

# **Hurworth Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 starting at 7:00pm.**

**201. Those present:** Jean Peacock (Chair), Chris Pratt, Peter Foster, Paul Walters, Wilma Campbell, Margaret Williams .Elaine Hedley, Graham Wylie, Tony Winnett, Andrew Robinson.

Also attending:

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), plus two members of the public.

### **202. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Joe Kelley (Personal commitment) Michelle Edwards (personal),

### **203. Declarations of Interest**

Jean Peacock	HCA
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Tony Winnett	HCA
Graham Wylie	Allotment

### **204. Chairman's Address**

The Chair was pleased to announce that the new sound induction system has been installed in the Hadwin Lounge, which will make in much easier for all attenders including the public to hear the dialogue.

The Chair reminded the meeting that as this is the final meeting of this council and the election will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, the April PC Meeting is cancelled.

The Annual Meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm at Hurworth Grange. There will be no PACT Meeting until June.

The Annual Assembly will be held in the Fletcher Hall at 7:00pm on 27<sup>th</sup> May; a buffet will be provided. Topics on the Agenda will include the new application for houses on Roundhill Road and the possibility of a second playground in the village.

Jean took this opportunity to thank all the councillors for their participation and support, and said she had enjoyed the experience of being the Chair.

### **205 Minutes of the Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016.**

The minutes having been previously distributed were adopted, Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Chris Pratt, subject to a change to item 192, which has been altered to read:-

Cllr Peter Foster reported that the large ash tree which fell has been diagnosed to have d Ash die back – Chalara disease. This is a *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*.fungus which has come from France, and is now a danger to ash trees.

## **206. Matters arising from the Minutes**

- a. **First Aid Course** – Elaine Hedley, who attended the course reported that the course had been satisfactory, and was attended by all twelve people.  
The course was conducted by Lloyd Murray of Outdoor-Ambitions Ltd. and covered first aid basics and a talk on the defibrillator. Certificates will be presented to the attenders, which are valid for three years.
- b. The Clerk reminded the meeting that 31<sup>st</sup> March is the council's year-end. Mr Gordon Fletcher has confirmed his re-appointment as the council's Internal Auditor.  
BDO has sent the external audit papers and procedure, and the Clerk will provide the data and place notices on the web site and notice boards at the dates defined by the audit plan.

## **207 Public Participation**

Mr Graeme Scott asked about the outcome of the questionnaire regarding the feasibility and desirability of a second playground in the village. Paul Walters, who is heading this project responded that the results of the questionnaire have been analysed, and the opinions expressed will be reviewed in greater detail.

The count had resulted as follows:-

There were 103 responses, from the 800 questionnaires delivered.

Those who support the concept of a second playground 57 percent

Those against 43 percent.

Based upon this interest level, the council feel it should move to a second step and look further into the project viability. This will include location, funding and practicality.

Two residents challenged the accuracy of the ballot, suggesting that the supporters should have children if their vote is valid. Cllr Winnett responded, that if this is a criteria, then only the voters against the project should be excluded if they do not have young children.

The Chair brought this discussion to an end, and stated that the subject will be on the agenda for the Annual Assembly and all parties and members of the public will be able to present their views.

## 208 Accounts for Payment

### Accounts for Payment as at 31st March 2016

			<u>31st Mar 2016</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P D Allan	102689	Admin expenses	78.35
B Green	102690	Open spaces	80.00
P Foster	102691	Admin expenses	31.72
Eden Landscapes	102692	Project	330.00
CDALC	102693	Training course	81.00
E Hedley	102694	Training expenses	39.04
HCA	102695	Photocopying Playground survey	66.18
Bob Iles	102696	March salary	356.35
P D Allan	102697	March salary	516.48
Inland Revenue	102698	PAYE	170.80
I Palmer	102699	Training buffet First Aid	91.00
Lloyd Murray	102700	First Aid Course	480.00
Hurworth Country Fair	1023701	Section 137 award	2000.00
Hurworth Village Hall	102702	Section 137 award	2000.00
EPICH	102703	Section 137 Award	2000.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	25.20
TalkTalk	DD	Communication costs	12.85
<b>Total outlay</b>			<b>8363.57</b>

The Clerk went through the above schedule highlighting the larger payments, which have all been previously approved and are within the budget. The payments are being made at this time as it is the council's year-end. In addition a reserve of £1000, will be made to add to the Flooding Contingency Fund – this will become a ring-fenced item. Some last minute expenses may be added to the final figures, if presented within the next few days.

The Schedule was approved.

## **209. Financial report as at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

The Financial reports, having been previously distributed, were presented, and adopted by the council.

The Clerk took a few minutes to go through the financial report, highlighting variances against budget and explaining the final totals, which represent the performance for the 12 months ending today.

The council expressed their satisfaction.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the 12 month Bond with Clydesdale Bank is due to mature on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. He had taken quotations from three other banks, and the best rate, although low, is to roll the Bond over for another 12 months at one percent interest. All agreed, proposed by Chris Pratt and Seconded by Tony Winnett.

## **210. Election 2016**

The Chair informed the meeting that due to the Ward boundary changes Hurworth Parish will need to form a new council, and this will be carried out through the Election Process performed by Darlington Borough Council. Candidate registration forms were available at this meeting. Registration must be made by 4:00pm of 7<sup>th</sup> April.

## **211. Annual Meeting**

The Chair informed the meeting that the Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016, when the new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected and the roles of the councillors determined. This will be followed immediately by a full Parish Council meeting.

## **214. Matters of Interest**

- a. Two meetings have been held with representatives of Banks Group, who have been conducting an assessment of the fields at Roundhill Road, with a view to making a planning application for building houses. The Banks Group representatives outlined the work they are performing and stated that the estate under consideration will be for under 100 houses.  
At the second meeting, Banks Group confirmed that their assessment has been positive, and that they will be making a formal Planning application to DBC. They will be distributing leaflets to all houses in Hurworth Parish with details of their recommendations, including site plan. They will also be holding a drop-in surgery at Hurworth Village Hall in April when residents and interested parties can obtain further information.  
Banks Group will be making a presentation at the council's Annual Assembly on 27<sup>th</sup> May, and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions, and openly give their views.
- b. The council held a meeting with Priory Hurworth House School, the minutes of which have been circulated to all councillors. The school confirmed that they do not have plans to sell their playing field, and are, in fact, eager to work with the council to make communal use of this land, and to have a combined plan to obtain grants to develop an appropriate amenity.

The school is opening their own internal play area later this month on their existing property.

## **215. Project Reports**

- a. Grange Disability Entrance  
Jean Peacock reported that the entrance is now complete, with only the automatic doors to be transformed for automatic opening. Feedback and comments have all been positive.
- b. **Second Playground**  
Paul Walters had already made his report and comments under the Public Participation session. It will be on the agenda for the Annual Assembly, when all residents will have their opportunity to raise questions and air their views.
- c. A letter has been received from the Friends of Rockcliffe Court requesting a donation towards their project. The council agreed on a Section 137 Award of £300.
- d. A resident has drawn attention to the state of the sundial at Dial House. This is a piece of village history and should be maintained. Cllr Peter Foster eluded to references to this dial in several books covering the Hurworth history. The council agreed to get quotations to refurbish the sun dial; the house owner has agreed to this action. **Action Clerk**
- e. Elaine Hedley reported that she had attended the Events Organisation Course arranged by CDALC, and held at Peterlee. The course had been instructive and particularly addressed the importance of Risk Assessment, with firework displays being used as an example. The PESAG system was also covered, and this was of particular relevant to the Country Fair.
- f. CDALC is arranging a training course in **April which Elaine Hedley** will be attending.
- g. The Chair reported that Rockcliffe Hall has applied for an extension to their licence, which will allow them to hold outdoor events, using marquees. Cllr Tostevin said she has had a meeting with the hotel, and has been informed that although the licence is very far reaching, they only intend to use it for special events and not on a regular basis. Cllr Tostevin has informed the hotel that some residents are concerned about noise level.

## **216. Tree Report**

Cllr Peter Foster reported that he has carried out a review of the state of all of the trees, following the inclement weather. He was pleased to report, that due to the diligent work carried out to maintain the trees, all the trees are in good condition. There is one lime tree which requires cutting back, and this will be done shortly.

## **217 Open Spaces Report**

Wilma Campbell reported that work has been done to tidy the fountain and plants have been planted, leaving the area looking very tidy and colourful.

Wilma referred to the hogweed situation and the need to continue the spraying process this year. The council agreed and confirmed that the same contractor should be contracted to handle the work. **Action Clerk**

## **218. Highways**

- a. Margaret Williams reported that the traffic statistics for March were not yet ready, and therefore there is no report for this.
- b. Margaret has inspected the area where the two bollards were suggested and talked to the lollypop lady. At present there is a skip in this area, which is operating as a traffic calmer, but also causing some vehicles to mount the pavement. In her opinion the bollards are not necessary and should not be considered further. The council accepted Margaret's advice.
- c. We are still waiting for power to the traffic monitor pole at Croft.
- d. There are many potholes, but they appear to be under the 42mm regulation level.

## **219 Contingency Plan**

Tony Winnett reported that the team will be making a presentation at the Annual Assembly, and that they have now received two large scale maps to assist them. Although Tony is leaving the council, he intends to maintain a position within the Contingency team.

## **220. Planning Report**

Jean Peacock reported that there have been ten new applications in March, as follows:-

16/00131/FUL	8 West End, Hurworth
16/00146/FUL	63 Friars Pardon
16/00228/FUL	24 Bgrade Terrace
16/00213/FUL	35 The Wayside
16/00210/FUL	8 Emery Close, Hurworth
16/00285/FUL	1 Friars Pardon
16/00246/FUL	14 Elmfield Road
16/00178/FUL	Snipe Pond access improvement
16/00080/PLU	58 The Green, Hurworth

Having reviewed all of these application, the council agreed to make 'no comment' on them all.

The new DBC system is not to send details or plans to the Parish councils, but to inform us of the application, and then you need to inspect the details on the DBC web site.

## **221. Association Reports**

Jean Peacock attended the Darlington P. C Association meeting. Much of the discussion revolved around the new planning application review system, with general discontent. Most councils have raised their Precept, several by large percentages. Hurworth did not increase their Precept, but due to losing 110 houses at Skerne Park from the parish, the individual rates have gone up.

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

The Chair again, thanked all the councillors and the Clerk for their contributions and help during her year in office.

The Clerk complimented Jean Peacock on her successful year as Chair, and the councillors reiterated this view with a hearty round of applause.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm