

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 6th October 2016, preceded by the PACT Meeting starting at 6.30pm.**

#### **PACT Meeting – Chair Paul Walters**

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

PCSO John Angus and PC Foley attended.

PCSO John Angus gave the police report for the period from 1st September to 30th September 2016 as follows:-

Total Crimes	12	
Burglaries	7	Tees View newsagent - nothing taken Hurworth Academy - nothing taken Meadow Brook Baxby Terrace garage Hurworth Grange - cash from till Hornby Close shed, bicycle stolen Hornby Close
A person has been charged and has been locked up; burglaries have now ceased.		
Burglary Other	0	
Theft	2	Property opposite post office Rockcliffe Court - £500 stolen, possibly over two week period.
Vehicle theft	0	
Theft from vehicle	0	
Criminal damage	0	
Antisocial behaviour	2	Rockcliffe Hall - children swearing in the woods Emerson Road - Youth throwing fruit and vegetables
Criminal harassment	0	

The new speed monitor is now operational for past month.

The twelve Speedwatch volunteers are still not operational, but the matter will be followed up, to ensure they are commissioned soon.

John Angus informed the meeting that this will be the last PACT meeting at Hurworth. A new scheme is being launched designated a Super PACT, where several parishes are invited to attend. It is proposed to hold these in Middleton St George. The reason is that the officers cannot be released for individual parish and village meetings.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance and co-operation.

### **Parish Council Business meeting**

**79 Those present:** Margaret Williams (Chair), Wilma Campbell, David Wood, .Elaine Hedley, Graham Wylie, Jean Peacock, Simon Coultas, Carol Paylor, Peter Foster, and Richard Lawley.

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

### **80. Apologies for absence**

Janine Forster, (Holiday)

### **81 Declarations of Interest**

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Graham Wylie	Allotment

### **82 Chairman's Address**

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public. The schedule of the meeting has been slightly changed, bringing the Planning Report higher up the Agenda, before the Public Participation.

**83. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 1st September 2016**, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Graham Wylie.

### **84. Matters Arising**

No items arising, all items will be covered in the reports.

### **85. Highways Report**

#### **Highways Report for September 2016**

- Brenda Bowles (Highways Engineer for DBC) has confirmed the **Spar parking spaces** will not proceed due to the scheme being unenforceable and residents' concerns.

- **30mph repeater signs** not permitted by DBC. Would support variable message signs.
- Another **school keep clear marking** will go on Roundhill Road – next batch of works are due.
- **Highways Inspector** performed site visit to house on Roundhill Road undergoing significant works near school crossing to advise contractors.
- If funding becomes available, **Safer Routes for Schools** will be a priority outside the Primary School.
- **Arboricultural Officer** has received details of trees shrouding lights in the village. Work actioned.
- **Arriva** – Parishioners sent footage of bus mounting the pavement at speed when a young person was on that pavement. John Rochford from Arriva has dealt with this matter and intends addressing HPC to reassure our residents.
- **Ron Hogg** – messages left at Country Fair re Speeding. Still awaiting contact.
- **Taxis on Westfield Drive** – another complaint has been made by The Priory School to a Middleborough company whose taxi mounted both pavements either side whilst doing a three-point-turn on 4:10:16
- **Priory Staff now operate a car share scheme** to help reduce congestion on Westfield Drive.

The following matters have not yet been resolved and require follow up with DBC.

- The sign at the top of the bank coming from Croft, just past the bridge is non-existent and looks like a national speed sign. This needs a 30mph sign, or taken down.
- The path wasn't re-surfaced for all of Strait Lane. The residents would like to know why in front of the terraced houses to the Otter and Fish this area has not been re-surfaced ?

There has been no response to the wheelie-bin letters, and it was concluded that there were no objections.

Graham Wylie presented the traffic details for the month of September, viz:-

### **Traffic Report, September 2016**

Hurworth Road, outgoing:

85% = 34.7 mph

Maximum speed 70 mph, 22/09/2016 at 11:23pm

Out of 78,819 drivers 33,844 were driving between 30mph and 34.9mph = 43% of drivers

Linden Court, incoming from Darlington:

85% = 33.2 mph

Maximum speed 70 mph, 01/09/2016 at 06:15am

Out of 142,415 drivers 60,511 were driving between 30mph and 34.9mph = 42% of driver

Roundhill Road, incoming:

85% = 32.6 mph

Maximum speed 60 mph, 08/09/2016 at 05:30am

Out of 56,765 drivers 28,782 were driving between 30mph and 34.9mph = 51% of drivers

## **86. Planning Report**

The Chair stated that it is important for the council to make a decision on whether or not to raise a formal objection for the Application to build up to 100 houses on Roundhill Road. The recent drop-in session and resident sentiment have highlighted a number of significant objections and concerns.

A motion was tabled by Wilma Campbell and Seconded by Paul Walters that a formal objection should be submitted, the content of which will be determined at the Special Meeting scheduled for 11th October. A vote was taken and the motion carried by 10 votes in favour, and one abstention.

The Chair confirmed that a Special Meeting has been convened, at which the public can attend, but open forum will be limited to thirty minutes and in accordance with the council's standard procedures.

Jean Peacock gave the following Planning Report:-

### **Planning Report – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

16/00802/FUL2 Belgrave Terrace

Erection of single storey extension to the rear. No Comment

16/00866/FUL23 The Green

Demolition of existing conservatory and flat roof extension and erection of single storey dining room extension. Granted 4.10.16

16/00939/FULHill Top Farm – Roundhill Road.

(14/00101/FUL) Variation of Condition 4 (approved plans) to permit alteration.

No Comment

16/00830/FUL33 Church Row

Demolition of detached garage and existing single storey rear extension and erection of single storey to rear. No Comment

- 16/00829/LBC 9 The Green  
Listed Building Consent for removal of existing conservatory and erection of wraparound Orangery to side/rear elevation. Style should be kept in accordance to surrounding area.
- 16/00828/FUL 9 The Green  
Removal or existing conservatory and erection of wraparound orangery to side and rear. As Above
- 16/00809/FUL? 30 The Green  
Demolition of all structures to the rear of original house and erection of a single storey rear extension as per plan 16/00812/LBC (retrospective) (rang Mr Coates 12/9/16 – no reply)  
Very concerned about the design of this structure as it has already been constructed . As previous months comments.

The council expressed disappointment that there has been no response from David Coates DBC Head of Planning on several pressing topics. It was agreed that a meeting with him should be arranged. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

### **87. Public Participation**

A resident asked for an update on the Super Broadband status for Hurworth. Cllr Joe Kelley responded that he is stringently following this up, but no real progress or commitments have been made. It appears that although there is a pledge for 95 percent of the country to get the service, Hurworth appears to not be specifically included. Parts of Hurworth have the service, while others do not, which appears to be an enigma. Cllr Kelley stated that further funding for rural areas will be coming, although the dates are not yet stipulated.

### **88. Accounts Payable**

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

#### **Accounts for Payment as at 30th September 2016**

**30th Sept 16**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Ian Palmer	102762	Parish Walks BBQ	210.00
B Green	102763	Open Space 120 Allotmts 40	160.00

Hur Country Fair	102764	Dog poo poster comp	100.00
Inland Revenue	102765	PAYE	158.00
Bob Iles	102766	Salary	363.15
P D Allan	102767	Salary	522.48
EPICH	102768	Section 137 award	1600.00
B Green	102769	Open Space 60, allotments 60	120.00
N Water	102770	Allot water	32.41
P D Allan	102771	Admin expenses	71.67
BDO	102772	Audit Fee	240.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	14.27
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	12.97

**Total outlay** **3634.75**

Received Litter Picker refund from DBC 2123.90

## 89. Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

- The external audit for 2015-16 has been completed, and the final documents received, and hence their account will be paid now.
- The Litter Picker Refund claim has been accepted and the refund received.

## 90. Matters of Interest

### a. Dog Fouling Competition

Carol Paylor reported that 'Little Acorns' nursery, Hurworth Primary School and the Priory School all submitted entries. Posters were of a very high standard. Five winners were selected. Their posters are to be displayed around the village.

**Action: Obtain quotations for the sticker posters.**

Mrs Madison, Head of School from Hurworth Primary, has requested an article for the school newsletter; an article has been submitted to the Parish Newsletter too.

### b. Equality

Elaine Hedley requested that the council adhere to the request from CDLAC that support be given to a motion which will be tabled at the CDLAC AGM on 22nd October, the following motion was tabled:-

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society, Racism, xenophobia, homophobia, religion intolerance and hate crimes have no place in our country. County Durham Association of Local Councils 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 meeting voted unanimously to support this undertaking, and will vote at the AGM accordingly.

**c. Web Drop Box**

David Wood reported that the trial month has attracted a number of messages, the contents and supervision of the comments is being made, to ensure no unacceptable messages are put into the public domain.

The concept is proving to be successful, and could become a good addition to the transparency and interaction policies of the council.

**d. Drop-in afternoon.**

The public invitation to meet councillors and obtain information about the application to build up to 100 houses on Roundhill Road was well supported with about forty residents taking the opportunity to talk to councillors in an informal afternoon session.

e. The Chair read out a letter informing the council that the memorial at All Saints Church is now a Grade 2 structure under the Historic Heritage organisation.

f. An anonymous letter has been received highlighting the number of caravans and dormobiles which are permanently parked in residents driveways. These block out light and are often not welcomed by their neighbours, Can the council do anything to improve this situation?. The council agreed to check into a property deed in one to the streets named. However, this is a personal matter rather than a council affair.

**g. Priory Hurworth House School**

Carol Paylor gave a report about the latest meeting with Priory School, for which we have now received the Minutes.

The school is continuing to co-operate with the council in addressing parking and behavioural concerns. The new junior section which started in September will have up to 12 students, and will operate in the main building at the front facing the Green. Taxi sharing for some areas is now in place, and this has reduced the traffic flow. Supervision of students at the gates during period breaks is now operational, and this will improve neighbour interactions.

The school reiterated their keenness to work with the parish council on joint community projects, and to try to further integrate with the community. They will

be offering IT classes at the school, using the school's equipment, and encourage residents to attend.

Priory has stated that they have no plans for selling their playing field and acknowledge that HPC has the first option should this position change. They will be pleased to pursue ideas to use the field for allotments, a wild flower meadow, or other community activities.

The school will be holding a Coffee Morning on 11th November, and all are invited. The staff will be holding a party near Christmas at the Mustard Tree and residents are welcome to join in.

The school would welcome any volunteers, who have a skill in any topic, to participate in mentoring sessions with students at the school.

The chair asked if Carol would become the Priory School liaison representative, and she agreed to take on this important role.

### **91. Planning Development Working Group Report**

David Wood reported that the Group would be meeting in October, and that volunteers to join the Neighbourhood Planning team are being sought and encouraged.

### **92. Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported that the tree survey for the trees on the Village Green area has now been completed and the report is in the Parish Office. We underlined the importance of the surveys, as ensured planned maintenance and should avoid emergency actions and danger to the public.

The designated work on the Green, to trim the growth at ground level and to heighten the canopies to allow vehicles to pass unhindered has been completed. Some residents have thanked the council for the work that has been carried out.

The very large tree in Goblin Wood is still a danger, which is being watched carefully. Cllr Foster recommends that the tree is reduced by removing one huge branch, which constitutes about half of the tree. This will be an expensive operation, as the road will need to be closed while the work takes place and the branches removed. **Action HPC to discuss this with DBC to see what assistance DBC will give.**

The two dead trees at Manorfield still remain, and DBC has not responded to our requests.

All the other trees appear to be in sound condition.

### **92. Parish Pathways**

Richard Lawley reported that a meeting has taken place with Malcolm

Thompson (DBC Countryside) to discuss the condition of the defined paths. This had been productive, and Mr Thompson has undertaken a number of actions, which include:-

- Stiles are the responsibility of the landowners, and Malcolm agreed to talk to the landowners where repairs or replacement to the stiles is required.



- The walk around Geneva Woods has been reported as blocked, and Malcolm will investigate and apply action to re-open it.
- The stile at the Christadelphian Church will be replaced. This has already been done recently
- The stile on the path which exits near Eurojag is too near the main road and needs to be moved back.

Malcolm informed the council that DBC are offering grants for the installation of Kissing Gates, and he encourages us to take advantage of this. He has suggested a kissing gate at the rear of Hurworth Grange.

### 93. Open Spaces report

Wilma Campbell gave her monthly report:-

#### Open Spaces

##### Centenary Field

A meeting with Jamie Leeson, Development Officer for Fields in Trust, was due to take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, but unfortunately his plans changed. We are waiting for him to send us his availability to reschedule.

#### Open Spaces

Open spaces audit is ongoing.

Hedges have been trimmed around Westfield Drive.

Overhanging branches have been cut back and undergrowth sprayed with herbicide on the public footpath at Minster Walk.

Strait Lane allotment grass has been cut.

#### EPICH

Bulb planting around the village should start within the next few weeks. Suggestions from residents for possible planting sites and help with actual planting would be welcomed and appreciated.

Mr Peter Richardson, from the public gallery expressed his thanks to

David Parker, for his work in Hurworth parish.

## **94. Project Reports**

### **a. Notice Boards**

Paul Walters reported that the final price for the three notice boards has been negotiated; the units will be imported from France.

We are still waiting for a response from DBC regarding planning permission requirements. In order to expedite this, we intend to arrange a meeting with Dave Coates, **Head of DBC Planning Dept.**

**b.** Margaret Williams reported that work has started on broadening the Grange entrance, and the project should be finished by this month end.

## **95. Allotments Report**

Richard Lawley reported as follows:-

There are seven people on the Strait Lane Waiting List, dating back to June 2016, and seven people on the Grange Waiting List, dating back to 2013.

No problems reported from either site.

The water will be turned off at both sites on 30th October.

A skip has been ordered for Strait Lane on Friday, 28th October.

The AGM will be arranged for a date in November.

## **96. Association Reports**

Peter Foster reported that when he attended the CDALC Executive Meeting last month, Hurworth Parish Council was praised for achieving the Gold Award. Three other local councils have now achieved Foundation Level.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm