

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of Hurworth Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Tuesday 9th December 2008 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. I.Holme (Chairman), Cllr. P.Allen, Cllr. A. Gibson, Cllr. G.Hepplewhite, Cllr. P.Foster, Cllr. V.Hughes, Cllr. G.Lawman, Cllr. K.Pattison, Cllr. C.Pratt, Cllr. D.Parr, Cllr. I. White.

Apologies: Cllr. B.Shukla.

In Attendance: Borough Councillors Swainston and Dunstone, Police Community Service Officer J.Angus. Councillor Lyonette Cabinet member Darlington Borough Council accompanied by officers D.Winstanley and S.Dobson.

Before commencing the meeting the chairman welcomed John Robinson, Parish Clerk to his first meeting and wished him well in his new role with the Parish Council. He also thanked Ken Peacock for stepping in and acting as temporary Clerk.

95.00/08: Declaration of Interest

Cllr. I. White: Personal and Prejudicial in regards to any item relating to Hurworth Grange or the topic of its associated fence.

96.00/08: Minutes of the Monthly meeting held on 11th November 2008 and the Special meeting held on 28th November 2008.

Resolved: That the minutes and recommendations contained therein, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

97.00/08: Matters of Information

97.01/08: Councillor P.Foster advised the meeting that there is no Residents parking on the village green and no enforceable policy in existence. Members thanked him for this clarification.

97.02/08: Clerk to seek clarification in respect of Proxy Voting

97.03/08: Following further correspondence with Darlington Borough Council Cllr Holme has confirmed the type of bus shelter to be installed opposite the Spar is to be as previously agreed by HPC. D.Winstanley on behalf of the Borough Council advised the order for a wooden shelter has been placed and the new shelter will be in situ by the end of January 2009; however he agreed to investigate the matter and report back to the January 2009 meeting. Members also advised him of their preferred option for the siting of the shelter next to Middlesbrough Football Club training ground.

98.00/08: Police Report

PCSO Angus advised members of the crimes committed within the parish over the previous month which included criminal damage, burglaries and thefts. He was thanked by the chairman.

99.00/08: Public Participation

There were no matters raised by members of the public

100.00/08 Appointment of Parish Clerk

The Chairman advised of the appointment of John Robinson as Parish Clerk as of January 5th 2009. He has agreed to commence his appointment early in the light of the early departure of the previous Clerk.

101.00/08 Parish Plan

Cllr. P.Allen gave a report on the above. Members were given copies of the proposed questionnaire due to be circulated around the parish 9th to the 14th January 2009. Members were asked to submit their comments no later than the January Parish Council meeting. The questionnaire will be followed up by a public meeting in late January.

102.00/08 Nature reserve

Cllr. P.Allen reported on the current progress in respect of the above. He advised the total budget estimate is £17700, and to date £13000 has been raised. He advised on several applications being submitted to funding bodies with the assistance of John Buxton, in particular a bid to Awards for All. Breathing Spaces have contacted the Council advising further funding rounds for grants upto £5000 have been released, and a bid to this funding source is to be made.

103.00/08 Highways Matters

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Lyonette and officers for attending the meeting. Councillor Lyonette briefly addressed the meeting before dealing with individual comments made by members:-

- a) Concerns raised in respect of traffic calming across the Parish. In specific, concerns over the maintenance of the traffic calming areas, overgrown hedges blocking the site line of the area and as a result the entrances to the Village were unattractive. There was also concerns expressed concern in regards to speeding particularly the Neasham entrance to the village.
- b) Issues in respect of the School Travel plans and the introduction of a possible 20mph speed limit as there is no safe crossing for the eastern side of the Parish adjacent to the secondary school. The use of an access off the A167 for the turning of school busses was also raised as a safety concern.
- c) Concerns were expressed at the state of the grass verges as a result of utilities undertaking work, especially along the round hill entrance/track down from the stadium. Speeding in the vicinity of the Otter and Fish remains an issue and views were expressed that the chicanes are not effective.
- d) Concern at the speed of cars going through the village to the Middlesbrough Football training ground was expressed.

e) A request for consideration of double yellow lines on Croft Bank as a result of dangerous parking, no specific area was highlighted, members agreed to supply an exact location.

In response Cllr. Lyonette and Officers advised they are working closely with John Buxton and the members of the Parish Plan working group. It is hoped that all the above comments will come out of the questionnaire and a detailed action plan be established. They advised members the issues around funding for safety and traffic safety measures centre around the number of accidents per. year in the Parish. They reported that since 2004 there have been 7 accidents reported in the village, of which 2 were in 2008.

Neil Butler is the School Travel Planning Officer and he will be asked to contact the Clerk with details on the current travel plans for the Parish. There is funding in the new budget rounds for the area and it is hoped this will include implementing Hurworth Schools plans. Mrs. Dobson agreed to report back on this matter.

It was resolved:

- 1) To await the outcome of the consultation exercise of the Parish Plan and in conjunction with the Police, Borough Council and residents establish an appropriate Action Plan,
- 2) The Clerk in the meantime to write to Darlington Borough Council to,
 - a) Request Copies of all the School Travel Plans covering the Parish
 - b) To ask the Council to look further into the school bus turning area
 - c) To write to NEDL and the Borough Council and request a site visit in regards to the reinstatement of the grass verges
 - d) To ask Neil Butler to a further meeting of the Council to discuss the implantation of the travel Plans
 - e) To write to the Borough Council expressing concern in regards to the safety issues relating to the non collection of leaves on paths/roads, and to ask if they will delegate this matter, along with the appropriate budget to the parish
 - f) To formally request the Borough Council to undertake speed monitoring across the Parish and advise the Council of the results
 - g) To request the Borough Council to look at indiscriminate parking on Croft Bank
 - h) To ask the Borough Council for a copy of their Local Transport Plan, and what Section 108 agreements have been put in place across the Parish
 - i) To write to Middlesbrough Football Club asking them to advise visitors to reduce speed as they travel through the Village.

104.00/08 Traffic Problems: Statement by Cllr. P.Allen.

The Chairman presented a written statement to the meeting on behalf of Cllr P.Allen in respect of Traffic Parking issues in the village. Cllr. Allen through his statement wished to clarify his position and comments made by him in regards to various traffic and parking problems in the village. The statement and its contents were noted.

105.00/08 Parking on the Village Green

A letter was received from a resident expressing concern in regards to the state of the village green as a direct result of cars parking/driving over the green. The resident

requested the Council consider placing white painted stones around the green to prevent the indiscriminate parking/driving over the green.

Resolved: Clerk to seek advice for the Borough Solicitor if the placing of stones as requested is legal before any action is taken.

106.00/08 Accounts for Payment

Resolved: that the following accounts be approved for payment:

L.Groves	Salary (November 2008)	£489.35
L.Groves	Expenses	£29.74
T.Murray	Salary (November 2008)	£324.79
Inland Revenue	Tax/NI (November 2008)	£170.95
Westwood Timber	Fence Erection	£8988.75
HCA	Photocopying	£5.90

A total of £10009.48 for payment. Members asked it be minuted as a reminder accounts can only be paid following approval by full Council.

A brief discussion took place in regards to the cost of the printing of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, agreed the matter be placed on the January Agenda for consideration.

107.00/08 Resignation of Previous Clerk.

The Chairman advised the meeting that a request had been submitted by a member to place on the January Council Agenda an open discussion on the resignation of the previous Clerk and associated e-mails circulated. He had taken advice on this matter from the County Durham Association Chief Executive who advised him the matter should only be dealt with due to the nature of the matter and possible discussions as an exempt matter. He was therefore not allowing this matter to be debated at this meeting, but would be happy to place the matter on a future agenda as an exempt item.

108.00/08 Environmental issues

Members expressed concern in regards to the lack of litter collection and the increased rat population in the area.

Resolved: Clerk to write to the Borough Council asking for advice/comment for the Environmental Health Department.

109.00/08 Audio Recording of meetings

Members discussed the feasibility of recording meetings of the Parish Council.

Resolve: not to audio record meetings, 2 for recording 8 against.

110.00/08 planning matters

110.01/08 NC/PA/LCO0346 The Otter and Fish, appeal against refusal of kitchen extractor

Resolved: to continue to oppose this matter and advise Planning inspectorate accordingly.

110.02 Planning approval has been granted for the following:

08/00714/FUL Warehouse extension Sovereign House, Neasham Road,
Hurworth Moor

08/00873/FUL alteration to access to highway and erection of boundary
wall Lygon House, Neasham Road, Hurworth Moor

08/00825/TF works to 2 trees at 1 Chase End Hurworth

111.00/08 Correspondence

- a) Big Lottery-additional grant notification
- b) CDALC notifications: displaying energy certificate
Area Action Partnerships in Durham
Temporary VAT changes
Local Government reorganisation Durham

112.00/08 Any other business

112.01/08 County Court.

In response to a question from a member the Clerk advised to date no communication has been received from the County Court.

112.02/08 Notice boards

Council advised that they have now been repaired.

112.03/08 Exempt Meeting

Cllr. White gave notice, it is his intention to request a meeting as per. item 107 under the exempt information route as advised by the Chairman. Matter noted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm. The Chairman on behalf of all the members wished everyone present compliments for the forthcoming season.