

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 3rd November 2016 starting at 7:00pm.

97 Those present: Margaret Williams (Chair), Wilma Campbell, David Wood, Elaine Hedley, Graham Wylie, Jean Peacock, Simon Coultas, Carol Paylor, Paul Walters, Peter Foster, and Janine Forster,

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Bev Hutchinson (Northern Echo), plus five members of the public.

98. Apologies for absence

Richard Lawley. (Prior commitment).

99 Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

100 Chairman's Address

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public, and Bev Hutchinson, who is the new Hurworth Northern Echo representative.

An additional item has been added to the Agenda, and the Chair welcomed John Rochford from Arriva, Darlington.

The Chair informed the meeting that all the councillors have now signed their personal Acceptance of the Code of Conduct, and the Council as a corporate body now needed to pledge their commitment.

The council voted unanimously to the **Acceptance of the Code of Conduct** as stated in the formal document.

101. Carol Paylor introduced Mr John Rochford, Manager of Arriva, Darlington, who addressed the meeting, with specific regard to the incident four months ago when an Arriva bus mounted the pavement at Hurworth Place, when a young school boy was walking along the pavement. The incident had been recorded on camera and a complaint raised by a resident.

Mr Rochford apologised for the delay in attending the PC Meeting, but he had been unavailable for the last two council meetings.

Arriva apologised for the incident and have carried out an intensive investigation of the incident. Speed checks have since been performed which indicate that their buses average 22 mph when travelling through the Hurworth villages. On the day when the incident occurred there was congestion near Oxford Garage, and the driver chose to drive along the pavement to release the grid lock.

Mr Rochford stated that this was against Arriva practice, and, following the complaint, the driver had been interviewed, and Arriva had instilled their corporate procedures to ensure that the driver fully appreciated the dangerous situation which could have occurred from his deviation from

company practice.

Such incidents are not tolerated by Arriva, and publications are distributed to all drivers detailing 'best practice', and the company's stance on deviations from their standards.

Mr Rochford emphasised that his company felt part of the community, and were eager to ensure that they satisfied resident expectations, and provide a good service. He agreed to continue to liaise with Cllr Paylor, and to send her a copy of their Road Safety details.

The Chair thanked Mr Rochford for his attendance, and explanations.

102. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 6th October 2016, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Elaine Hedley.

103. Matters Arising

The only outstanding action related to Mr David Coates, Head of DBC Planning Department. Despite several attempts through voice messages and E Mails, the Clerk had been unable to speak to Mr Coates and to make an appointment. Cllr Tostevin had volunteered to assist, and has established that Mr Coates is still employed by DBC, and had also sent him an E Mail requesting he contacts HPC.

Cllr Kelley said he would be seeing Mr Coates at a Planning meeting, and would ask him to contact HPC.

104. Public Participation

A resident from Grange Road requested that the council visit the triangle at the entrance to Grange Road, as the trees needs pruning. Grange Road is a private road, and the triangle appears to be partly within their private boundary and partly council property. It was agreed that Cllr Peter Foster will visit the site and advise what action should be taken.

The residents are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of this section of Grange Road, but they suffer from public traffic using the road, partly because the sat-nav systems direct traffic into their cul-de-sac. This includes large lorries, which damage their road surface. They request that they be allowed to put up notices on the triangle clarifying that this is a private road, a cul-de-sac and deterring traffic from entering and also using the tringle as a roundabout.

The council agreed that as part of the triangle is their own property, they can put up notices within their boundary.

105. Accounts Payable

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

Accounts for
Payment as at 31st
October 2016

31st Oct 16

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HGSC Drop-in coffee	102773	Planning drop in	15.40
M. Harrison Project	102774	Grange entrance	500.00
Photocopying	102775	Photocopying leaflets	106.40
Prestige Trees	102776	Tree work	777.60
E Hedley Exs	102777	Travelling exs	39.04
J T Atkinson Project	102778	Grange entrance	1320.13
M Harrison Project	102779	Grange entrance	500.00
DBC Grit	102780	Grit for bins	267.49
M. Harrison Project	102781	Grange entrance	800.00
Bob Iles	102782	Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102783	Salary	522.28
Inland Revenue	102784	PAYE	142.80
M. Harrison	102785	Open spaces	40.00
J T Atkinson	102786	Grange entrance	94.98
M Harrison Project	102787	Grange entrance	647.04
P Foster Exs	102788	Travelling exs	36.6
CDALC	102789	Training	27.00
P D Allan	102790	Expenses	72.88
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	25.20
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
BT	DD	Communications	80.51
Total Payments for October 2016			6321.45

105. 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.

106. Finance Working Party

The Chair informed the meeting that a Working Party meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 15th November at 7:00pm in the Bagshaw Gallery to conduct the following business:-

- Budget review for the three years to 31st March 2019
- Project Reports and new projects for the period up to 2020.
- Calculation of the Precept for 2017

The Chair informed the meeting the Discretionary Grant from DBC will be withdrawn in 2017. Cllr Kelley informed the meeting the Litter Picker claim will still be available.

107. Matters of Interest

a. Dog Fouling Competition

Carol Paylor reported that we have now received proofs for the Dog Poo stickers, which appear attractive, and an order will be placed for 20 of each of the five competition winner's designs.

b. Web Drop Box

David Wood reported that two new messages have been received. One referred to the sound at the PC meetings, and some seats will in future, be reserved for the hard of hearing.

The second message related to the 'fishy smell' which often plagues Hurworth. This could emanate from a number of sources, but Peter Foster said it is probably caused from emissions from the old sewage pits on the outside of Hurworth Place.

c. Contingency Plan. The Chairman of the Contingency Plan has advised the council that he is having difficulty getting a quorum for their meetings, and seeks advice and some help. Simon Coultas agreed to meet the chairman and perhaps arrange for the Contingency committee to attend a PC Meeting.

d. Parish Newsletter

Elaine Hedley reported that the quarterly newsletter has been printed and that distribution is in progress. The Chair thanked Elaine and John Hedley for their work with this.

108. Planning Application

Jean Peacock gave the following report:

Planning Report – 3rd November 2016

16/00989/OUT

Roundhill Road (rear of 21)
Erection of 3 Dwellings

16/01022/FUL 19a Roundhill Road

Erection of 2 storey extension to front elevation, erection of replacement single storey extension to rear and proposed loft conversion incorporating 4 rooflights & a Juliet balcony to rear.

David Wood recommended that the council request that developers consult with HPC,

prior to the full application, as a courtesy, and to assist in making the application process easier

109. Planning Development Working Group

a. David Wood reported that the Group has held its second meeting.

The Group has identified five locations which they would like to have meetings with the landowners, viz:

- Strawberry Cottage estate
- Hill Top Farm
- Field east of the Priory School field
- Fields at the rear of Hurworth Grange
- The Priory School field

The group will be getting further details of ownership and interests from the Land Registry.

b. Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Two volunteers have put their names forward to join the committee. Mr Hugh Jackson and Mr Nigel Goddard. The council confirmed their agreement to these volunteers joining the group.

David Wood recommended that, in addition, members should be invited to join the committee, including representatives from Rockcliffe Hall, Hurworth Priory Hurworth House School, the Mustard Tree and Newbus Caravans.

110. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported:

A further inspection of the very large tree in Goblin Wood has been carried out, and it is now recommended that the tree be reduced with extensive pruning. This means that the large branch will not be required to be removed and the road will not need to be closed. The council accepted Cllr Foster's recommendation, and confirmed that the work should be carried out forthwith.

The two dead trees at Manorfield have been felled.

One willow tree beside the footpath has been removed.

One tree at Sycamore Drive has been cut back to allow the street lamp to become effective.

Three other small saplings have been removed.

The council approved the acceptance of a quotation from Prestige Tree Surgeons of £828.00 to cover the cost of the items listed above, not including the Goblin Woods tree.

All this work is in accordance with the latest Tree Survey.

Additionally, and in accordance with the recent tree survey, two trees in Emerson road and Sanderson Road need to be removed as they are infected, and could become a risk to pedestrians and vehicles.

Two [requests](#) have been made by residents who wish to prune back trees which are overhanging their gardens; permission has been granted.

Cllr Foster stated that there are approx 1000 trees in the parish; also that due to the council's diligence, the remainder are in good condition at this time.

Wilma Campbell has received a request by a resident to reduce the tree foliage in Coach Lane, as the passageway is very dark and not conducive to residents walking at night. It was agreed that Cllr Campbell and the Clerk will investigate and contact the tree owner. **Action Cllr Campbell and the Clerk.**

110. Police Report

Paul Walters reported:

PCSO has related the following information relative to Hurworth Parish:-

There has been two attempted break-in's at the Spar shop, and one at Natrass's outlet. Nothing was stolen.

Another attempted break-in occurred at Blackwell Golf Club, but the offender ran away without reward.

A car in the Chase was stripped of several parts.

There have been several reports of damage caused by laser guns, reported as Anti-social behaviour.

There is no further news about the Quarterly PACT Meeting, however Cllr Paylor has attended the Middleton St George PACT Meeting, and they have extended an invitation for residents of Hurworth to attend, and for the council to send a representative.

111. Highways Report

Carol Paylor reported

Highways Report September 2016

- [Dropped kerbs in process of completion at Westfield Drive/Roundhill Road;](#)
- 25th Oct MSG PACT – met with Ron Hogg.

Bruce Askew (Hurworth resident) asked Ron Hogg whether or not he would investigate, with a view to adopting, the ANPR speeding prevention system currently on trial in Gloucester. Ron Hogg stated he was, "...in favour" of the ANPR system and that he knows Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl.

Bruce has sent Ron Hogg all the details of this system and Durham police are awaiting the results of the trial in April 2017.

Ron Hogg said he is, “making an assessment” of what is appropriate to our area in order to reduce road fatalities which have had 100% increase on last year’s figures. **He declared he will ask his officers to issue more speeding fines.**

- All Hurworth’s speeding data will be emailed to Sergeant Cat Iley by HPC at catherine.iley@durham.pnn.police.uk
- Cat Iley has been sent all the Community Speed watch volunteers’ details at her request for her to follow-up this issue. 12 volunteers since June 2016 have not received training in Hurworth despite being police checked.
- **Mini Police** – HPC to approach Hurworth Primary to see if they could engage with Craig Johnson at Police Headquarters to participate in this project.
- **MSG have invited Hurworth to join their PACT meeting as HPC PACT has been disbanded due to “lack of interest”.**

Graham Wylie reported:

Traffic data for October

Linden Court, Incoming:

Max speed 65mph 1.30am

Average Speed 33.5mph

Out of 142,652 cars, 24% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mph

Hurworth Road Outgoing:

Max speed 70mph 11.23

Average Speed 34.7 mph

Out of 78,819 cars, 30% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mph

Roundhill Road, Incoming:

Max speed 60mph 9.00am

Average Speed 32.5mph

Out of 56175 cars, 21% of drivers drove between 35 and 39.9mph

[We continue](#) to submit the Hurworth data to the Police, but are sad that we receive no reports or comments in return. It was stated that Police Commissioner Ron Hogg is supportive of our efforts, but we need more involvement from the local force.

Concern was expressed that the 12 volunteers who would assist with the local SpeedWatch have still not received their introductory training, and we are in danger of them losing their enthusiasm.

It was agreed that the council invite Catherine Iley to attend the next PC Meeting, so our traffic concerns can be disused. **Action Clerk**

The old obsolete traffic signs are still in place in Hurworth Place despite assurances that they [would](#) be removed.

Peter Foster reported that there has been serious fly tipping near EiroJag on Neasham Road. Cllr Tostevin suggested that this should be reported via the DBC web site which has a fly-tipping reporting feature for this very purpose, and that DBC are responsive to the reports.

The road [signs](#) along Neasham Road are still partly covered by plant foliage and need attention.
Clerk to follow up.

112. Open Paces report

Wilma Campbell reported:

a. Centenary Field

We are still waiting for Jamie Leeson to send us his availability to [reschedule](#) a meeting.

b. Open Spaces

Open spaces audit is ongoing.

Hedge cuttings have been removed from entrance to Westfield Drive.

There was also concern from a resident on Westfield Drive regarding maintenance of a portion of the hedge. EPICH will replant this section with new saplings and ask grass cutter to keep clear of underlying weeds/grass as is done for rest of hedgerow.

c. EPICH

Bulb planting.

So far 8 bags of King Alfred daffodil bulbs have been planted. Areas include the entrance to Grange estate and Westfield Drive. Four more bags have been purchased for planting on riverside opposite the Comet and around Hurworth Place.

Four bags of woodland bulbs containing winter aconite, snowdrops, bluebells, native small daffodils and crocus are on order. These will be planted in the more shaded areas around the village.

A replacement apple tree kindly donated by Brian Gable has been planted in the Heritage Orchard.

113. Projects Report

a. Notice Boards

Paul Walters reported that we have identified an alternative source for the notice boards, which is a company based in Kendal. Their prices are more competitive, and are made locally. It was agreed that Cllr Walters will make a further evaluation and select a suitable design.

Due to the non-response from the DBC Planning department, we have failed to move forward in obtaining permission to install the three notice boards. In conclusion, the council will erect one notice board on our own property near the Comet Inn. We will continue to obtain permission for the other two locations.

b. Hurworth Grange entrance

This work is almost completed and the project should be signed off by the end of November. The costs are within budget, and hence within the grant allocation.

114. Allotment Report.

In the absence of Richard Lawley, Graham Wylie gave the following report:-

The AGM for the Allotment Committee will be held on Tuesday, 22nd November at 7:15pm in the Bagshaw Gallery.

The expenses incurred by the council for the 12 months to 31st October 2016 amounted to £852.55, and the revenue from the 57 allotments at £15 per annum was £855.00. Based upon this the council agreed that the **allotment rent for the year 2017, will remain at £15.00.**

An allotment holder, Mrs Maureen Powles requested that she could light a controlled fire to get rid of allotment debris. A large amount of debris, which had exceeded the skip capacity remains, and several allotment holders have contributed to one large fire.

After discussion, and assurances from Mrs Powles that the fire will be controlled and supervised, the council voted by 8 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, that permission be granted.

Cllr Wood suggested that clause 14 of the Allotment Rules be re-visited at the forthcoming Allotment AGM, and further definitions regarding the size and location of fires should be further considered. All agreed.

115. Association Reports

Wilma Campbell reported:-

CDALC AGM 22nd October 2016

About 30 councillors attended this AGM.
The President Mr G M Morris was re-elected.

Three Vice Presidents were elected:-

Cllr Bell (Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council)

Cllr R Harrison (Sacriston & Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council's)

Cllr W Jeffrey (Peterlee Town Council)

Motion 14 on Equality that we voted unanimously to support at our October meeting was discussed. It was suggested that the words gender prejudice be added to the motion. The majority of councillors present agreed.

As this wasn't included in the original motion that HPC agreed to, do any councillors wish to challenge this? If not, can I suggest we vote to adopt this motion.

' We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society, Racism, gender prejudice, xenophobia, homophobia, religion intolerance and hate crimes have no place in our county. HPC condemns all such intolerance and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable and will work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and others to fight prejudice and hate crimes. We reassure all people living in the area that they are valued members of our Communities'.

The council was asked to vote for this motion, thereby committing to the content therein. The vote was unanimous in the acceptance.

An emergency motion for consideration was put forward for consideration....This meeting is resolutely opposed to proposals by the government to extend council tax referendum to some or all local councils. This motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed with a presentation by Stuart Priestly from DCC ecology section on the creation and importance of wildflower meadows.

b. Jean Peacock reported that she had attended the DAPC Meeting, viz:-

DARLINGTON ASSOCIATION OF PARISH COUNCILS 2ND NOV. 2016

Facebook was discussed and not many parishes have taken this on. We were asked if we had taken it further and reported that at the moment we had taken on Guestbook on our Website.

PACT was discussed and the meetings are to be held at Middleton St George with another one held at the Dolphin Centre occasionally.

Planning was discussed briefly.

The Precept was discussed and it was suggested that the Precept should go up for

most Parishes next year before the new regulations come into effect.

25 years on the Parish Council. Peter Foster's name will be forwarded.

116. Any Other Business

A letter was read out from DBC stating that, due to financial cuts, they were now very selective in the placing of litter bins. Hence, they refused to return the bin which they have removed from the Hurworth skateboard area.

Cllr Hedley requested a litter bin for outside the Grange patio. **The Clerk will request one.**

Cllr Woods requested that the Clerk obtains additional financial data regarding the Hurworth rate bands, and total rates revenue. **Clerk to obtain the data.**

The meeting closed at 9:32pm

Draft