

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of Hurworth Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Tuesday 8th September 2009 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. G.Hepplewhite, Cllr. P.Allan, Cllr. P.Foster, Cllr. C.Pratt, Cllr. D.Parr, Cllr. V. Hughes, Cllr. I.Holme, Cllr. B.Shukla, Cllr. G.Lawman, Cllr I. White, Cllr K.Pattison

Apologies: Cllr A. Gibson (family engagement) Borough Cllr. M.Swainstone.

In Attendance: Parish Clerk: J.Robinson, Cllr Dunstone,

Cllr D.Lyonnette Cabinet Member DBC, D.Winstanley Assistant Director Highways Director Highways DBC, John Andrew Assistant Director regeneration Inspector Ed Turner Durham Constabulary, PCSO Angus.

6 members of the public were also present.

69.00/10: 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 Treasurer Hurworth Grange Social Club and member Village Hall Committee

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

Cllr. I. White personal and prejudicial in his role as Secretary Hurowrth Community Association/The grange

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

70.00/10 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman referred to the following matters:-

During the month of August she had attended 5 event/meetings including the opening of Rockliffe Hall consultation event for local residents. She urged members to promote the Durham Constabulary Christmas Card competition. The Clerk is now taking over the management of the website and a new e-mail and she asked members to begin using the Council site.

71.00/10 Minutes of Monthly meeting held on July 14th 2009

Resolved: - The minutes and recommendations contained there in be approved subject to altering Cllr P.Allan is Treasurer not Chairman of Hurowrth Grange Social club Social Club

72.00/10 Matters of Information

72.00/01 overgrown hedges

DBC have now dealt with the hedges on Croft Road

73.00/02 The Lease of Hurworth Grange – Dead of variation

DBC have advised HCA have the right to charge rental for the office but all meetings organised by the Council should be free as per the lease.

74.00/03 Monument Hurworth

The Clerk has written once again asking DBC to deal with this matter or to give approval for the Parish to go ahead and deal with it them selves. Clerk's actions endorsed.

74.00/04 Dog Control order The Grange

Notification from HCA they do not wish to have an order covering any of the land they lease at The Grange

75.00/10 Police Report

The Chairman welcomed both Inspector Turner and PCSO Angus to the meeting. Inspector Turner advised he had come into post on Monday 7th September and was primarily involved in traffic issues, as the Road Policy inspector. A brief discussion took place in regards to speeding in the Parish and the need to install speed visors. Inspector Turner agreed to take this matter forward. PCSO Angus reported on the following incidents since 1st August 2009;-

- 1 street drinking incident involving youths at The Grange
- 2 incidents of Rowdiness
- 9 Criminal Damage
- 2 road related incidents involving horses and off road bikes
- 4 thefts one of which was lead
- 2 Burglaries

Members raised several issues with both officers. Cllr. Lawman raised the issue of fund raising and the 3 Parishes Together funding a vehicle for PCSO Angus. Cllr. Pattison advised the issue had been raised at the PCC meeting on the 2nd September and the Chief Constable had agreed to look into the matter and report back.

Discussions also took place regarding the PACT meetings and future chairing of same. Members felt it was essential that when meetings are held in various Parishes or if a Parish is hosting on another's behalf the relevant Parish should be the Chair of the meeting so ensuring independence and no domination by one particular Parish.

Resolved: - To accept the report and await the outcome of the Chief Constables and speed visor. Clerk to also write and request rotating Chair of PACT meetings.

76.00/10 Highways Matters

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Lyonette and his Officers from DBC who had kindly agreed to address issues raised previously by members. David Winstanley on behalf of DBC advised the Clerk had notified them of 17 issues members wished to raise and he would endeavour to deal with these, any omissions he would take up directly with the Clerk.

1) Manor Fields, this is purely a neighbourhood dispute/issue and DBC or the Parish have no powers to intervene

2) Parking across the Parish, DBC are only responsible for the main road and footpaths, the Village Green is an issue for the Parish Council to deal with. They will look at the various issues raised in regards to their areas only.

3) Waiting restrictions, due to Police and Council re-organisation of traffic enforcement this is not an issue they can or are able to address at this time. Matter to be raised again in 2010

4) Utilises damaging the road, DBC will in future supply the Clerk with a list of all proposed work and contractor details so they can be monitored locally. DBC will supply details of the current contractors and Gas as both have left the village greens in an unacceptable standard.

5) Road safety, DBC advised only 11 accidents in the last 4 years resulting in 10 slight injuries and 1 serious. Members expressed concern that these figure only reflected those reported and there had been numerous accidents not formally reported. Cllr Hughes expressed great concern at the road safety issues around the Roundhill Road onto main road through Hurworth. DBC agreed to look at this road junction further.

6) DBC supplied copies of both school travel plans.

7) Cllr Foster expressed great concern in regards to the state in general of the road network and in particular the main road to Neasham.. DBC advised work had recently been done in this area but they will check results from the Scanner System Vehicle and report back to the Council

8) In regards to 20mph speed around the 3 schools. Hurworth has been identified as 5th in the priority list and this should be addressed over the coming year.

9) Cllr Pratt reiterated the dangerous manhole cover that has as an urgent issue

10) Road markings, DBC are dealing with same

11) Cycle Way. The Assistant Director of regeneration advised a scheme has been devised linking Hurworth to the Town via Salters Lane South. DBC are currently in negotiations with external funders for the scheme to proceed. They agreed to keep the Council informed at every stage.

12) Civil Parking Enforcement, DBC advised it is down to the Police to enforce yellow lines

13) Speed Cameras, DBC agreed to install the visor on a regular basis, as for speed cameras this is an issue for Durham Constabulary

14) Cllr Dunstone advised members that the traffic forum is a vehicle in the future to raise these kinds of issues and can be attended by the Parish or its members. The next meeting is 12th October 6pm. Any questions or issues however need to be raised with DBC 7 days prior to the meeting.

15) Cllr P.Allan advised he and Mr. J.Buxton are to meet DBC Officers week commencing 14th September to discuss issues arising from the Parish Plan.

77.00/10 Minutes of Joint Burial Board meeting held on 14th July 2009

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

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

78.00/10 Trees

The Clerk advised that as a result of decisions taken at the July meeting he had obtained quotes to undertake a tree Survey of the Trees on the Village Green. In consultation with members the lowest tender of £185 by Fosters Forestry had been accepted. He had circulated to members for their perusal the results of this survey. He had also during the recess written to all members of the public who had contacted the Council advising them a Survey was being undertaken. He had also sent out the survey to 3 tree surgeons/forestry companies asking for estimates to undertake the work identified in the report. These actions were endorsed.

The Chairman welcomed Mr and Mrs., J. Fulton who wished to meet members of the Council to discuss the issues in regards to the tree outside of their property and also the recent press article involving the same tree. The Clerk advised the Council and Mr. and Mrs. Fulton that the issues were in the hands of both insurers and therefore direct discussion on the tree in question should not take place as it could compromise the insurance claim. Both Council and Mr. and Mrs. Fulton accepted the advice. There was general discussion with Mr. and Mrs. Fulton in respect of the press article. Cllr Lawman who was part of the article responded. Cllr Hughes also advised the meeting that the PACT meeting in July had discussed the issue of a specific tree being damaged on the green and a crime incident number had been logged. The paperwork is lodged with the Parish Clerk.

The Council also received 2 further letters in respect of trees from Mr. Redfern and Mr. Edwards.

Resolved: - 1) To note the debate in regards to the tree and press article outside of Mr. and Mrs. Fulton

2) in respect of Mr. Redfern letter to reply advising we are unable to accept liability for his aerial bill and that a tree survey has been undertaken and action to be taken on the results

3) To request Fosters Forestry to undertake a survey of the area highlighted.

4) To develop a yearly tree management plan.

79.00/10 Public participation

No issues were raised.

80.00/10 Monthly Speakers

Cllr Lawman asked the meeting to invite local village organisations to attend meetings of the Parish Council to discuss issues of mutual concern and to see what assistance may be given by each group to one another.

Resolved: - It was agreed to invite Hurworth Community Association to the October meeting followed by other groups on a monthly basis.

81.00/10 Minutes of Allotment Committee held on 25th August 2009

Resolved:- To accept the minutes and to await further reports. To write to Croft Social Club asking if the allotments they had previously tendered could be leased/used by the Parish. Cllr. G.Lawman was elected as an additional member of the Committee to serve till May 2010.

82.00/10 Accounts for Payment/Financial Report

Fosters Forestry tree survey £185.00 (101856)
Fosters Forestry Nature reserve £150 (101857)
HCA photocopying £23.85 (101858)
John Wade Nature reserve Boulders £1568.60 (101859)
J.Robinson Postage £18.00 (101860)
Inland Revenue £342.54 (101861)
T.Murray Monthly Salary £305.87 (101862)
J.Robinson Monthly Salary £337.55 (101863)
Eden landscapes Bench (8) repairs £435 (101864)
HCA Photocopying £9.35 (101865)
Hurworth Village Hall Committee hall hire PACT £12 (101866)
Tiscali £23.12 (dd)

A total of £3411.88

The Clerk reported that during the recess he had asked members to agree to pay off the PWLB Loan for the Burial ground. Members had agreed to this and he has had confirmation from PWLB that the loan is now settled.

The Council also confirmed payment of August bills previously circulated to members (Appendix 1)

83.00/10 Parish Plan/Hurworth Together

It was agreed to defer the Hurworth Together discussion to the October meeting.

Cllr P.Allan advised he had set up a number of meetings with various bodies to discuss the findings of the Parish Plan Survey. He also suggested a special meeting of approximately 2-3 hours to enable him to do a presentation of the results to Council.

Resolved:- Special meeting of Council to be held on Monday 5th October 6.30pm. Following this Parish Council to hold a Special Parish meeting to present the report to electorate.

84.00/10 Village Seats

A number of seats, totalling 8 have been repaired during August, the remainder need replacing. Quotes have been sought. Members advised the 4 seats along the River Tees bank belong to the Parish and need repair.

Cllr. Lawman also asked that a seat be purchased to go in front of Hurworth Community School as suggested in 2008

Resolved: - To proceed with the purchase of the seats identified above subject to cost. The 4 seats on the River bank a price for repair to be sought.

85.00/10 Burial ground

Cllr. Lawman identified areas of land adjacent top the Church which he suggested may be suitable for the new Burial ground. He had also met the Chairman of FOTC to discuss using the Orchard in The Grange for scattering of ashes. Cllr P.Foster advised he and his son are currently clearing land at the present time in the church grounds that may be suitable.

Resolved:- not to proceed at this time and to await outcome of Cllr Fosters clearing scheme.

86.00/10 FOTC/Pond Grange

Both Cllr Lawman and Cllr White expressed concern in regards to the proposal to install a pond in the wooded area of the Grange under health and safety grounds. They were under the impression it was to be a wetland/bog area. Concern was also expressed in regards to future maintenance and insurance. The Clerk advised he had written to our insurers asking them similar questions in regards to the Councils policy.

Cllr. Lawman also expressed concern at the erection of seats/tables in the same area. A debate in regards to the nature reserve and previously agree remit ensued.

Resolved: - the Parish delegates to FOTC raise members concerns at the next meeting and the Clerk to follow these up in writing.

Cllr. B.Shukla left the meeting at this point.

90.00/10 Council Diary

Resolved: - To set all sub-committee meetings for the 1st Monday of the month, allotments quarterly on a Thursday as at present and Clerk to circulate a list of dates upto end of Civic year.

91.00/10 Youth Activities

Cllr. Lawman updated members on the current work being undertaken at the Grange by DBC Youth services. He also advised of discussions to establish a Youth Allotments scheme in the grounds of The Grange They are to address the Parish Council in October

Resolved: - To accept the report.

92.00/10 Correspondence

Correspondence was received from the following,
Butterwick Hospice newsletter
Neighbourhood watch Darlington report
CRB Update
Expert patient
Planning Application DCC

Tees Valley Rural Community news
CDAL report
Rock Report.

Resolved: - To receive all.

68.00/10 Planning Applications

Applications:

09/00464/FUL 9 The wayside Loft conversion plus garage
09/00521/FUL 33 Emerson Road 2 storey first floor side extension and granny flat
09/00569/FUL erection of single storey side extension to form bedrooms pitched roof over garage 20 Friars Pardon Hurworth.

Approved:-

09/00410/FUL Car port The Coach House 29 Church Row
09/0041/FUL demolish barn and build 3 farmhouses Butcher House farm
09/00427/DC Hurworth School extensions
09/00303/LBC ½ Bank Terrace rainwater pipes
09/00310/FUL erection of detached gatehouse Rockcliffe Park
09/00451/FUL first floor extension 51 Woodlands Way Hurworth Place
09/00346/FUL kitchen extension Low Rockcliffe Farm

Withdrawn:-

09/00520/FUL extension rear of 44 Elmfield Road, Hurworth
07/00152/RMI Yuill Croft Road
Wimpey House V sign on field OSGRE430034

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.