

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 1st October 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Jean Peacock (Chair), Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, Andy Coakes, Paul Walters, Val Hughes, Margaret Williams.

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

77. Apologies for Absence

Chris Pratt (Holiday)

Absent Elaine Hedley (unwell)

• PACT Meeting

Paul Walters (Chair) welcomed the attendees and asked PC Foley, the Rural Officer, to present the Police Report for September

PC Foley provided the following crime figures for the period to 30th September 2015.

Burglaries	Nil
Burglaries Other	Nil
Violence	One (This dated back to May 2015, at the Academy)
Thefts	Nil
Motor Vehicle theft	One – scooter from Pine Lodge
Theft from vehicles	Nil
Criminal Damage	One
Antisocial Behaviour – 9, mostly in Sanderson Road, and 2 at the Primary School.	

Speedwatch – The radar gun was used on four separate days, and resulted in tickets being given as follows:-

One – speeding at 42mph

Two – at speeds of 42 mph and 48 mph.

One – speeding at 42mph

In addition several warnings were given on each occasion.

Val Hughes asked the representatives from Rockcliffe Court to raise their comments. They reported that vehicles are regularly parking on the grass verges and paved area at Rockcliffe Court and the Doctors' Surgery. This is causing problems for the disabled peoples who cannot negotiate around these parked vehicle. PC Foley agreed to address this problem. It was suggested that the culprits could be people parking and taking the bus into Darlington.

Margaret Williams gave a comprehensive traffic report, composed from the speed monitors, for September, the summary is as follows:-

Highways report September 2015

SITE OF MONITOR Hurworth Road towards Hurworth Place past Hurworth Comprehensive School---10 day period 1-9/9/2015

24,524 vehicles 45.1% exceeded speed limit fixed at 34.9 m.p.h

Max speed 85 m.p.h. on 5/9/2015 @ 19.35

168 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 M.P.H. in 10 DAYS

SITE OF MONITOR Hurworth Road towards Spar shop past Hurworth Comprehensive School -20 day period 10-30/9/2015

57,782 vehicles 51.0% exceeded speed limit fixed at 34.7 m.p.h.

Max speed 70 m.p.h. on 20/9 @ 23.55

268 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 m.ph. in 20 days

SITE OF MONITOR Roundhill Rd towards Spar INTO village past Primary School - 10 day period 1-10/9/2015

17,240 vehicles 30.0% exceeded speed limit of 33.0 m.p.h.

Max speed 65 m.p.h on 5/9 @ 10.00

20 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 m.p.h in 10 days

SITE OF MONITOR Roundhill Rd OUT of village past Primary School 20 day period 10-30/9/2015

43,406 vehicles 44.9% exceeded speed limit of 33.0 m.p.h

Max speed 70 m.p.h on 18/9 @ 19.25

221 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 m.p.h in 20 DAYS

SITE OF MONITOR Steel Bridge incoming from Neasham 20 day period 10-30/9/2015

19506 vehicles 31% exceeded speed limit set at 33.0 m.p.h.

Max speed 65 m.p.h on 11/9 @ 09.55

60 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 m.p.h in 20 days

SITE OF MONITOR The Green TOWARDS Spar Shop 10 day period 1-10/9/2015

12448 vehicles 28.1% exceeded speed limit of 32.8 m.p.h

Max speed 75 m.p.h. on 8/9 @ 07.30

24 vehicles EXCEEDED 50 m.p.h. in 10 day period

The statistics will be sent to Paul Emerson at Police Headquarters.

Margaret Williams had taken the opportunity to discuss the traffic concerns with Ron Hogg at the Country Fair, and he offered to attend an HPC Meeting. It was agreed that he will be invited to attend the November meeting.

78. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock HCA

Val Hughes HCA and EPICH and allotments

Wilma Campbell HCA and EPICH

Tony Winnett HCA

79. The Chair welcomed the councillors and guests.

The Chair commented on the great success on this year's Hurworth Country Fair, where over 4000 people attended, the product and crafts exhibitors increased by 200 over last year, and event made a good profit, which will be shared by HCA and St Teresa's Hospice.

80. Minutes of the PC Meeting dated 3rd September 2015

The Minutes having been previously circulated were adopted,
Proposed by Paul Walters
Seconded by Margaret Williams

81. Matters Arising

- a.** New post for a speed monitor at Croft – There has been progress, and Jean Peacock and Margaret Williams will be meeting Ken Major on Friday 2nd October to progress this project.
- b.** Dropped Kerbs. This will be discussed at the meeting with Ken Major. DBC say that their budget cannot afford to construct two kerbs for Hurworth. The meeting discussed a suggestion that HPC contribute to the outlay.
- c.** Neasham Road traffic and road signage. This will be discussed at the meeting with Ken Major.
- d.** MUGA update. Hurworth primary School has failed to respond to the requests for a meeting. **The Clerk will now write asking for a meeting. Apparently the school in lengthening the fencing at this time.**
- e.** Christmas tree lights. Paul Walters presented his recommendation for the purchase of ten lengths of lights, which are commercial quality and conform to the health and safety regulations. A vote was taken regarding warm white or coloured bulbs. The casting vote sided with coloured, and **the lights will now be ordered.**

- f. High Speed broadband. Mr David Humble was invited to address the council. He stated that he had had detailed discussions with Tony Winnett and the Clerk, and compiled a list of 52 small businesses in the parish, who could be interested in getting the £3000 grant and contributing to bringing high speed broadband to Hurworth. However, events have overtaken this initiative, as BT have now activated three of their seven cabinets, and the service is now available for people to order. The other cabinets have been cabled with fibre, and should be enabled shortly.

The Chair thanks Mr Humble for his efforts and help.

g. **Printing costs**

Following Paul Walters suggestion that the council could reduce the cost of printing the quarterly newsletter, the Clerk had visited Jacs in Cheater-le-Street and obtained quotations, using similar quality paper. The quotations are approximately £2590 lower than the current supplier, although a quote for the Country fair programme was in fact higher.

It was agreed that we seek one further quotation, and at the next meeting take a decision as to the future supplier. **Action Clerk**

82. Public Participation

A member of the public stated that it is very difficult for disabled persons to get into Hurworth Grange building, and in particular the Hadwin Lounge. After discussion Jean Peacock suggested that a new slope allowing entrance via the doorway at the end of Hadwin Lounge may be a solution. All agreed that this is a good idea, and HCA will be asked to investigate further.

Amanda from Hurworth Place said that a new dog bin has been located near Croft Bridge, but it is below the flood level of the river. **The Clerk will inform StreetScene.**

Mr Phil Hall raised concerns about traffic congestion when the Spar delivery lorry make deliveries at 8;30am, causing danger to the lollypop lady and those in her care. This problem had been addressed a year or more ago, and no solution could be found.

83. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment in September 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council.

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>30th Sept</u> <u>15</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque</u> <u>No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Eden Land-			
scapes	102622	Open spaces work	120.00
TB Winnett	102623	Trav expenses	10.37
		Christmas tree light-	
EON	102624	ing	69.36
TCS-CAD	102625	Printer cartridges	124.68
Bob Iles	102626	Salary	286.70

P D Allan	102627	Salary	516.68
Inland revenue	102628	PAYE	153.00
B Green	102629	Allotment grass cutting	60.00
Northumbrian Water	102630	Allotment water	58.63
P D Allan	102631	Admin expenses	86.73
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	15.12
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	25.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
Total outlay			1531.07

84. Financial Report⁸⁴

1. The Financial report to 30th September 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council. The Report was accepted by the council.

The Clerk informed the council that the litter picker will receive a rise in pay of 20p per hour as from 1st October, in line with the new minimum wage.

The Clerk also reviewed the suggested projects for 2015. The project to enlarge the entrance gateway in Hurworth Grange was again discussed, and it was agreed that a working group be formed to try to progress this project. The Group will comprise Peter Foster and Margaret Williams for the council and Keith Sandick and Jean Peacock for HCA.

See summarised Financial Report as an addendum to these Minutes.

85. Matters of Interest

a. QPC.

CDALC has informed HPC that they have been awarded the Foundation Standard, and that the Quality Award should follow quickly. The meeting with the Panel for the Gold Award will be scheduled for the end of October in Durham.

b. Transparency

The new regulations regarding transparency code have altered and councils with revenues of between £25,000 and £1.2 million do not have to conform to transparency code any more. It is a matter of choice for each council. HPC decided that the annual accounts, following the audit should be made available to residents, as at present.

c. Contingency Plan

Tony Winnett reported as follows:-

The plan is being improved with additional contacts.

An update has recently been sent to members of the Working Party.

The Rockliffe Court Medical Group have given us a contact number for inclusion in the plan. They have also contacted us to enquire about a possible contingency for their surgery should it burn down. We have assured them that in

this event they would be able to use space at Hurworth grange for temporary porta-cabins until their surgery could be reinstated.

86. Project Reports

a. Neighbourhood Information Centre Project.

Andrew Robinson made a structured presentation to the Council, outlining the project which he believes will benefit the community.

The concept and highlights of the project include the following;

- Establish a central Information centre, which will be operated by voluntary staff.
- The centre will embrace Hurworth Parish, Croft, Dalton, Neasham Parish including Sockburn and other small enclaves.
- An information library will be compiled, which will include the history of the area, and brochures of the various attractions, facilities and events.
- A Calendar of Events will be maintained to both provide information and to try to prevent event clashed.
- The Centre will have an objective of bringing people together and sharing information while developing a higher level of community unity.
- The project will engender a greater common support for the Village Hall, Hurworth Community Centre, the several churches and community centres in Neasham and Croft.
- A café will form part of the centre, to encourage greater usage and provide a meeting place.
- The project will address the interests of the small businesses in the neighbourhood. A recent survey indicates that there are more than 50 such businesses in this neighbourhood.
- A greater emphasis will be placed on distributing information using social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, along with a dedicated web site. This will attract a wide catchment, particularly of younger people.
- The web site will provide links into many of the businesses and associations covered in the information structure.
- A suggested caption may be 'Promoting Hurworth Together'.
- Over time, leaflets will be produced highlighting the many attractions which are already embedded in the Hurworth and district neighbourhood. This will generate a higher footfall in the area and develop tourist visitors. In turn this will generate additional business for the hotels, inns, cafes and small businesses in the neighbourhood.

Following this excellent presentation, it was decided that the council would support the project, in principal, and a Working Party was formed. Representation of the council on the Working Party will be Andrew Robinson, Val Hughes and Wilma Campbell. This

Working Party will grow as members of the community groups and businesses are invited to join.

b. Circular walk to accommodate disabled transport, etc.

Andy Coakes reported that he has arranged a meeting with Rockcliffe Court to update and involve them in future discussions. He is also going to arrange a meeting with Rockcliffe Hall to discuss this project.

Malcolm Thompson, DBC, has agreed to approach Mr Walton who is the landowner for the section of pathway required to accommodate the circular walk.

c. Defibrillator equipment

Michelle Edwards reported that Adele who was scheduled to address the meeting this evening, has had to postpone her visit. A meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, 6th October at the Grange to fully discuss the equipment, location of the unit and the training requirement. The total cost is likely to be circa £2,400, with the cabinet and installation. Suggested locations include Rockcliffe Court, the Grange and possibly other public places like a telephone kiosk. It was agreed that as soon as the specification, location and final price are agreed, the equipment will be ordered.

87. Highways

Margaret Williams said that she had covered most points in the PACT Meeting, but added:-

The road signs from the Comet Inn to Oxford Garage are almost unreadable and require replacing. **Action Clerk**

There are problems reading the signs coming into the village from Neasham, as the trees have overgrown. **Action Clerk.**

88. Open Spaces

- **Sycamore Close/Manor Field**

A resident in Sycamore Close has concerns about a broken fence which is opposite his property and adjacent to a strip of land that he owns. He feels the broken fence is a possible hazard to members of the public and also creates a cut through from the Manor Field across his land. He has confirmed that the fence is not on the Deeds to the property.

Councillor Tostevin and I visited the site and inspected the whole of the fenced area. I would recommend that the fence be repaired where needed as to remove it altogether would also mean clearing away areas of shrubs and ivy which have grown up around it.

Upon inspection of the fence it was also noted that the area immediately over the fence under the trees has been used by some residents as a dumping area

for grass cuttings and dead pot plants. This is not acceptable and needs to be addressed.

Tees View/ Corner of Linden Grove.

Elderly residents living on this corner are concerned about a holly bush growing on an area of land next to their bungalow. Upon inspection, it has been established that the holly bush is not only encroaching over and blocking out light to their side path but in addition it is so tall the branches are almost touching telephone wires and two TV aerials. The land does not belong to DBC. Again I would recommend that the holly bush be topped and trimmed back to a manageable size.

Hedges between Hurworth and Neasham

These hedges need to be trimmed back as they are impeding pedestrians and motorists.

Additionally, Cllr Campbell reported that EPICH has planter 3000 bulbs, in Strait Lane grass area, the Comet area and in the Grange. They will be planting 1500 daffodil bulbs at the entrances to the village.

Cllr Campbell asked if the council will purchase a commercial level strimmer, which could be used by HPC, the Grange staff and EPICH for work on hedges, etc. The cost quotation is £419, which included the helmet and protective goggles. Tony Winnett tabled the motion to purchase this equipment and Jean Peacock Seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

89. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported:-

a. During September six old truN

ks had been ground out; the heaps of residue need to be left where the tree used to be, as it will sink into the ground and fill the cavity caused by the grinding out.

b. The silver birch which was ordered from DBC will not be delivered as the facility has closed down. The tree, which is for Goblins Wood will be ordered elsewhere.

c. The trees along the road into the Grange need pruning. Two large vehicles coming to the Country Fair could not get past due to the low tree canopy and overgrown state. These trees will be pruned this month.

d. Several street lights along Croft and Hurworth Roads are now obscured by trees, and these need pruning. DBC should be asked to attend to these.

90. Allotments

Michelle Edwards reported:-

- She will be carrying out an inspection next week.
- One additional person has joined the waiting List at strait Lane.
- The water will be turned off on 31st October.

- The AGM for the Allotment Committee will be held in November.

91. Paths and Rights of Way – Val Hughes

Nothing to report.

92. Planning – Jean Peacock

There has only been one application in September. This was for a change of use at 1 Snipe Lane. The council agreed not to comment on this.

93. Newsletter

Tony informed the meeting that this will be going to print in the next few days. It will be ready for distribution in mid-October.

Features in this edition include the Country Fair, Speeding in the villages, the Contingency Plan and all the normal coverage.

It is Tony's intention to pass the production of the next newsletter to Elaine Hedley, but has handled this edition due to Cllr Hedley's ill health. He wishes her a speedy recovery.

94. Association Reports

Peter Foster – nothing to report

Jean Peacock- nothing to report

Tony Winnett attended the Airport Consulting Committee meeting and was impressed by the new Marketing Manager, Mr David Grant. Mr Grant had outlined plans to market the concept of aero engineering and to build up an industry in the Airport location.

95. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

Michelle Edwards had received a request to cut back the ivy at the entrance to Appletree Close. Action Clerk to arrange.

The Clerk will be on holiday from 4th to 13th October. The Chair has a key to the Parish Office.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm

