

Minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting, Held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth -on -Tees on Thursday 2nd September 2010 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr C. Pratt (Chairman), Cllr K. Pattison (Vice Chairman), Cllr P. Foster, Cllr D. Parr, Cllr J. Peacock, Cllr I. Holmes, Cllr A. Gibson, Cllr V. Hughes, Cllr G. Hepplewhite, Cllr J. Howard, Cllr P. Allan.

Apologies: Cllr J. Russell

In Attendance: Parish Clerk - S. Sibbald, DBC, Cllr Dunstone.

8 members of the public were also present.

Item 2. - There were no declarations of interest

Item 3. – The Chairman had nothing to report

Item 4. – The chairman welcomed Mr John Howard the new Parish Councillor and Cllr Howard signed the members book. (Declaration of Acceptance of Office)

Item 5. – Special Constable.

Inspector Reeves from Durham Constabulary gave information to the meeting regarding the appointment of a Special Constable in Hurworth. The September Parish Newsletter contains an advertisement for a Special Constable and the outcome of that is awaited. Inspector Reeves advised it could be better to recruit from outside the area to avoid any conflict of interests. Durham Constabulary are currently training the latest intake and he suggested we might take one of them for the time being, whilst awaiting a response to the advertisement. A Special Constable will work a minimum of 6 hours per week, patrolling the area. There is no cost to the Parish and it will not reduce or alter the existing police presence in the area. Inspector Reeves will contact the Parish Council when he has further information on availability.

Item 6. – Matters arising from previous meeting 1st July 2010

Cllr Pattison advised the Newsletter is currently being printed and will be delivered by the Community Association with their Newsletter, however there are areas that they do not cover and he would like volunteers to cover those areas.

Resolved – Parish Clerk to ascertain how many people live outside that area via the electoral role, advise Cllr Pattison the number of houses.

Village green kerbs – the site has been visited by Cllrs and it was recommended that nothing be done on the left hand side of the green up from the Spa shop towards the Otter & Fish. A letter to be sent by the Parish Clerk to residents on the green advising them of the proposed work. Some residents had asked for the tarmac road outside their houses to be widened and it was agreed that this was not to be done. Quotations to be obtained from Eden Landscapes and Chris Allen as before and also an approach be made to Darlington Borough Council to ask if they will quote for this work now a decision has been taken on what is needed. Cllr Howard to ascertain areas of ownership of this side of the green in particular the tarmac road area outside the houses.

Where the tree has been taken down on the village green a replacement is to be planted.

A picture was circulated of a Chestnut Tree at the Grange with fungus on it. Guy Foster has quoted £450 to take it down. Phil Haynes (DBC arborist) has been asked to look at it and advise the best course of action, this to be done as soon as possible.

A footpath has been closed at the riverbank, no known reason. David Cuthbertson (Rockcliffe Park Estate Manager) has been contacted on this and his response awaited.

Overgrown trees in the churchyard have now all been removed.

Cllr Hughes advised Northumbrian Water have visited Strait Lane allotments and will send a quote for putting a water supply in ready for allotment committee meeting 23/9/2010.

Item 8. Public participation

Cars parking near the school are still a problem, Ian Holmes will write to the head teacher asking drivers to be more considerate when parking.

DBC had nothing to add to the public participation item.

Item 9. Croft Club – Right of Way

The Parish Council have previously stated that they support the ROW. There is a meeting at the end of October where a decision will be made on this and someone from the Parish Council should attend. Cllr Russell was absent from this meeting and this item is one of particular interest to her. If she is unable to attend the meeting another Councillor will go.

Item 10. Accounts – payments agreed

Item 11. Highway matters

Mrs Bagshaw has asked if she can plant crocus bulbs in the fountain near the Spar shop. Cllr Pattison to advise her to go ahead

Approaches to the village at Roundhill Road need clearing.

Telephone box at the end of the Grange – the phone has been missing for 6 months, BT will take it down if requested to do so. Cllr Peacock will check and advise parish clerk who to write to.

Item 12. PACT

Cllr Pattison advised there is more meaning to these meetings now. At the monthly meetings at Darlington Town Hall, for an hour prior to the meetings (which commence at 6pm), the Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Michael Banks and Chief Superintendent, Mr Andy Reddick hold an open forum for anyone to discuss their concerns with them. Speedwatch is carried out at least 3 times a month in Hurworth. No major crimes were reported, details can be found on that web site. Speed monitoring signs that flash speeds at driver s have been found to be effective and can be purchased by villages. Cllr Pattison had a letter dated 25/8/2010 giving information about the government reorganisation, to replace the Police

Authority with a Crime Commissioner . The letter asked for the Parish Council to sign giving their support. It was agreed there was insufficient information and time to allow the Council to sign the form, any comments to be sent to parish clerk once Councillors have read it. Parish Clerk to reply saying that due to lack of information and insufficient time the Parish Council would not sign the form but would consider the letter and the information contained therein and may be in a position to comment in the future.

Item 13. Dog fouling

Brian Graham has put two dog bins outside the church yard.

Requests have been made for the red dog bins to be swapped for green . If the parish require green dog bins they have to be paid for. Parish Council to contribute £600 which would be half the cost. Cllr Gibson expressed his concern that there were too many dog bins already and no more are needed. It was agreed that there are to be no more dog bins and that the colour of the existing bins does not require changing.

Item 15. Playbuilder Scheme

A resident had written in asking that this be on the agenda in September. In the meantime funding for playbuilder schemes was withdrawn so no more to be done on this.

Item 16. Youth activities in the summer holidays

Cllr Russell asked for this to be on the agenda, she was not at the meeting, it was not discussed.

Planning Applications:

There were numerous items which had been submitted here but as the Parish Council did not meet in August they were in the main already dealt with so not discussed.

The Chairman concluded the meeting at 8.40pm.

The next meeting to take place Thursday 7th October 2010.