

## **HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of an Ordinary Meeting of Hurworth Parish Council, held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth-on-Tees, on Tuesday **8<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

Present: Mr I Holme (Chairman), Mr P Allan, Mr P Foster, Mr G Lawman,  
Mr K Pattison, Mr C Pratt and Mr B Shukla

Apologies: Mr A Gibson, Mr I White, Mrs G Hepplewhite and Mrs V Hughes

In attendance: Borough Cllrs. M. Dunstone, and  
J. Brown (Police Community Services Officer)

### **35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

P. Foster – Agenda item 13 – allotment footpaths

### **36. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

*To be noted : Para 23(i) – Approval to move towards QPC status was taken in January 2008.*

### **37. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman informed the Council that sufficient names have been put forward to Darlington Borough Council asking for an election to take place to fill the current councillor vacancy. Darlington Borough Council will set up and run the election with Hurworth's Parish Clerk's assistance where required.

**RESOLVED:** Notification of a full election to be advertised in the local Post Office and through the local Press.

### **38. POLICE REPORT**

There were a total of 17 crimes in Hurworth and surrounding areas – 5 of which were in the immediate Hurworth vicinity:

- 5 episodes of rowdy behaviour;
- 6 thefts, 3 from motor vehicles;
- 2 arrests for criminal damage;
- 2 arrests for drugs offences;
- 1 driving offence; and
- 1 burglary

Cllr Dunstone queried whether CCTV was assisting with police investigations and PC Brown confirmed that where this was available it was used to assist the police with their work.

### **39. PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman explained to the Council and others in attendance that this is a new agenda item that has been included to give members of the public an opportunity to raise any issues that are not on the meeting's agenda. This agenda item will be included at all future council meetings.

RESOLVED: No new items to be added to this meeting's agenda.

### **40. PARISH ELECTIONS**

The Clerk has received an email from the Acting Chief Executive of the County Council asking for comments on a letter received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The letter concerns a proposal to hold further elections for Parish and Town Councils in 2009.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to confirm with Darlington Borough Council whether the proposed changes will affect Hurworth Parish Council. If not the Clerk to respond to DCLG stating that Hurworth Parish Council will remain with the election timescales as set by Darlington Borough Council.

### **41. LINDEN COURT – Raised on behalf of Cllr White.**

Concerns were raised that Hurworth residents were not being given priority to move into Linden Court sheltered housing accommodation. Confirmation has been received from Darlington Borough Council that all residents who were moved out of their flats during the recent renovations will be moved back into Linden Court; the date for this to take place has been delayed until the end of August/beginning of September.

RESOLVED: (i) Cllr. Shukla agreed that, as a member of the Linden Court tenant's board, he will look into the approval criteria for becoming resident of the flats.

(ii) Clerk to write to Cliff Brown/Pauline Mitchell, Darlington Borough Council for clarification of selection for Linden Court.

### **42. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL/PARISH PLAN**

#### **(i) Quality Parish Council**

The meeting reaffirmed that the decision to move towards QPC status was agreed in January 2008.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to investigate the registration process of CILCA training.

**(ii) Parish Plan : (a) Nature Reserve**

The Clerk confirmed that the £10,000 awarded to Hurworth Parish Council by the Lottery Fund for a Nature Reserve has been received into the Parish's bank account.

RESOLVED: The following Cllrs. Agreed to take a role on the Nature Reserve Working Group – Cllr P Allan; Cllr K Pattison, Cllr P Foster; Cllr V Hughes; Cllr G Lawman; Cllr C Pratt; Cllr B Shukla; and Cllr I Holme.

Councillors absent from this meeting will be approached to allow them to express an interest in joining the working group.

In addition to the above 14 members of the public have already expressed an interest in helping with the design and establishment of the Nature Reserve. Some of the volunteers have skills and experience in horticulture and project management and it was agreed that the working group should utilise this experience to benefit the project. Several of the volunteers have agreed to speak to village groups such as The Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows and Church groups.

RESOLVED: (i) Ian Holme to speak to representatives from Hurworth Secondary School to establish whether a group of teachers and pupils would be interested in joining the Working Group; and  
(ii) that Health and Safety issues be considered in this project.

**(ii) Parish Plan : (b) Sadberge Parish Plan**

Cllr Ken Pattison gave a brief talk on what Sadberge Parish Council have been doing towards the production of their Parish Plan and explained how they have been working with The Energy Saving Trust. Alistair McKenzie from Sadberge has agreed to work with Cllr Pattison to help towards the development and production of Hurworth Parish Council's own Parish Plan.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Pattison to report back on this topic at the September Council Meeting.

**(ii) Parish Plan : (c) Traffic and Parking**

Cllr Peter Allan recently met with the Darlington Borough Council Highways Department and produced and discussed a follow-up report on addressing parking and traffic problems in the Parish.

In summary the outcomes of discussions of the initial proposals are:

- Park and Ride to Hurworth House School proposal was well received by the Highways Department provided the pick-up and drop-off zone is identified and approved;
- Proposal of staff parking at the rear of the school could be approved with caution;
- Drive-In/Drive-Out of Hurworth School – it was agreed this suggestion would work for dropping off pupils but not for the collection of pupils as often parents arrive early and wait for pupils to leave;
- Proposal of parking behind Church Row flats – private road issues with resident only parking may make this impossible;
- Proposal to convert the grass area in front of Church View to accommodate 15 additional parking spaces is an option if planning permission is obtained, however residents will need to be consulted in the first instance;
- Proposal to reduce the grass area at the side of The Otter and Fish on Strait Lane to provide an additional 10 parking spaces was considered to be a good idea however this should be presented as resident only parking and not as an overflow car parking for those visiting the public house;
- Parking on Croft Road opposite the Oxford Garage – more investigation is needed for this proposal as there are issues in the location of a roadway to allow parking at the rear of the housing;
- Option of traffic lights at The Comet and Oxford Garage – Highways explained that lights would be contrary to the highways mandate of “keeping traffic moving”. The option to have lights at peak times only was also not approved;
- Highways agreed that they are willing to perform another traffic survey to see if the traffic pattern through the village has changed as it has been suggested that there has been an increase in the traffic coming through the village to avoid the large Morrisons roundabout;
- Parking issues at The Therapy Centre – this should be limited as planning for the centre was approved on the basis that there would only be 3 vehicles at the centre at any one time;
- Spa Corner – no obvious solutions to this issue apart from off-peak deliveries to the store;
- Highways stated that traffic calming in general, i.e. road humps, would not be recommended particularly where there is a public bus route.

The council congratulated Cllr Allan on this updated report, it was noted that any future action would require planning application through Darlington Borough Council.

**RESOLVED :** (i) That issues of Traffic and Parking be included in the Parish Plan to encourage support from the village;

(ii) The Clerk to write to Darlington Borough Council to ask for an update of the Council's request for a 20mph speed limit around all 3 schools in the village;

(iii) The Clerk to look out the original correspondence on the 20mph limit around the schools in the village to allow Cllr Allan to include this in his Traffic and Parking documentation to ensure this is included in future discussions with Darlington Borough Council's Highways Department.

#### **43. PLANNING MATTERS**

**RESOLVED** (i) That the following application be approved without comment:

08/00525      Subdivision of existing property to form 2 No. residential dwellings, 12 Bridge Road, Darlington DL3 8TJ

(ii) That the following application be approved without comment subject to the buildings being checked for listed building status:

08/00544      Demolition and replacement of existing garage/workshop; Demolition of existing outbuildings and replacement erection of breakfast room/orangery; Demolition of existing glasshouse and replacement erection of conservatory, Hurworth Moor House, Burma Road, Hurworth Moor, Darlington DL2 1QG.

(iii) That authority to approve planning applications received between 9 July and 8 September should be delegated to the Clerk during the recess. The Clerk confirmed the planning applications would be checked over by The Chairman in the first instance.

(iv) That the Clerk begins writing to contractors to get quotations for the repairs to the Roundhill Road wall.

#### **44. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED** – (i) That the following accounts be approved for payment:

##### Expenditure – June 2008

		(£)
L Groves	Salary (June 2008)	416.03
L Groves	Expenses (Postage, Stationery)	25.83
T Murray	Salary (June 2008)	314.38
Inland Revenue	Tax / NI (June 2008)	193.28
Staples	Stationery	44.84
Darlington Borough Council	Parish Council Group Insurance	189.00
BT	Line Rental	65.75

W H Middlemiss	Repairs to bench (Otter & Fish)	60.00
Hurworth Comm. Assoc.	Photocopying	49.30
Inland Revenue	Tax/NI (underpayment 07/08)	43.52

#### Income – June 2008

Dr Bagshaw	Refund for Litter Picking	112.68
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(ii) The Clerk presented to the Council an update of the Parish's current financial position.

**RESOLVED :** The Clerk to provide monthly updates in the format developed.

(iii) The Clerk to change the Parish Council's BT account to reflect the change in clerk and to investigate moving the payments to standing order;

(iv) The Clerk to investigate the purchase of 3 publications (a) The Parish Councillors Guide (£14.50), (b) The Local Council Clerk's Guide (£11.75), and (c) Local Council Finance (£15.95) after investigating whether updated copies are required.

#### **45. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

**RESOLVED -** That the following matters be reported for action as necessary:

- (i) 20mph speed limit around the 3 schools in the village;
- (ii) Overgrowing bushes obscuring the signage at the east end of the village and at Croft Bank;
- (iii) Grass Verges require cutting at the roundabout on Bridge Road;
- (iv) Horses using the footpaths near the schools in the village.

#### **46. ALLOTMENT FOOTPATHS**

The Clerk explained that 2 quotations have been received for the spraying of the allotment footpaths, unfortunately these are not like-for-like quotations.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to contact the contractors to establish like-for-like quotations; once received the cheapest quotation will be selected.

#### **47. HURWORTH GRANGE FENCING**

The chairman gave a brief update on the meetings held with DBC in relation to the erection of fencing in Hurworth Grange:

- (i) Right of Way – meeting held with Rights of Way Officer who confirmed that current path would not be impinged by the erection of the proposed fence

- (ii) Tree protection orders – meeting with the arborist raise no objections to the erection of the Hurworth Grange Fencing; the line of the fence must follow the natural path avoiding tree roots, this was confirmed as a practicable solution by one of the contractors.

The chairman proposed that a Council Surgery be held to allow the residents of Hurworth Village the opportunity to come and talk to Councillors and, if required, be shown the route of the proposed fence. Residents comments and views to be collated at the surgery. The chairman asked if there were any objections to this proposal – none were received.

RESOLVED : Parish Clerk to arrange a suitable date (in July) to hold the Council surgery. Room to be booked in The Grange and notices to be designed and placed on the village notice boards and strategic places throughout the village.

#### **48. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- (i) NALC “Place Matters” Conference – 20/21 November 2008, London £528.75 (2 days), £264.38 (day rate);
- (ii) June copy of the Durham Association News received into the office;
- (iii) Litter picker holiday – 8 to 12 September 2008;
- (iv) LITE (Lighting and Illumination Technology Ltd) – email re Xmas lights and displays;
- (v) Zurich Municipal Local Council Advisory Service (LCAS) notification of annual Health and Safety Seminars 2008’
- (vi) LCR July 2008 newsletter received into the Office;
- (vii) Letter from Phil Wilson MP responding to Hurworth Parish Council’s letter to him concerning the proposed introduction of a Polyclinic in Darlington.

RESOLVED: Clerk to send copy to Dr Bagshaw and place copy on the Community Association notice board.