

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 June 2009 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. G.Hepplewhite, Cllr. P.Allan, Cllr. A. Gibson, Cllr. P.Foster, Cllr. C.Pratt, Cllr. D.Parr, Cllr. V. Hughes, Cllr. I.Holme.

Apologies: Cllr I. White (family illness) Cllr. G.Lawman (holiday) Cllr B.Shukla (illness) Cllr. K.Pattison (holiday) also PCSO J.Angus

In Attendance: Parish Clerk: J.Robinson.

3 members of the public were also present.

26.00/10: Declaration of Interest

Cllr. D.Parr, personal and prejudicial in respect of The Grange due to part time employment.

Cllr. P. Allan, personal in his role as Chairman Hurworth Grange Social Club

Cllr. I.Holme personal in regards to any item involving The Grange and Hurworth Community Association

27.00/10 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman referred to the following matters:-

a) A situation has occurred recently involving 2 members of the Council and the exchange of a series of e-mails. The clerk has tried to resolve the situation through mediation and offered to set up a meeting between all interested parties, but this has failed. Cllr. K.Pattison one of the members involved is unable to attend the meeting due to holidays has authorised the Chairman on his behalf to offer an apology to Cllr. I. White for any upset his e-mails have caused. The Chairman advised the meeting that in the circumstances it is her opinion that the Council has gone as far as it can with this matter and as far as the Council are concerned the matter should be closed. The members present agreed with this.

b) The Chairman and Cllr. V.Hughes attended the recent PACT meeting and had found it both enjoyable and informative. She hoped that future meetings would rotate around the area and that Hurworth would host a meeting shortly.

c) A number of members have asked her to list the issues she wishes to deal with during her term of office, which she gave to the meeting, emphasising they were not in priority order or exclusive. The issues included Parish Plan implementation, improving and enhancing the Village green, repairing and maintaining village seats, improving the office of the clerk and improving the visual impact and entrances to the villages.

28.00/10 Minutes of Monthly meeting held on May 12th 2009

Resolved: - The minutes and recommendations contained there in be approved.

29.00/10 Minutes of the Special meeting held on June 1st 2009

Resolved: - The minutes and recommendations contained there in be approved

30.00/10 Matters of Information**30.10/10 PCSO Transport**

Members asked if any reply had been received from either the Chief Constable or Chairman of Police Authority in respect of the Council concerns over the lack of transport for PCSO Angus. The Clerk advised there had not been. There then followed a debate in regards to the issues raised via the press reporting of meetings in Darlington Borough Council regarding this issues. Several contributions to the debate were made by Borough Councillor Swainston. Several members also referred to the PACT meetings commenting favourably on them and requesting they be held in Hurworth and other village's not just Middleton St. George.

Resolved:-

a) Clerk to write to both the Chief Constable and Chairman of the Police Authority asking why no reply to Councils letters and to formally invite them to a meeting of Council to discuss the issue

b) Clerk to write congratulating the Police on the PACT initiative and requesting meetings rotate around all villages and offering Hurworth to host future meetings

30.20/10 Tiscali

A reply fro Tiscali advising they need formal minutes advising Mr. I. Murphy is no longer the Clerk or authorising Officer to the account

Resolved: - Name on all future accounts to be Clerk to the Hurworth Parish Council as opposed to an individual

30.30/10 Letters from DBC

The following replies have been received from Darlington Borough Council to letters from the Council

a) Overgrown hedges/trees matter being dealt with

b) Monument request to remove white stones receiving attention

Resolved: - letters received

30.40/10 Post Box Hurworth Place

A reply received from Royal mail offering a site visit in regards to moving this box.

Resolved:- To accept the offer of the site visit and for all members able to attend

30.50/10 HCA Insurance of The Grange

Notification form HCA Insurance Brokers they have altered their policy ensuring Hurworth Parish Council has first charge on any claim in respect of The Grange

Resolved: - letter be received.

31.00/10 Police Report

A written report was submitted in the absence of PCSO J.Angus

Thefts have totalled 4 over the last month

Burglaries have been 1 from a barn

Anti- Social behaviour incidents have totalled 3

Resolved:- report be accepted.

32.00/10 Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 28th May 2009

The minutes and recommendations from the above meeting were submitted for approval. Cllr. P.Allan requested an amendment to the minutes to include comments made by Cllr. G.Lawman at the meeting in respect of the accounts showing almost 25% being given to The Grange in grants/donations. He also elaborated that the costs of the running of The Grange, by both HCA and HSC are exceptionally high, and this is reflected by the increases to the businesses and other tenants in their rents etc. He felt that economies could be made by merging HCA and HSC.

Resolved: - To accept the minutes and resolutions contained there in.

Cllr. P.Allan requested his proposal be minuted.

33.00/10 Highways issues

Member raised the following issues:-

- a) Request to write urgently to DBC engineers querying the state of the main Neasham Road as members felt it was collapsing and the road surface is in urgent need of attention
- b) Horse warning signs, the Borough Councillors agreed to take this matter up with relevant officers
- c) Lack of response from Cllr Lyonette to Councils January and April letters
- d) Possibility of a 20 mph speed limit through the village
- e) Cllr A. Gibson informed the meeting that at the Councillors Surgery earlier in the evening a constituent had raised concerns in respect of dropped kerbs. He will be taking it up on his behalf and report back to Council.
- f) Cllr Pratt raised concerns in respect of man hole covers being removed on roads, and the need for road resurfacing.

Resolved: - The Clerk once again to write to Cllr Lyonette inviting him to a meeting to discuss previous issues and those raised at this meeting.

34.00/10 Public participation

nil

35.00/10 Accounts for Payment/Financial Report

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Hurworth Community Association Photocopying | £25.95 (101815) |
| DBC work to Tree on the green | £151.06 (101816) |
| CDALC Annual Subscriptions | £356.07 (101817) |
| J.Robinson computer upgrade | £72.34 (101818) |
| P.Haley computer repair/laptop disposal | £160.00 (101819) |
| Inland Revenue | £327.82 (101821) |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| J.Robinson domain name purchase | £9.20 (101820) |
| J.Robinson Salary | £346.62 (101822) |
| T.Murray Salary | £315.23 (101823) |
| N Power tree lights 2006/09 | £391.61 (101824) |
| J.Robinson mileage Dec/June | £130.89 (101826) |
| Independent Roofing Grange repair | £646.30 (101827) |
| J.Robinson postage | £7.20 (101828) |
| G.Fletcher Internal Auditor | £250.00 (101829) |
| Total payments for the month of £3400.09 | |

36.00/10 Insurance Claim

Members were informed of a insurance claim involving the tree needing to be repaired mentioned above and it falling on a wall and resulting damage

Resolved: - to note claim and proceed via insurance company

37.00/10 Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were received:-

CDALC Revised Constitution

DCC formal consultation on their mental Health services

Details of Calor Village of the year

DBC standards Committee Agenda for 1st June

Resolved:- Received

38.00/10 Parish Plan

Cllr. P.Allan gave an update on the compilation of the report to date. A total of 511 responses have been received and they are now being collated jointly by DBC officers and members of the Committee. The report will be completed by 30th June and deposited with the Council. A further public meeting to be held in September

Resolved:-

a) Note content of report and await final version on 30th June

b) Cllr. P.Allan and Clerk to prepare a press release

c) Parish Plan Committee to be elected at July meeting in accordance with agreement made at may annual meeting.

39.00/10 Rent The Grange

The Chairman advised that since the last meeting she had been approached by fellow Councillors expressing concerns in regards to the Council paying rent for the office and for the increase in fee by having to pay for utilities. A debate then ensued.

Resolved:- The Clerk to obtain an upto date lease agreement to confirm that a rent can be paid and to agree to the new charges.

40.00/10 Audit of Accounts

The Clerk reported on the internal auditor's inspection of accounts and also his recommendations. The Clerk advised most of his recommendations have already been adopted and the Finance Committee had agreed to discuss them at their next meeting.

Resolved:- To formally adopt the Audited Accounts as presented by the Internal Auditor and to forward to our Auditors in accordance with the agreed timescale.

To formally adopt the Audited Accounts in respect of the Joint Hurworth and Neasham Burial Board as presented by the Internal Auditor and to call a special meeting of the Joint Board on 14th July to adopt recommendations made.

This was agreed unanimously.

41.00/10 Reverend Ferguson

Members discussed the imminent departure of Reverend Ferguson and the work she has undertaken for the Parish.

Resolved:- To formally write to her and thank her for all her work here in Hurworth and to send her a bouquet of flowers as an appreciation for this work.

42.00 Dogs on Allotments

The Clerk advised members of a complaint from Mr. J.Buxton, co-ordinator /representative of Allotment holders at Strait Lane in respect of dogs straying onto allotments and destroying allotment holder's plants etc. and fouling.

Resolved:- To adopt a ruling that dogs on all allotments must be kept on an appropriate lead at all times and for the allotments committee to be delegated the authority to implement same.

43.00/10 Councillors Surgery

Cllrs. I.Holme and A. Gibson reported on the earlier Suregery they had attended. Members also agreed to alter the rota slightly to make a fairer representation by members

44.00/10 Planning Applications

09/00239/FUL Private Gypsy site, no objections but to advise Committee of road safety issues

09/00306/FUL detached bungalow Skipbridge, Cllr P.Foster presented a letter of objection from a nearby resident. After discussion it was agreed not to object put to highlight the issues of sewage and road safety in respect of this application

09/00283/FUL Lygon House no objection

09/00268/LBC Bay Horse alterations, no objections

09/00269/CU, Bay Horse alterations no objection to change of use

09/00310/FUL erection of single gatehouse Rockliffe hall, no objections

09/00303/LBC 1 and 2 Banks terrace altering rainwater downfall pipes no objection

Noted DBC have granted planning permission for

09/00223/FUL Birch House extensions/garage

Verge Crossing 09/00214/FUL at Green lane farm

09/00227/FUL two storey extension 4 Minster walk.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.