

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of Hurworth Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 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, Cllr. B.Shukla, Cllr. G.Lawman

**Apologies:** Cllr I. White (family illness) Cllr. K.Pattison (holiday), Borough Cllr. M.Swainstone.

**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk: J.Robinson and Mr. J.Buxton, Chairman of Nature reserve Project

3 members of the public were also present.

### **45.00/10: 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 and member Village Hall Committee

Cllr. I.Holme personal in respect of being a Governor Hurworth College (Planning)

Cllr. B.Shukla as above

Cllr. P.Foster personal as sons business is in Forestry.

### **46.00/10 Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman referred to the following matters:-

- a) Since the last meeting she has attended 6 external meetings on behalf of the Council. These have included the FOTC and PACT.
- b) As agreed at the May meeting she will be co-ordinating a walkabout around the Village in particular the village green over the August recess period.

### **47.00/10 Minutes of Monthly meeting held on June 9th 2009**

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

### **48.00/10 Minutes of the Special meeting held on June 22nd 2009**

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

## **49.00/10 Matters of Information**

### **49.00/01 Dropped kerbs**

Cllr. A. Gibson advised he had met with officers to discuss the provision of dropped kerbs on Avon Road and they are looking into taking the matter forward.

### **49.00/02 Additional Dog Bins**

DBC have agreed to install bins on the Grange Estate, Village Green and two bins in The Grange grounds and they will pay the costs of provision/erection.

### **49.00/03 Church grounds and Cemetery**

DBC reply that they will increase the number of cuts to the grass this season in response to our letter of complaining on behalf of residents. Clerk to advise residents who complained and also Co-op Funeral service of outcome.

### **49.00/04 overgrown hedges**

DBC have written advising matter is in hand

### **49.00/05 The Lease of Hurworth Grange – Dead of variation**

DBC have forwarded the final version of the lease to Parish Council and Hurworth Community Association.

### **49.00/06 Monument Hurworth**

Notification from DBC that they will remove the white stones around the base area and replace with planting of bedding plants.

### **49.00/07 HMS Hurworth**

Letter received from the Commander advising the ship is to be deployed to the gulf. The new Commander is to be Commander Mark Thompson and on return from active duty they will undertake a march past through the village.

**Resolved:-** All letters and actions contained therein to be agreed.

## **50.00/10 Police Report**

The Chairman advised that the Police will no longer be present at Parish meetings to give a report. Instead the report will be presented at the area PACT meeting. She advised Cllr. V. Hughes and herself had attended the last PACT meeting held in Middleton St. George and the following information was given in relation to crime in Hurworth over the previous month

Burglary 2

Theft 5

Criminal Damage 2

Nuisance 1

The next meeting will be held in Middleton St. George, she is hoping to arrange a meeting in the near future here in Hurworth. She also advised an additional rural police officer has been appointed, PC Horner. Each PACT meeting will also take 3 priorities from the issues raised back to relevant officers in Darlington to look into. The 3 priorities from the last meeting centered around issues in Middleton St. George.

When opened to members for discussion several members expressed great concern at this backward step. Whilst applauding the provision of an additional police officer members felt insulted and extremely concerned that the interface between Parish Council and the police has been withdrawn without any previous consultation with the Council. They questioned if this was indeed as a direct result of them expressing concerns over PCSO Angus. Members advised in their opinion this is local contact, only 11 meetings a year for them to attend, but each meeting is important and each meeting they will be directly meeting with the elected representatives of Hurworth. The PACT meeting should be in addition to the meetings of the Parish Council. The Clerk advised the Chairman of the Police Authority had written advising he was looking into the situation in regards to PCSO Angus and would be attending a Parish Council meeting in the autumn.

**Resolved:** - It was unanimously agreed the Council write in the strongest terms to the Chief Constable objecting to the removal of the local police from attending Parish Council meetings and to ask for a meeting with him to discuss policing in Hurworth in general.

#### **51.00/10 Nature Reserve project**

Mr. J.Buxton, Chairman of the Nature Project gave an in-depth report on the current progress and future plans for the project upto the end of September. This included a financial projection of spend.

#### **Resolved:-**

To agree to purchase boulders for the driveway at The Grange at a cost of £1350 from John Wade, this was agreed 9 for 1 against  
To agree to place the final order for fencing around the Grange with the current provider.

Both orders funding to come from Nature Project account.

On behalf of all members the Chairman expressed thanks to Mr. Buxton and his team for the excellent work they have undertaken and in the near future. A general discussion took place in regards to applying for additional grants for this and other environmental projects.

#### **52.00/10 Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

The minutes and recommendations from the above meeting were submitted for approval.

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

#### **53.00/10 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, whilst this has been done since the last meeting no progress has been noted.

- b) Croft Road man hole covers need replacing urgently
- c) Parking in the centre of the village especially around the schools
- d) Possibility of a 20 mph speed limit through the village
- e) Road markings on Roundhill Road and the roads to Neasham
- f) Verge grass cutting in Hurworth Place in particular
- g) Footpaths in Priors Pardon need re-surfacing
- i) Horses being ridden across the Parish
- j) Members advised of complaints in regards to the bus shelter opposite Roundhill Road. Nothing specific was noted, members of the public are comparing it to the new one being provided at Rockcliffe Hall.
- k) the provision of a cycle way across the Parish

Resolved: - These areas to form the basis of discussion with Cllr Lyonette who has agreed to attend the September meeting of Council.

Cllr. Swainston had asked if the issue of a Portakabin sited on the Village Green on Strait Lane be added to the Agenda. It was agreed Clerk investigate ownership of the same.

#### **54.00/10 Public participation**

One member of the public, Miss. M.Edwards, expressed concern on behalf of her neighbours in regards to the smell emanating from the farm on Roundhill Road opposite Westfield Drive. The Chairman agreed to visit the farmer and raise the concerns expressed with him directly.

#### **55.00/10 Accounts for Payment/Financial Report**

Hurworth Community Association re-issued history cheque	£76.00 (101830)
CDALC Stationery Invoice	£26.80 (101831)
Hurworth Community Association skip hire	£116.00 (101832)
DBC Insurance policy	£200.55 (101833)
Hurworth Community Association Photocopying	£13.00 (101834)
Viking Direct	£61.13 (101835)
Cumbria Clock Company	£109.25(101836)
J.Robinson Postage	£10.80 (101837)
T.Murray Salary	£305.87 (101839)
J.Robinson Salary	£340.48 (101840)
Inland Revenue	£338.26 (101841)

A re-issue of a cheque to W.Harrison was agreed to cover Christmas tree electric power repair as the bank had returned the cheque as it did not carry his full name £426.65 (101838)

**Total payments for the month of £2024.79**

#### **56.00/10 Parish Plan**

The following members were elected to serve on this committee as per agreement at Annual meeting,

Cllr. G.Hepplewhite, Cllr. C.Pratt, Cllr P.Allan, Cllr. K.Pattison, Cllr. D.Parr, Cllr G.Lawman. Clerk to also attend as per other Committees.

The following members of the public were also co-opted John Buxton, Gill Russell, Peter Burton, Barbara Saul, Carol Pattison, Lee Pujalla, Dudley Wheeler, Brenda Jackson.

Cllr. P.Allan gave an in-depth report in regards to the progress in collating the results from the questionnaires. There had been 510 responses more than they anticipated. The timescale has drifted slightly but it is hoped a draft of the report will be presented to Council in the autumn, with the draft action plan being considered by Council at its December meeting.

#### **57.00/10 Meeting with Hurworth Village Hall.**

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting she, Cllr K.Pattison and the Clerk had attended with the Officers of the above organisation. Following on from the meeting they have submitted a request for financial assistance in repairs to the Toilet areas. The request for funding totalling £1300.

**Resolved:-** To support the project upto a total of £1300 but to request the Village Hall to provide evidence of seeking 3 quotes for the work and to also supply copies of their accounts as the request is above the £50 limit as per financial standing orders. Grant to be awarded as per Section 136.

#### **58.00/10 meeting with Hurworth School**

The Chairman reported on the above meeting at the Joint Burial Board meeting earlier.

**Resolved: -** To adopt the recommendations as per. Burial Board minutes.

#### **59.00/10 CDALC Annual General meeting**

**Resolved: -** To support current officers and also nominate Cllr. G.Hepplewhite in place of Cllr. I.Holme for the County executive Committee.

#### **60.00/10 Youth Forum**

Cllr. G.Lawman gave a brief report on work he and Cllr. I. White are undertaking in regards to establishing a Youth Forum in the Parish.

**Resolved:-** To note content of report and support when required.

#### **61.00/10 Dog Control orders**

Members considered a report from DBC in relation to the new act and the powers associated with it.

**Resolved: -** To request DBC add Village Green and tributary footpaths serving schools to the areas covered by the various components of the order. In respect of The Grange grounds to write and seek the comments of the Hurworth Community Association who lease the land from us before responding to DBC in this regard.

**62.00/10 Darlington Association of Parish Councils**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on a meeting of the above organisations recent meeting that she, Cllr. Foster and the Clerk had attended.

**Resolved:** - To note the contents of the report.

**63.00/10 Request in regards to Wedding/Village green**

**Resolved:** - To allow the use of the village green on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August for the wedding of the daughter of the Vicar.

**64.00 Croft Road Post Box**

Members reported on their recent meeting with the post office in regards to the re-siting of the post box to the junction of Linden Drive and Baxby Terrace. Since the meeting DBC and Post office have confirmed agreement of the re-siting and contactors have been instructed to implement.

**Resolved:** - Report to be noted

**65.00/10 Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were received:-

DBC standards flyer

Village hall chair Appeal

**Resolved:** - Received

The Chairman agreed to accept a notice of motion for the following two items to be dealt with as exempt information by virtue of the financial and legal nature involved

**66.00/10 Trees Village Green**

The Clerk advised an insurance Claim has now been lodged in regards to a tree on the Village Green and a number of residents have queried the other trees on the Green.

**Resolved:-**

- a) To forward all relevant documentation to our insurance Company
- b) b) To delegate to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk authority to commission an in-depth re-port on the state of the trees on the Village Green and to call a special meeting of Council if felt necessary during the recess period.

**67.00/10 quote for repair to the Grange Allotment Wall**

3 quotes have been received in respect of repairing the Arch way.

**Resolved:-** To accept the Eden Landscape Quotation of £300.

**68.00/10 Planning Applications**

09/00179/FUL permission granted for variations in provision of play area/pitch

09/00346/FUL erection of single storey extension Low Rockcliffe farm, no objections raised

09/00427/DC Hurworth College single storey extension, no objections raised,

09/00428/ADV display of advertising hoarding, no objections raised

09/00417/FUL demolition of disused barn and conversion to 3 new dwellings, no objections raised  
09/00410/FUL erection of car port 29 Church Row, no objections raised  
09/00268/LBC alteration to 45 The Green permission granted by DBC  
09/00306/FUL dormer bungalow Skipbridge Neasham Road, permission refused by DBC  
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 9.20pm.