

HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceeding of an Ordinary Meeting of Hurworth Parish Council, held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth-on-Tees, on Tuesday **9th September 2008**

Present : Cllr. I Holme (Chairman), Cllr. P Allan, Cllr. P Foster, Cllr. K Pattison, Cllr. B Shukla, Cllr V Hughes, Cllr. G Hepplewhite, Cllr. I White and Cllr. A Gibson

Apologies : Cllr G Lawman and Cllr C Pratt

Before the start of formal business Cllr Holme expressed the Council's sadness regarding the tragic events which occurred at the bus stop opposite the Spar shop a few weeks ago. Condolences were sent to the young man's family and friends.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ian White – Agenda item 12 : Hurworth Grange Fencing

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED : That the minutes of the last meeting held on 8th July 2008 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

51. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Item 41 – Cllr Bal Shukla gave the meeting a brief update of his discussion with Darlington Borough Council (DBC) re the approval criteria for becoming a resident of Linden Court Flats. He explained
 - 1. No one in Hurworth Place has an outright right to place in Linden Court;
 - 2. Places are allocated by DBC on a first-come first-served basis dependant on need;
 - 3. All residents who moved out during the recent renovations have been offered places back at Linden Court if they want one;
 - 4. 6 vacant flats have been offered to residents from Dinsdale whose flats are currently the next phase of renovation.
- (ii) Item 42 (ii) – Nature Reserve : Cllr. Holme was reminded that he had volunteered to speak to the local schools about volunteering to help with the development of the nature reserve. Cllr Pattison confirmed that health and safety and insurance for the project are currently being addressed.

52. PARISH ELECTION

(i) DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE

Cllr Ian Holme read out a letter from Mr D Parr following his recent election success in Hurworth Ward. His letter explained that he was regrettably unable to attend this meeting to make his Declaration of Acceptance but asked that his letter be taken as formal Acceptance to Office and he would complete his Declaration of Acceptance and all the necessary paperwork on his return from holiday.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to write to Mr Parr approving that he complete his Declaration of Acceptance to office at either the next Parish Council Meeting or in front the Clerk and a Councillor on his return from holiday.

53. POLICE REPORT

- (i) There were a total of 19 crimes in Hurworth and surrounding areas during July and August 2008:

1. 4 complaints of rowdiness;
2. 6 complaints of criminal damage;
3. 5 thefts;
4. 3 stolen motor vehicles – 1 arrest made;
5. 1 burglary

- (ii) North East Air support

The Clerk read out to Council the recent replies she had received from the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary and Peter Thompson, the Chairman of Durham Police Authority. She explained that Peter Thompson was happy to visit Hurworth Parish Council and it has been arranged for him to speak at the November Council Meeting.

54. PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Holme explained the purpose and procedure of the public forum.

- (i) Miss Michelle Edwards – Miss Edwards read out a letter from Hurworth residents requesting a public meeting and detailed a petition for the same that she had handed earlier to the Parish Clerk.
- (ii) Mrs Gill Russell – Mrs Russell spoke against planning application no. 08/00573/FUL (erection of stable at rear of 12 Hurworth Road, Hurworth) stating the impact of the works being undertaken on her home and those of her neighbours, including the detrimental affect on street parking in the area.

55. PARISH PLAN

(i) NATURE RESERVE – Update

Linda Hall, the nature reserve project leader gave Council an update on the progress made to date on the nature reserve project. She handed the Clerk a CD copy of a power point presentation of the project which can be made available to interested parties.

- a) Work completed so far – volunteers for the nature reserve have been sought and the volunteer groups have been moved under the umbrella of The Friends of the Community (FOTC). There are 21 volunteers to date with lead roles being:

- Project Leader – Linda Hall
- Chairman of FOTC – Merv Smith
- Treasurer – Peter Allan
- Secretary – Dudley Wheeler

The focus of the project is to demonstrate to the residents of the village that the nature reserve is a community project, not a council run project, carried out on behalf of the whole community by community volunteers.

Linda Hall explained that the main project has been split into small sub-programme area, each with its own focus and team leaders:

- Area 1 – Paths and Fencing : Keith Sandick
- Area 2 – Wild meadow : Gary Orpen, Claire Lamb
- Area 3 – Pond : Phyllis Walton, Frank Butterfield
- Area 4 – Natural growth area – Sharon Wilson, Irene McBeath
- Area 5 – Orchard – John Buxton
- Area 6 - Model Engineers - Peter Hail

Confirmation was given that the arborist has been consulted to ensure no breach of regulations; risk assessments are being carried out for all sub-programmes and the project as a whole; and insurance covering the development and maintenance of the project is being sought. Discussion with The Grange and Hurworth Parish Council together with The Grange insurers BiB has been arranged for 15 September 2008. Where necessary, planning permissions will be sought.

(ii) NATURE RESERVE – Management of Funds

Cllr Allan informed the meeting that the nature reserve project will be making applications for additional grants. Some donations are not available to larger councils but may be available to a smaller project there to be eligible application will be made under the FOTC umbrella and if successful will be paid directly into an FOTC bank account.

Cllr Allan outlined proposals for the management of the Nature Reserve funds as follows:

1. The FOTC are to have a separate bank account, the signatories will be Cllrs. Allan, Dudley Wheeler and Merv Smith;
2. Hurworth Parish Council to open a separate bank account for the Nature Reserve funds only (to be managed by the Parish Clerk);
3. £1,000 to be transferred from the Hurworth Parish Council Nature Reserve Account to the FOTC account;
4. Small orders, i.e. those under £100 to be purchased from the FOTC account directly after approval from delegated officers;

Cllr Allan proposed that approval purchases for the nature reserve project should not wait for each monthly parish meeting as this will delay the growth of the project. He requested that orders over £100 be requested through the Clerk as and when required and that, for this project only, delegated authority for purchase orders be given to Cllrs. Holme, Hughes and Hepplewhite. The Parish Clerk will monitor all expenditure over £100, with the normal process of 3 quotations and or tendering process being adhered to for orders over £500.

RESOLVED : Purchase orders for the nature reserve project can be approved and placed outside of parish meetings;

RESOLVED : delegated authority for the nature reserve purchase/requisition orders to be either Cllr Holme, Cllr Hughes or Cllr Hepplewhite;

RESOLVED : The Clerk to monitor expenditure and provide Council with a record of accounts at each monthly meeting.

OBJECTIONS - Cllrs Alan Gibson and Bal Shukla objected to the procedure of the proposal rather than the principal of the proposal, i.e. that the proposal was not put in writing. Cllr Shukla requested that a written proposal be still put forward. Cllr Gibson later withdrew his objection.

(ii) TRAFFIC AND PARKING

The Clerk read out the response from DBC following her request for a 20mph zone around Hurworth schools.

Cllrs Foster and Pattison objected to DBC's response and recommended that Hurworth Parish Council work together to get some facts and figures together to put to DBC.

RESOLVED : Cllr Allan to write a follow-up letter to DBC asking about their “walking children to school” policy and suggesting additional traffic lights on Hurworth Road.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to invite David Lyonnette, DBC cabinet member for traffic, to the next Parish Council Meeting to explain their policies and why Hurworth schools are being dealt with differently to those in Darlington.

56. PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED : (i) That the following applications dealt with by the Clerk during recess be approved as no comment:

- 08/00562 Modification of planning permission reference number A.11684 dated October 1954 (for erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings) to erect two detached garages and alterations including revised entrance porch layout, repositioning of chimneys and window style at East Rockcliffe House, Blind Lane, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2JN.

- 08/00567 Modification of planning permission 07/00814/FUL, dated 25 September 2007 (Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement detached garage. Erection of single storey from porch, single story utility to the side. Two storey rear extension and alterations to from elevation) to enlarge two storey rear extension and single storey utility to the side. Erection of chimney stack to side. Lygon House, Neasham Road, Hurworth Moor, Darlington, DL2 1QH.

- 08/00560 Erection of pitch roof over existing side-rear ground floor extension (Retrospective) at 49 Friars Pardon, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2EA.

- 08/00621 Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement detached garage at Sundial Cottage, 20 West End, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2HB.

- 08/00619 Erection of single storey rear extension to 21 The Green, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2HA.

RESOLVED : (ii) That the following application dealt with by the Clerk during recess be approved with comment:

- 08/00620 Conversion of existing redundant barns to form 4 No. residential dwellings at Hilton House Farm, Neasham Road, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2BA.
COMMENT : Approved – ensuring that access and traffic issues are fully investigated/authorised prior to approval.

RESOLVED ; That the following applications be approved without comment:

- 08/00669 Modification of planning permission reference number 08/00100 dated 18 March 2008 (Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, conversion of existing garage to habitable use and erection of garage to side) to add side dormer window, extension of pitched roofs to front bay windows and insertion of 8 no. roof lights to front, side and rear at Rose Villa, Timmys Lane, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2AJ.
- 08/00603 Installation of kitchen extract flue (retrospective) at The Otter and Fish, 1 Strait Lane, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2AH.
- 08/00693 Modification of planning permission reference number 07/01110/FUL dated 07 January 2008 (Erection of two storey and single storey rear extension) to revise the proposal to erect a single storey rear extension only at 41 Westfield Drive, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2ET.
- 08/00689 (Cllr. Alan Gibson declared an interest in this application)
- Erection of single storey extension to existing garage for cycle storage (retrospective) at 3A Roundhill Road, Hurworth, Darlington, DL2 2DY

RESOLVED : That the following planning application be objected to on the grounds stated:

- 08/00573 Erection of Stable at rear of 12 Hurworth Road, Hurworth, Darlington
- OBJECTION(1)** : Objection submitted during recess – Work on this development is well advanced prior to planning permission being granted. A wall has been knocked down and dolomite laid. An existing footpath starting at No 3 Hurworth Road (The Station Hotel, Footpath 11 of Hurworth Parish) can no longer be accessed due to the fencing put in place.
- OBJECTION(2)** : Objection from September meeting – The scale of the development is excessive for the environment with regard to the effect to nearby houses. Access by horses is undesirable in this area.
- 08/00685 Erection of detached dormer bungalow at Proposed Dormer Bungalow, Skipbridge, Neasham Road, Hurworth Moor, Darlington.
- OBJECTION** : This planning application cannot be considered without a site plan.

RESOLVED : That correspondence received in respect of planning decisions by Darlington Borough Council be noted.

The Clerk read out a letter from Yuill Homes requesting a “Grant of Easement” for a surface water drain on land opposite Croft House. Yuill Homes request permission to meet with the Parish Council to discuss terms for this.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to contact The River Authority, who are responsible for the management of this land, to determine if they wish to attend the Parish meeting to establish their interest in Yuill’s request.

57. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

Expenditure – July/August 2008-09-22

L. Groves – Salary (August 2008)	416.03
L. Groves – Expenses (July/Aug 2008 – Post, stationery, books)	54.68
T. Murray – Salary (August 2008)	304.86
Inland Revenue – Tax/ NI (July/August 2008)	380.18
Hurworth Community Association – photocopying	7.20
Hurworth Community Association – photocopying	64.50

Standing Order Payments

Public Loans Works Board – Loan Payment	272.86
Tiscali	65.95
Barclays Bank – Bank charges	4.60

Receipts – Income

Lower Dinsdale Parish Council	21.68
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- (ii) The Chairman proposed that the Parish’s Standing Orders be reviewed.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to add this item to the October 2008 Parish Council Meeting agenda.

- (iii) The Clerk reported that she has been informed by Barclays Bank that they have noticed an anomaly in the signatories between Hurworth Parish Council’s bank accounts, new forms are being sent out for completion.

58. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

- (i) Parking on paved area on the corner of Hurworth Road and Roundhill Road causing obstruction;
- (ii) Bus shelter opposite the spar shop to be aesthetically correct for the village. Cllr. Holme confirmed that Hurworth parish Council have been promised input into the final design decision by DBC;
- (iii) Bus shelter near the Rockcliffe Hall – Cllr. Swainstone was asked to find out the proposed new location of this bus shelter;
- (iv) Parking on Croft Bank has become hazardous;
- (v) Shuttering erected on Hurworth Road confirmed to shelter the construction of a gatehouse for Rockcliffe Hall

RESOLVED : Cllr White volunteered to work with Cllr Allan on the traffic and parking issues in the village.

59. HURWORTH GRANGE FENCING

- (i) **A statement from Cllr George Lawman was read out by the Chairman:**

“I would like to place on record my concerns with reference to the decision not to hold a public meeting on the issue of fence adjacent to Mrs Orpen’s fence.

My fellow Councillor Ian White on a number of occasions has raised the point that a ‘public meeting’ had been promised to the community some time ago. I am aware that a recent petition has been raised by members of the community that requests once again by signature and in writing that a ‘public meeting’ should take place on this issue without delay (over 150 signature I am advised).

Whilst personally I am in favour of an enhanced fenced area to settle this matter finally with Mr Orpen, the public should be consulted on this issue of the two fencing proposals on the table along with the decision on who should pay either shared or total costs of this project.”

- (ii) **Current Position**

The Chairman reiterated the current council position:

- No land to be leased or sold
- A new fence, 2.4m high to be erected running parallel to the existing boundary and approx. 90m in length
- The proposed fence will be approximately 4-5m from the existing fence
- The line of the proposed fence allows for the existing, natural, covered woodland footpath route to be maintained

- The proposed fence will be erected by the Parish Council on Parish land, therefore at no time in the future can any third party lay any claim regarding this fence
- Mr Orpen had agreed that erection of this fence will constitute an end to all threatened or future legal action in relation to this boundary
- The route of the fence has been agreed with the RoW Officer and the Arborist from DBC

He reminded Council that this proposal has already been agreed in principal at the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 2008 subject to the approval of DBC's arborist, ROW Officer and a public meeting.

The form of public meeting was discussed at a normal open meeting of Hurworth parish Council. The "surgery" format was suggested as a flexible way in which to engage with fellow villagers and allow people to see for themselves the implications of the proposed arrangements. This format was agreed with no-one in the room, Councillor or public, taking issue with it or suggesting it inappropriate. The meeting was held following several notifications in the press and on the parish notice boards.

(iii) **Village Petition**

The Chairman read out a covering letter from the villager's petition relating to the proposed fencing; the Clerk confirmed receipt of the petition earlier in the day; the petition contains approximately 128 signatures. It was noted there was a wording anomaly as at least two forms of wording have appeared on the petitions at the Spar shop.

The chairman asked for comments from all Councillors:

Cllr Allan – Cllr. Declared an interest at this point

Comment – noted the 2 form of words on the petition stating that only 1 was appropriate. Agreed Chairman's comments re the advertising of the council surgery and felt this fulfilled the obligation to hold an open meeting;

Cllr Hepplewhite – no comment;

Cllr White –

Comment – took up the issue of the wording but stated that he would still like to see a public meeting for all villages to attend;

Cllr Hughes – no comment;

Cllr Gibson –

Comment – only sensible solution; suggested another public meeting to explain what is happening; Cllr. Gibson later withdrew this point.

Cllr Foster –

Comment – the Council surgery was a public meeting and gave individuals the opportunity to talk to councillors face-to-face. Individual residents have

spoken to him and stated they expect the Parish Councillors to make this decision on their behalf;

Cllr Pattison –

Comment – The solution on the table recognises all the requirements to some extent to those concerned. He cannot see what another public meeting would gain as the surgery provided in-depth detail of the current proposals. It is about time this issue was drawn to a close.

The Chairman proposed that no further public meeting be arranged. A vote was taken with the following outcome:

- 2 declarations of interest (Cllrs Allan and White)
- 1 abstention (Cllr Hughes)
- 6 for the proposal (Cllrs Holme, Pattison, Foster, Gibson, Shukla and Hepplewhite)

RESOLVED : That no further public meeting be held to discuss The Grange fencing.

RESOLVED : That Westwood Timber is approved a the best quotation for the fence and that the Clerk move forward to place an order with them.

60. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- (i) Tees Valley Rural Community Council – Training dates for Autumn/Winter 2008. Courses include:
 - Fundraising
 - Community Action for Energy
 - Community Planning
 - Roles and Responsibilities of a Management Committee
 - Writing Successful Funding Applications
 All courses are free and there are options of venue.
- (ii) Councillor's Indemnity
RESOLVED – Indemnity for individual councillors not required at this point in time.
- (iii) Litter Picker Holiday – 8th to 12th September 2008
- (iv) Darlington Association of Parish Council and Parish Meetings 23rd September 2008
- (v) Tees Valley Rural News – Issue 2, 2008 – available for viewing;
- (vi) Communities and Local Government – Publication of the North East of England Plan – letter and CD available for viewing;
- (vii) Durham Primary Care Trust (PCT –
 - Darlington PCT structure
 - Commissioning PCT structure
 - World Class Commissioning Assurance programme
- (viii) Invitation from Sadberge Energy Saving project 3 September 2008 (previously emailed to Cllrs.)
- (ix) Copy of Clerk & Councils Direct – available for viewing
- (x) Wind Farms meeting at Sadberge PC on 18th September, 7pm

61. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) HMS Hurworth

Cllr White informed the meeting that the Hurworth Hunt is expecting a visit from several ship members on the 7th November 2008. The itinerary for their visit will be:

Sat 8 November – Out with the hunt (morning)

Visit to Rockcliffe Court (afternoon)

Visit to The Grange for a small buffet (approx. 3-4pm)

Sun 9 November – Attend Remembrance service; meet with Revd Ferguson

RESOLVED : £50-60 to be committed for buffet refreshments. Cllr White to arrange, Hurworth Community Association to invoice Hurworth Parish Council.

(ii) Hurworth Parish Council Remembrance Wreath

RESOLVED : The Clerk to work with Cllr Hughes to order a wreath for remembrance Sunday, payment to be £20 as in previous years;

RESOLVED : The Chairman to present the wreath and represent Hurworth Parish Council at the service.

(iii) Parish Grants

The Chairman made the Council aware that the removal of parish grants has not gone away.

(iv) Grass Cutting

Cllr Foster raised the issue of clearing away cutting after verge side and village green grass cutting by DBC.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to inform DBC of this issue and ask for an improved service.

(v) Cllr Foster raised the issue of overgrown lime trees on the Village Green which are causing an obstruction to Green Court.

(Cllr. Gibson left the meeting at this point)

(vi) Rockcliffe Hall

Cllr Allan informed the meeting that he has been on a visit to Rockcliffe Hall.

RESOLVED : The Clerk to add “Visit to Rockcliffe Hall” to October’s Parish Meeting agenda.