

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday 2nd February 2017 starting at 7:00pm.**

**161 Those present:** Margaret Williams (Chair), David Wood, Graham Wylie, Carol Paylor, Paul Walters, Peter Foster, Janine Forster, Elaine Hedley, Jean Peacock .

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus 13 members of the public.

#### **162. Apologies for absence**

Wilma Campbell, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Richard Lawley

#### **163 Chairman's Address**

The Chair welcomed the councillors and the public.

The Chair informed everybody that this meeting will be videoed, and a record taken of the proceedings. The Chair read out the instructions relating to the use of a video to ensure all attendees were comfortable with the arrangements.

The Chair explained that with the recent resignation of Simon Coultas, the council has gone through the process of advertising the vacancy. DBC has informed us that it is not necessary for the council to hold an election, and that we can proceed to co-opt a new councillor. There are two candidates, both who qualify to represent Hurworth.

At this meeting the council will follow the procedure for this co-option, and select the new councillor.

#### **164 Declarations of Interest**

Jean Peacock	HCA
Graham Wylie	Allotment

#### **165. Co-option of a new councillor for Hurworth Parish Councillor**

The two candidates were Mark Middlemiss and Dorothy Oughton

Each candidate was asked to make a three minute introduction, with information about their background and why they wished to join the council.

The councillors then asked questions on a range of topics relating to the work that the council carries out.

When the question and answer session was finished, a ballot was conducted and an official count of the votes made by Cllr Joe Kelley and the Clerk.

The votes recorded were as follows:-

Mark Middlemiss 3 votes

Dorothy Oughton 6 votes

Mrs Dorothy Oughton, having won the vote, was invited to join the council, and signed the Register of Acceptance. She then took her seat at the council table.

**166. The Minutes of the HPC Meeting dated 5th January 2017**, having been previously distributed, were passed by the council. Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Carol Paylor.

**167. The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 19th January 2017**, having been distributed to all councillors, were passed by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by David Wood.

### **168. Matters Arising**

**1. The 30mph sign** has arrived, and arrangements will be made to erect it within the next week.

#### **2. E Mail box for individual councillors**

David Wood expressed his feelings that the solution proposed for himself, and possibly other councillors to have their own HPC E mail facility, was out of date and not the best solution. The Chair described her concerns regarding council transparency, and stressed that the solution put forward would satisfy Cllr Wood's primary concern of segregating council E Mails from the 200 other messages he receives every day. A more enhanced solution would provide a facility for each councillor to interact directly with outside bodies, without the supervision or control of the Parish Office, this being contrary to the council's policy of transparency. Graham Wylie stated that he thought the suggested solution would work satisfactorily for Cllr Wood.

Cllr Joe Kelley was asked about his Mail Box at DBC, and he said that he had the facility which is in line with Cllr Wood's preferred solution, but there is a specific Department at DBC which monitors the messages and oversees their operations; this would not exist in the Parish Office. Cllr Kelley also intimated that it is not altogether satisfactory, and veered towards the solution suggested by the chair.

Cllr Wood agreed to try the suggested solution.

### **169 Public Participation**

1. Mr Ian Holme addressed the council, and made the following statement, requesting the council's support for the hospital's future.

#### **SOS Darlington DMH**

Darlington has a non-Party Political Campaign fighting to avoid the downgrading of Darlington Memorial Hospital's key services.

This campaign is supported by both Darlington's Labour MP Jenny Chapman and Richmond Conservative MP Rishi Sunak.

Proposals to be put forward by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation trust could well include the loss of Darlington's A&E Dept. and Consultant led maternity services.

This campaign is therefore aimed at preventing these changes becoming the preferred option when the formal consultation commences on the 1st June.

If DMH lost its A&E it would mean medical Emergencies being transferred to James Cook, North Tees or Durham resulting in a catastrophic impact on the safety of our rural communities.

Like most of us, I was made vaguely aware of these suggested plans via the media but the true potential impact was made only too real to me when my father was taken ill recently. His condition was such that he was taken directly to Durham. Having a life-threatening condition, we waited an hour for the emergency ambulance and then another 40 minutes to get him to Durham. Thanks to the care he received at Durham, Newcastle RVI and Darlington he is thankfully making a good recovery.

Given the above, the prospect of all A&E services being transferred away from Darlington, and with the Ambulance service under such severe strain, the end result can only be that lives will be lost due to the extra time taken to get appropriate hospital care.

I am hoping that HPC will be able to formally endorse this campaign and help publicise its aims in the Newsletter. If so, I can forward the Chair and Clerk key contacts, details and further information.

Many thanks

2. A resident raised the status of high-speed broadband in Hurworth, and the lack of its availability in sections of the village.

Cllr Joe Kelley updated the meeting with current situation, stating that he has received a promise from BT that they will provide a full explanation in February. Cllr Kelley reiterated his previous report that Hurworth was deemed to be 'commercially viable' and hence a WHITE ZONE. This means that the government will fund the project; however, as the funding has not materialised yet, BT are reluctant to meet the costs themselves.

Cllr Kelley promised to report again in March.

## **170. Accounts for Payment**

The Schedules for Accounts for Payment for January 2017, having been distributed to all Councilors, were accepted by the council.

Paul Walters asked why we have purchased a chainsaw. The reason is that the container at the Grange has been broken into, and several expensive tools and a generator have been stolen. One of our contractors lost several items and the council purchased the saw to lend to him, so that HPC scheduled work can continue.

## Accounts for Payment as at 31 st January 2017

**31st Jan 17**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Eden Landscapes	102817	Chainsaw	119.99
P D Allan	102818	New laptop & software	602.96
Archers	102819	30mph sign	54.24
M Harrison	102820	Handyman	55.00
Inland Revenue	102821	PAYE	142.60
Bob Iles	102822	Salary	301.50
P D Allan	102823	Salary	522.48
J.U Lawrence	102824	2 Notice boards for allotments	320.00
P D Allan	102825	Expenses, projector converted	108.00
BT	DD	Communications	80.51
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	16.38
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	13.88
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	4.60
Works Loan Board	DD	Payment off loan	258.62
<b>Total Payments for January 2017</b>			<b>2625.96</b>

## 171. Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

The Financial report having been previously distributed to all councillors was presented at the meeting. There were no questions and the accounts were accepted.  
Please see the Minutes addendum.

## 172. Contingency Plan Report

Mr Phil Hill, Chairman of the HPC Contingency addressed the council, giving a status report of the group.

The Contingency Plan is in place, with six members in the group. However, his endeavours to convene a meeting have failed, and, on four occasions, he has not been able to raise a quorum. He believes that the motivation has declined as there have been no disasters and hence no real reason to rally the troops.

The basic requirements are defined as :-

1. Liaison with the Fire Service, and this is in place.
2. Identifying and having emergency arrangements in place for an Emergency Centre. This has been arranged at Hurworth Grange. This will be the Secure HQ.
3. Liaison and support arrangements with the Air Ambulance.

During discussions with the local support services, they claim that 90% of the response work will be handled by themselves, but there will be a requirement for local knowledge and local support at the scene.

There is concern that the A&E services at Darlington Memorial may be diluted.

Peter Foster is the GPC Representative, and it was agreed that regular update meetings should take place. Representatives from County Durham and Darlington Contingency groups have expressed their wish to attend the next meeting. A database is in place holding details of vehicles and equipment available.

The emergency support follows priority escalations:-

1. Blue light attendance
2. DBC support
3. General public (HPC)
4. Armed forces assistance

The Dolphin Centre has been designed by DBC and the Fire Service as the local Emergency Centre.

Mr Hill reported that the Darlington Fire Service is likely to be reduced in size, and volunteers may be drafted in to assist.

Peter Foster agreed to get together with Phil Hill to try to re-invigorate the group.

The Chair thanked Mr Hill for attending the meeting and giving his report.

### **173. Matters of Interest**

1. The Chair reported that the annual appraisals of the Clerk and the Litter Picker have been completed.
2. Elaine Hedley reported that the February Parish Chronicle is almost finished, and a meeting in the Parish Office was arranged for Tuesday 7th February to review and finalise the document.

3. Carol Paylor gave details of a forthcoming community event to be held at Hurworth Grange at Easter – on Maundy Thursday April 13 th. This incorporates an Easter Trail, and activities for children both indoors and outdoors. Posters will be displayed and the details are on the HPC web site. The council allocated £50 towards prizes for the children.

#### **174. Web Site Drop Box**

David Wood reported that there has been a number of messages though the Drop Box. The two main subjects are:-

1. The Banks Group development and suggestions that DBC received a grant towards the cost of the Civic Theatre. This was both criticised and applauded.
2. Anti-social behaviour by youths, mainly on Friday evenings. It was suggested that parents should be contacted to help to curb this behaviour, and a note placed in the Parish Chronicle.

#### **175. Planning Applications**

The Chair informed the meeting that Banks Group would be attending the March meeting, and would give the council an update of the next steps of project, with some possible dates in the timeframe.

Jean Peacock reported on the applications under consideration in January 2017, viz

#### **Planning Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

16/01266/FUL	7 Southfield Close Erection of Porch to front entrance. No Comment
17/00022/FUL	2 Neasham Road Construction of Basement Garden Store and erection of detached garage. No Comment
16/01257/PLU	1 Peaceful Valley Certificate of lawfulness for proposed development. Erection of conservatory to rear and construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof on hall, kitchen and bathroom. No Comment
17/00065/LBC Late entry	Rosemary Cottage, Neasham Road LBC for erection of a single storey extension to the rear, erection of a detached double garage incorporating alterations to access and removal of existing outbuildings. No Comment

## **176. Planning Development Work Group Report.**

- a. David Wood reported that the Group has not had a meeting, but a meeting has been arranged for 16th February. David has been in touch with Dave Nelson at DBC and is receiving co-operation from him, and he will attend a meeting.
- b. There has been some progress with the questionnaire compilation. Further meetings are planned.

## **177 Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported that the Grange Tree Survey has been completed and the report will be submitted shortly. It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the Report to all councillors, and at the next PC Meeting, Peter Foster will talk through the content. Two trees require immediate attention in the Grange grounds; one tree is leaning badly and needs to be felled as it is a risk to traffic entering and leaving the Grange. The other tree is adjacent to the playground, and has already suffered from a large branch falling across the car park. This tree requires pollarding. The council has received a quotation for £945 for the work on these two trees. The council approved this expenditure. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk informed the council of the Preferred Supplier which HPC used to have with Guy Foster Tree Surgeon, prior to him merging with Prestige Tree Surgeons. This included an arrangement whereby we do not need to go out for three quotations, which proved difficult to obtain, and work was often of an urgent nature. In exchange we received a ten percent discount as their Preferred Service Provider.

The Clerk recommended that the council should seek to form a similar relationship with Prestige Tree surgeons, as they have proved to be reliable and professional in their response and co-operation.

The council agreed to this arrangement and instructed the Clerk to seek a new agreement, subject to an annual review. **Action Clerk.**

Peter Foster related the fall of the huge 200 year old ash tree in the Grange, and suggested that a plaque should be put on the tree to commemorate it.

## **178. PACT Report**

Paul Walters informed the council that due to sickness PSCO John Angus has not been able to provide a monthly report. Therefore at the meeting, two month's activity will be reported.

## **179 Highways and Traffic Report**

### **1. Carol Paylor reported the following items:-**

- a. T junction sign is down on Neasham Road heading from the stadium to Burma Road  
**Action Clerk**

- b. There are serious potholes outside All Saints Church and on Strait Lane **Action Clerk**
- c. The white line has still not been repainted on Westfield Drive. **Action Clerk**
- d. 5. Residents have complained that the pavement in Ashfield Close is very slippery due to moss. Overtures to DBC for remedial work have failed to produce a solution. The council agreed to address the problem, and the Clerk was instructed to have the work done at HPC expense. **Action Clerk**
- e. There are reports of traffic going the wrong side of the memorial opposite the Spar shop, and into Blind Lane. Arrows on the road would be the most suitable action. **Action Clerk**
- f. The zigzag lines have been extended at the Primary School entrance.
- g. Despite the efforts of HPS, DBC state that the traffic calming measures on Roundhill Road are 'unlikely to be addressed within the next 18 months'.

2. Graham Wylie reported on the Traffic statistics for January 2017, viz:-

### **Roundhill Road incoming**

Average speed 31.9mph

Maximum speed was 60mph on 4/1/2017 at 16.00

Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 33.2mph

### **Lindon Court**

Average speed 33.3mph

Maximum speed was 60mph on 1/1/2017 at 8.30

Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 33.5mph

### **Hurworth Road Outgoing**

Average speed 34.6mph

Maximum speed was 80mph on 20/1/2017 at 23.45

Worst day for speeding is Sunday with an average speed of 34.3mph

Graham Wylie said that the speed monitors will be moved soon, and also suggested that the council purchase another unit. After discussion, **the Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation.**

The condition of the road and pathway from the Otter and Fish to Newbus Grange is bad following the work which has been carried out to install the high-speed fibre cable. **Action Clerk**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Litter Picker has been asked to work an extra one hour per week, to include the cleaning of the Glebe.

Peter Foster reported that caravans are emptying their rubbish in the bins on the layby on the A66, which are overflowing, and the litter is blowing across the highway. **Clerk to report this.**

### **180. Parish Walks**

Janine Forster reported that a walk is being arranged for mid-March, from Stressholme Golf Club to Hurworth Place.



Other walks are being planned, once Janine has done a trial run.

It was agreed that more publicity about future walks is important, and that the severity of the walk should be announced.

## **181. Projects**

1. Paul Walters reported that the three Community Notice Boards should arrive in seven days time.

Residents have still not been contacted to advise them and obtain their acceptance. It was agreed that this will be carried out prior to erection of the notice boards. Paul will ensure this is carried out.

2. Grange internal pathway

The Clerk reported that the grant application made on behalf of EPICH has been rejected because EPICH neither own the land nor have a lease on the land. The rejection, however, suggests that if HCA submit a similar application, then it is would be welcomed.

This has raised a conundrum which the Chair allowed the Clerk to explain.

HCA, who have the lease on Hurworth Grange wish to make an extension to the Fletcher Hall; this extension will be an entrance where the fire exit is leading to the car park. The proposed extension will be a smart entrance porch with easy disabled access, and toilets for male and female with disabled facilities.

A major benefit will be that the Fletcher Hall can be isolated from the rest of the building and become a self-contained venue. This will facilitate more than one function taking place at the Grange, thereby offering more community facilities with the possibility of also generating additional revenue. The proposal to embark on this project was passed at the January HCA Management Meeting.

To raise the funds HCA hope to raise £10,000 from Awards for All, another £6000 from a different grant provider, and look for some support from the Parish Council.

This brings us back to the grant potential for the pathway. HCA would not like to make an application for the pathway project as it would preclude them from applying for their building project.

The Clerk has talked to the Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All) and they have confirmed that the Parish Council is qualified to apply for the pathway grant, and it is recommended that we take this action.

In the event that HPC obtain this grant, and there is probability that HCA will obtain a grant for the Grange Art Room, then it is possible that HPC will have freed up as much as £15,000 from their forward budgets.

HCA requests the Parish Council to financially support this building improvement, as they own the property, and this is a beneficial enhancement. David Wood stated that the council should proceed with the pathway, and go ahead and apply for the grant in their name. This was agreed.

### **Action Clerk**

After discussion, the council also agreed to support the HCA in this project, subject to approving the plans and obtaining planning permission. No figures were discussed.

### **181. Allotment Report**

The Clerk reported that most of the rents have been collected and the remainder will be chased for payment within 2 weeks.

Two plots have been vacated, and there is a Waiting List at Strait Lane of seven names. The Grange allotments remain full, and has a Waiting List of seven people.

The two new notice boards have been erected.

### **182. Association Reports**

Carol reported that she had attended the CPRE Meeting, and the content had mainly been a discussion on the Conniscliffe development proposals.

### **183. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)**

1. Priory Hurworth House School have offered dates for the next meeting. The date selected is Monday, 6th February between 11:30am and 2:00pm

2. Mr Ian Cosgrove from Hartlepool Council wishes to establish a relationship with HPC, regarding Durham Tees Valley airport affairs. **Clerk to contact.**

**The chair closed the meeting at 10:02pm**