to install a 20 mph speed limit, with flashing lights outside the Hurworth Academy has been agreed by DBC, but may take another two years to obtain funding and to be implemented.

Graham Wylie raised problems with traffic congestion on Strait Lane near the Otter and Fish restaurant. Andrew is aware of this problem, but no practical solution has yet materialised.

The Chair thanked Andrew Casey for attending the meeting.

44. Minutes of the Meeting dated 2nd June 2016

The Minutes were approved, Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Wilma Campbell.

45. Matters Arising

a. Priory Hurworth House School

Following the presentation by Sharon Pearson at the last PC Meeting, the school has undertaken to address a number of issues discussed at the presentation, these include the following, which Sharon has since confirmed:-

- * The expansion of the school is to refurbish The Green building which is at the front of the school and will not cause additional traffic on Westfield drive.
- * I am currently working with local authorities to support a different approach to bringing learners to school, this piece of work has started and I will keep everyone up to date with progress.
- * I have asked our maintenance manager to purchase and apply anti climb paint to the fences.

* The head and staff are working together with learners around community cohesion and the impact of smoking in the community, we risk assess all learners in relation to this and are ensuring staff are supporting positive behaviours in the community through supervision.

* I am happy to attend any of the residents groups and am also setting up a community cohesion group between the school and residents.

In addition to this it is important to know that we also take the following actions:

* Victoria Skilbeck is our community liaison person, she will be the point of contact for any issues or concerns from residents.

* A regular part of our curriculum relates to healthy lifestyles and smoking and the dangers of smoking form part of this and our education programme.

* A number of our young people are working on a wider community programme and would be happy to work in the community on any projects available.

* I have written to all taxi firms and briefed staff in relation to expectations of drivers.

b. Insurance claim

The Chair informed the meeting that DBC Planning Dept has rejected permission for the felling or work to be carried out on the trees at 16 Hawkswood. We have informed out insurers, and we have stated that as we are not permitted to carry out any work, and because DBC has made this decision, then DBC has effectively taken over the responsibility and removed HPC from the potential claim.

c. Armed Forces flag.

The flag was purchased and flown on the dedicated day. The flag will now remain with the Hurworth Flagman, for further use.

d. **Hi viz jackets** have been purchased and distributed to all councillors.

46. Public Participation

Hugh Jackson asked whether the trees on the farm adjacent to Westfield Drive were subject to TPO restrictions, and whether it would be possible to apply for TPO's. After discussion, the meeting agreed that as they are on a farmer's private property, the council could make no application. Mr Jackson requested that the council find out the details for a TPO to be applied. **Action HPC.**

A resident expressed deep dis-satisfaction with BT, who has now stated that they cannot provide a high-speed fibre optic service in Hurworth. Although three cabinets have been installed and cable connected, it appears that these cabinets or the cabling cannot provide the high-speed Broadband service. This is not in keeping with the BT claim that they will provide 93% on the country with this service by the end of 2017. He asked HPC to challenge the BT stance on this subject.

Cllr Joe Kelley said that he has an ongoing dialogue with BT on the topic, and he will take up the challenge. **Action Cllr Kelley.**

A resident requested that we ask the resident of 1 Dale Close to trim their hedge as it is causing a problem by reducing the width of the pavement. **Action HPC.**

A resident referring to the discussion at the PACT Meeting, asked if the HPC would fund repeater 30mph signs, as DBC appear to be unwilling to provide them. It was agreed that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

47 Accounts for Payment

			<u>30th June 2016</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Spanglefish	102728	Software	29.95
B Green	102729	Allotment grass cutting	40.00
CDALC	102730	Training	125.00
Bob Iles	102731	Salary	363.15
P D Allan	102732	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102733	PAYE	158.20
David Parker	102734	Grass cutting Westfield Drive	88.00
Peter Foster	102735	Travelling Expenses	31.72
CDALC	102736	Booklets	22.78
HCA	102737	Photocopying	19.24
P D Allan	102738	Assembly drinks, flag, HI-VIZ Jackets, Admin Exs incl VAT £72.69	397.63
BT Coms	DD	Communications	81.85
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	12.68
Total outlay			1922.28

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

48. Financial Report to 30th June 2016

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

The Financial report is a codicil to this report.

- a. Notices have been posted on the HPC Notice boards inviting residents to examine the council's records.
- b. The VAT return has been submitted and the VAT refund received, value £1091.

49. Matters of Interest

a. Dog Fouling Competition

Carol Paylor reported:-

I would like to confirm that I will be able to pass on the final number of entries by the end of July.

All Hurworth schools are participating and I've already received entries from Hurworth Primary School.

Categories will be as follows:

- *pre school
- *key stage one
- *key stage two
- *key stage three
- *key stage four/Priory School

Prizes, as agreed, are twenty pounds per category and the winning posters made into signs for display around our village.

I will organise the display of the posters once it is agreed where they may go.

b. Village Hall Outdoor Concert

All the arrangements are in hand, and about 700 people are expected to attend. Volunteers are needed on the Saturday morning to erect tents. Two councillors volunteered.

50. Planning Applications

Jean Peacock reported:-

PLANNING REPORT, JULY 2016

Reported 2 Neasham Road and Calvert development in Burma Road were both refused.

16/00310/FUL	4 The Potteries, Neasham Road Detached Bungalow and detached double garage
16/00577/FUL	18 Friars Pardon Demolition of garage and conservatory and erection of single storey extension to side, rear and erection of detached garage store at rear of garden (re submission of previous refusal).
16/00647/FUL	4 The Chase Replacement and repositioning of existing boundary fence.
16/00415/	Priory House School Listed Building – refurbishment of internal ground floor and first floor and reduction of chimney in height.
16/00213/FUL	35 The Wayside

16/00645/FUL

Reduction of ridge height, redesign window to SW corner and omission of lobby from West side.

M'bro Football Club

Alterations to existing car park including improved access design, position of security gates and relocate existing lighting columns and fencing.

Concerns were reported regarding the siting of a static caravan at the farm on Neasham Road. A gate and hard standing have been installed and the caravan has been delivered. DBC are aware of this situation, but no action has yet been taken.

Cllr Joe Kelley is dealing with this and will keep the council informed.

51. Planning Development Working Group Report

- a. Carol Paylor reported that the Working Party has prepared a response to submit to DBC Planning Department, Consultancy Group. The document is below:-

Darlington's Local Plan – A response from Hurworth Parish Council

DBC Question	Hurworth Parish Council's Response
1. Is the period up to 2036 the right period for the new local plan?	Given changing economics, due in part to the Referendum, we would like to suggest ten years as a more relevant time-scale. This would fit with central government policies too.
2. Do you agree with the range of matters that we propose to cover in the new local plan?	HPC is supportive of the proposal to build new villages. This protects the history and heritage of our current villages and prevents these existing villages from merging into towns. We would like to see the reinstatement of development boundaries to delineate new and existing settlements. We would like to see Traveller sites earmarked and subject to the same consultation process and regulations.
3. Is the vision still the right one?	HPC likes the council's vision. It is town-centric and affirms the need to develop around existing resources and where there is most need. We would also like to see a reference to environmental sustainability. We also believe it would be helpful to have a glossary of terms (see further comments below*) and that a definition, specific to Darlington, of the word

	‘sustainable’ would be most helpful.
4. Are the aims and objectives linked to this vision still the right ones?	<p>From the layout of this present document, it is not clear to us what the aims and objectives are. We would like to see an easy-to-navigate document for non-specialists. The insertion of clear headings and sub-headings would go some way to provide clarity.</p> <p>*HPC would like the new plan to be simple in language and accessible to the lay-person. Where jargon is unavoidable, then a glossary of terms would be useful. For example, a definition of the term ‘sustainable’ and what this actually means for Darlington would aid clarity and understanding.</p>
5 & 6. Are the issues highlighted the right ones? Are there any other issues?	HPC would like to see some specific thought, reference and response to the question, ‘How do you increase the value of sites at growth zones to make them more attractive to developers?’ For example using natural land borders to differentiate between less desirable and more desirable potential sites, investment in adjacent areas etc etc.
7. Are there any issues/themes for which we have not identified the right starting point?	<p>Are the figures for the projected population growth absolutely accurate given the recent release of the Sub-National Populations Prediction data?</p> <p>Also, have you eliminated the possibility of ‘double counting’ with neighbouring authorities?</p>
8. Is there any further research needed?	Has any research been undertaken into where people live in Darlington in relation to where they work in terms of percentages? This would be useful to inform transport links.
9. Do you support or object to any of the potential strategic options...?	<p>HPC supports town centre developments as those have immediate access to all facilities.</p> <p>HPC supports development at Middleton St George due to the road and rail infrastructure near the airport site.</p> <p>The notion to build a new settlement to the west of the A1 is a good suggestion as villages are desirable and existing villages would not merge into towns/large conurbations.</p> <p>The proposed sites demonstrate logical thinking due to the infrastructure being in place.</p> <p>We do not support large character-changing developments of Hurworth village as this will mean this location will lose its unique character. Moreover, villages are part of our national heritage and should be preserved.</p>
10. Any other options...?	How can the Council ensure that sites with full permission are indeed brought forward by Developers?

	<p>As a town, why couldn't we forge a strategy to support first-time buyers to access the property ladder?</p> <p>Have we considered establishing a think-tank with key stake-holders such as Handles Bank, Yorkshire Bank, The Credit Union, Darlington Building Society etc (alongside developers) in order to renovate existing properties within the town? Such a scheme could be unique to Darlington in order to grow our town in an innovative way.</p>
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The council agreed and endorsed all of these actions.

b. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Simon Coultas reported:-

Carlo Paylor, Richard Lawley and he met and discussed the way forward on 27th June. They have consulted with David Nelson, who is monitoring Neighbourhood planning for DBC. DBC has offered guidance and are supportive of the Hurworth initiative.

The first stages of the planning are in hand, which include:-

- The Project Plan
- Key milestones
- Setting up a shared document

The Working Party intends to bring additional information sources from the community, including representatives from:-

- Local businesses
- Schools
- Resident groups
- Community groups,
- Land owners

Simon stressed that this project is a 'community' project, and not council centric.

Carol asked if there could be a separate tab on the council web site for this subject, which could be updated regularly. This was confirmed and agreed. **Action Clerk**

52. Tree report

Peter Foster reported:-

- a. Following a request from Mrs Julie Ward, 14 The Green it was agreed that the large lime tree outside her house would be trimmed back to heighten the canopy. This work will be done at the same time as other trees on the Green

will be pruned to allow traffic to pass beneath them. **Action Clerk obtain quotation.**

- b. Peter Foster recommended that the tree surveys for the three areas should be carried out. He said that the cost will be lower this time, as the records from the previous survey can be used and updated. It was agreed that the Green survey should be done now, but the other two could wait as they are still current. **Action Clerk to obtain a quotation.**
- c. All the trees are in good condition; one large tree in Hurworth Grange is being observed.

53. Parish Walks

Janine Forster reported.

The first walk of the season has been held and over twenty people participated. One stile was recorded as unsafe.

New maps have now been received from DBC Countryside.

A calendar of future walks has been compiled and will be advertised shortly.

Walk report – for Sunday 26th June 2016

Paths 12,13,11 and 10 were walked on a circular route starting and finishing at Hurworth Grange Community centre.

Attended by 20 people including children and 5 Parish Councillors

Richard Lawley, Janine Forster, Carol Paylor, Simon Coultas, David Wood and the Parish Clerk

The Glebe path from the Grange to railway foot bridge was quite overgrown with some large nettles, which was difficult for the children to pass.

The ground was still soft and muddy at the bottom stile into Linden Drive even though it was a dry warm day.

There is also a big issue with the dangerous, broken and rotting stile at the entrance to the path that runs along the railway line (path 11). It is in urgent need of repair or ideally a complete new design.

Part of the Stile is broken and there are large nails sticking out from this broken part, with the top being worn away leaving more nails visible. When coming out from the path the step up is high from an incline, which leads to the walkers having to put extra pulling pressure on the stile causing greater risk of the stile breaking, and possibly leading to its current “wobbly” dangerous state.

A possible solution would be to have a Kissing gate style which will give people easier access while still keeping a barrier. The path was well walked round this area, and Rockcliffe Hall has kept their part in good order and tidy.

Janine suggested that leaflets could be compiled to outline each walk or registered pathway, for future use and walker's guidance. The council agreed wholeheartedly, and the money is in the budget for this purpose.

It was agreed that a BBQ will be provided after the final walk of the season. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

Peter Foster recommended that Walk Register be established in order to secure the continued status of the registered parish walks on the defined map. All agreed. **Action Clerk.**

54. Open Spaces Report

Wilma Campbell reported:-

a. Open Spaces

David Parker has spent 8 hours in cutting the grass along Westfield Drive and tidying up and replanting the area at the Memorial.

Total cost £88.00

b. Hogweed

Feedback from John Musham (River Tees Trust) on 09 June 2016 regarding report of Giant Hogweed on stretch from Croft bridge to bridge over River Skerne, also along Skerne river bank.

The section from Croft Bridge up to the river Skerne has been sprayed and approximately 0.75 km of the Skerne has been treated (both banks). The plants should start to show signs of dying in a week or so.

The landowners are responsible for their own sites. However, as mentioned previously, there is no requirement for a landowner to remove Gh, Japanese knotweed or Himalayan balsam from their land.

Thus, we are working with as many landowners and local authorities to allow us to treat it. The Skerne is on our 'to do' list.

For the last two months, we have been very busy tackling Gh upstream of Hurworth. We have managed to spray over 35km of bankside and over 5 hectares are very large infestations.

With regards to Hurworth, Mark Hannaford is continuing to make good progress around the Iron Bridge and further downstream.

The section from Croft to Blind Lane has also been treated. We are also in the process of treating the island in the middle of the river opposite the golf course.

After discussion, the council agreed to contribute the further £1000 to the Tees River Trust, to help fund additional work within Hurworth Parish.

Also, we have been able to secure a second year of Japanese knotweed biological control research project, funded by CABI. As last year, one of the sites is in the Hurworth Parish council area.

Mark Hannaford did not take the Parish council up on the full offer of funding (£2000) last year. Is this amount still available this year? If so, it would help tremendously in keeping the momentum of the project going.

Last year HPC were only charged for work carried out between Blind Lane and Newbus which amounted to £837.20. The River Tees Trust bore the rest of the cost on the other sections, including repeat sprayings. I propose to the Council that £1000 be made available from the Open Spaces budget to assist in continuing this work. This was agreed by the Council. **Action Clerk to sent cheque.**

c. **Centenary Field**

We are investigating the possibility of protecting an open space within the Grange as a Centenary Field – a permanent legacy to those who fought in WW1 for our community.

Benefits include:-

A bespoke plaque to recognise the area as a Centenary Field.

Free WW1 themed equipment boxes for any community events on the site registered on Fields in Trust website.

Knowledge that this area is protected in perpetuity for the community and as permanent legacy to our parish.

An expression of interest form has been completed and acknowledged by Fields in Trust.

Updates will be given as discussions progress.

I propose that HPC purchase a bench to be placed in the above area for local community use. Costings are between £600 -£800, depending on type. The council unanimously agreed to this purchase. **Action Wilma Campbell and Clerk.**

55. Projects Reports

- a. **Notice boards.** In the absence of Paul Walters this was postponed. However complimentary comments were made regarding the mobile boards being used to advertise Strawberry Fair.
- b. **Hurworth Grange entrance.** The Chair reported that work will start on this on 5th August, in good time for the Country Fair.

56. Allotment Report

Richard Lawley reported that all the plots are occupied at Strait Lane allotments. One person has vacated their plot and it has been re-assigned and the tenancy agreement signed. There is one person on the Waiting List.

The status of the coping stones at Hurworth Grange allotments has been inspected and although the stones have been taken, replacement stones are in place and no work is required.

The new gateposts and gate repairs at Strait Lane will be carried out in July, at a cost of £290.

Richard has obtained detailed information about a community compost unit. The **Sadberg** unit has four bays, and requires a considerable amount of volunteer involvement to keep it functional. Wilma Campbell stated that EPICH could not undertake this work due to shortage of manpower. After discussion, the council agreed to shelve this idea.

57. Highways Report

Carol Paylor reported:-

- a. The traffic and speeding had been discussed and are reported in the PACT report, herein.
- b. The speed monitor post is now ready for SWARCO to install their fittings. A quotation for £850 has been received, and the council agreed to accept this and proceed immediately. **Action Clerk**
- c. Twelve new volunteers have offered to do SpeedWatch, and they will receive training before starting.
- d. Carol recommended getting clip-on 30mph signs to use as repeater signs in the restricted area. The council agreed in principal, and will discuss this further after a survey of locations and costs is completed. Carol Paylor also recommended 30mph stickers to be deployed on bins, throughout the village, at appropriate sites. The council agreed this and elected to purchase 5 packs of 12 stickers at a cost of £16 per rack. Residents will be approached to participate in this venture. **Action Carol and Clerk**
- e. The council agreed to keep pressing for the 20mph speed limit and flashing lights outside the Academy. DBC has already agreed in principle, but no date has been determined.
- f. Carol has made an appointment with Andrew Casey to meet at the Spar corner to observe the problems, and to try to reach some sort of solution to the problems. **Action Carol Paylor.**

57. Newsletter

The newsletters are printed, but we missed the Church delivery date. All councillors were assigned a batch of newsletters to deliver.

The Chair thanked John and Elaine Hedley for their efforts.

58. Association Reports

- a. **Durham Tees Valley Committee**

Jean Peacock reported that she had attended the June meeting. Most of the discussion did not have a direct influence on Hurworth Parish. However, there was a discussion about the benefits and disadvantages of using Facebook as a social media tool for councils and community groups. The conclusion, at this stage, is that Facebook is good for promoting events, but not advantageous to a parish council.

b. CPRE

Carol reported that she and Richard Lawley had attended the meeting. The principle subject had been an application to build 300 houses at Middleton St George. CPRE are submitting their own input and objections.

59. Any Other Business (Non-financial)

- a. The Chair requested permission for the Clerk to provide copies of the HPC Procedures and other non-sensitive data to Middleton St George Council, who need a little help when their new Clerk is appointed. The council agreed without objection. **Action Clerk**
- b. The Chair asked whether the council should purchase a flag to commemorate the 'Commonwealth. This was postponed until the next meeting, as it involved finance.

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:15pm