

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting, held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7pm.**

Present: Cllr C. Pratt, Cllr J. Peacock, Cllr V. Hughes, Cllr P. Foster, Cllr K. Pattison, Cllr P. Allan, Cllr J. Howard, Cllr I. Holme, Cllr G. Hepplewhite, Cllr J. Russell, Cllr A. Gibson, Cllr J. Russell, Cllr D. Parr

In attendance: Cllr Dunston and S. Sibbald

6 members of the public were also present.

Item 1. - Apologies for absence: Cllr Swainston, Lauren Pyrah

Item 2. - Declarations of Interest were received from: Cllr J. Russell Item 12, Cllr V. Hughes Item 12, Cllr P. Allan Item 7, Cllr K. Pattison Item 7

Item 3. - Chairman's remarks – the Chairman reported that there has been a response to the advert for a Special Constable and the application has been passed on to Durham Constabulary by the Clerk to be processed.

Item 4. - Minutes of last meeting – deferred until next meeting as clerk had not circulated amended minutes to members.

Item 5. - Matters arising from previous meeting - The minutes from previous meeting to be amended to show the right hand side of the village green up from the Spa shop.

The obsolete phone box Tees Grange Avenue is to be reinstated by BT.

Phil from DBC had been out to check horse chestnut tree at the Grange and confirmed that it is currently OK and does not need cutting down.

Item 6. – Public participation – no matters raised

Item 7. – Accounts/Grants/Donations – Accounts had been circulated to members and were approved for payment. Cllr G. Hepplewhite raised a query on the amount that the clerk was being paid, asking why it was

twice what the previous clerk had received. Cllr J. Howard responded by saying that as the level of pay would have been agreed on appointment, he felt that the clerk would have calculated it correctly and there was nothing more to discuss. Cllr Gibson asked if it was in order to sign the clerks pay cheque. The Chairman stated that all cheques were in order and should be signed.

Cllr Peacock asked whether a donation of £500 for repairs to the village hall could be made, the repairs are costing £2,500. Cllrs Allan and Pattison declared an interest here. Cllr Pattison said a decision had to be deferred to finance working party 25/10/10. They already have a grant of £4,000 for a heating system, £3,800 for chairs and £3,400 for windows. Cllr Allan gave information on the work being carried out to the village hall.

A finance working party to be held 25/10/10 at 7pm at the Grange offices. As this is a working group anyone can attend.

A grant of up to £40,000 could be available for the Grange to have solar heating, Solar Heating Company have already been to survey the area and said there was too much shadow for it to work. Another area of the Grange has been suggested for the panels and Solar Heating Ltd are to return to check this.

Cllr Allan has applied for a grant of £2,000 for the allotments and this application is currently being processed. He stated that if the allotments were to be an association it would increase the chances of grants being given. If they remain under the Parish Council grants would be difficult to obtain.

Friends of Rockcliffe Hall have made a donation of £640.00

A grant of £1,500 has been applied for by FOTC for a flower meadow in the grounds of The Grange, in memory of Jean Butterfield.

Once the Fletcher Hall ceiling is complete it is the intention to apply for a grant for new windows in the hall.

Item 8. – Highway Matters – Cllr Russell raised the issue of lorries turning at Tees view, residents have complained. Clerk to write to Evans Halshaw to raise this concern with vehicles turning in front of the Comet in Hurworth Place. Cllr Russell updated the Councillors on the Right of Way at Croft Club. The Hearing is to take place on 29/10/10 at 9.30am in Darlington Town Hall. Hogweed has closed the riverbank near Rockliffe Hall. Cllr Pattison disagreed saying it was not closed. Clerk to write to Nick Elliott and Dave Cuthbertson regarding the riverbank.

Traffic calming near the Otter & Fish – clerk to write to Highways Department asking if their inspection has been carried out and what the outcome was.

Cllr J. Peacock raised the issue of parking at Linden Court which causes problems to the residents. It is not illegal to park there. Clerk to write to Linden Court asking them to park considerately.

The hedge opposite the Comet was not cut when the other were done. Cllr J. Peacock will liaise with Mr Graham at DBC to get the work done.

Cllr Allan advised that Sharon wants to take the scouts across the bridge ( metal bridge at the bottom of the village) Cllr Allan to advise her to liaise with the Wrightsons who own the bridge.

Item 9. – PACT Report – Middleton St George have had some problems as PC Chris Homer has been transferred to Darlington and they were without a PC for two weeks. PC Foley took over on 4<sup>th</sup> October covering the three parishes . On Tuesday 12/10/10 at 2.30pm there is a meeting at the Dolphin Centre re Neighbourhood Watch. Cllrs Pattison and Allan are going to attend and anyone else is welcome. The youth rep was at the meeting, and the youth club at the school is now up and running. The next meeting is at 6.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Neasham reading rooms.

Item 10. – Dog Fouling – Cllr Russell raised this. At the last meeting it was agreed that no more dog bins were needed. Cllr Russell said 10 more are needed, they are the ones which were to cost £600 at last meeting, the issue of the colour was unimportant. Cllr Russell reported that she has obtained sponsors for 3 bins, and asked the parish council to contribute £250 toward additional dog bins. Cllr Pattison stated that Brian

Graham will charge for green bins no charge for red bins. Cllr Gibson requested clarification on costs and the matter to be deferred to next meeting. Cllr Russell asked for decision now and Cllr Allan seconded it. Cllr Holme suggested costs should be checked with Brian Graham and provided costs are no more than £250 go ahead. Cllr Pattison said cost of bins should be requested in writing. Meeting agreed that additional bins could be ordered by clerk. Cllr Gibson stated he didn't agree with this purchase.

Item 11 . – Riverbank, Hurworth Place – Cllr Peacock advised she had agreed the location of the new board and it is in place. White foam has reappeared along the riverbank and Cllr Peacock has been speaking to the Environment agency who say the foam is harmless. Northumbrian Water are also looking into it. Clerk to write to the Environment Agency asking for confirmation in writing that it is harmless and gave the clerk the address to write to.

Item 12. – Allotments – Minutes of Meeting should have stated who was present at last meeting. Cllr Hughes said she had an estimate of £1,400 for the installation of a Northumbrian Water connection and meter. They also supplied specifications for the laying and testing of water pipes and advice on standpipes. The merits of forming an Allotment Association were discussed. DBC charge £43 for their allotments, which includes a charge for water. Local Allotment Associations state their water bills add between £4.00 and £20.00 per annum, depending on the number of greenhouses and poly tunnels on site and the agreed drain down and switch off time, usually November to march: as winter rainfall is quite adequate. At present tenants of HPC pay £10m per year. John Buxton is an authority on allotment associations. Lynn Wylie vice chair of the allotment committee said there would be problems with some of the tenants in forming an association. Cllr Russell proposed £1,400 should be spent and then an association formed to deal with the remaining pipework necessary. Cllr Howard stated that there should be ground rules for the allotments. Cllr Allan said he has the allotment rules dated 1932. Discussions continued on allotment associations. Cllr Foster proposed they look at an association before going any further on this. Cllr Allan seconded this. The committee to be Cllr Hughes, Mrs Wylie and John Buxton, proposal agreed.

Item 13. – Kerbs on village green/residents parking – Cllr Howard raised this matter, he said he hasn't seen the specification yet. He also stated that he does not agree with putting kerbs in as he doesn't consider it will cure the parking problem, and suggested bollards would work better. Cllr Allan had previously suggested widening the road and reiterated it. Other Cllrs disagreed with this idea. Cllr Allan would like this option considered at the next meeting. Cllr Gibson said he did not think the parish council had the authority to change the village green, he thought kerbs would solve the problem. The matter was discussed at length. Cllr Holme suggested costs for Cllr Allan's proposal would be too expensive, and he did not like the idea of bollards. His view was to pursue the kerbs being put in or do nothing particularly as the school which created a lot of the problem was now gone. Cllr Hepplewhite was the person who originated the kerb works. Cllr Hughes stated she could not remember agreeing to remove the no parking signs which were previously erected. It was agreed generally that they were to be removed.

Item 14. – Litter Picker – Cllr Howard wanted to know how this worked as he had been told by DBC that they deducted the litter pickers salary from the precept so in effect the parish paid him. This was disputed by other members. Cllr Howard proposed that this job should be advertised on an annual basis. Cllr Allan said that the litter picker was an employee and has been since 1998 and that he could not be dismissed or made redundant. No complaints had ever been made about his work or any warnings given for misconduct and there he could not be dismissed. Cllr Holme said we would be changing from an employee to a contract if it was offered annually. Employees, the litter picker and the clerk would have an annual review and any changes would be discussed at that time. Cllr Allan said if the issue of the litter pickers pay was raised with DBC it could be that they would decide not to fund it in the future. It was generally agreed that the litter picker did a good job.

Item 15. – Trees - Cllr Howard met Phil Haynes re the tree on the green and he said there was money for trees available from DBC. Phil will come back to Cllr Howard with what trees might be available.

Item 16. – Newsletter – they have all been delivered now. Cost for printing was £522.26 by the Grange who also helped to deliver the newsletter. Cllr Pattison has obtained a quote from a printer in Darlington for 1600 A5 sheets of £389.00, he will pursue this for next issue in more detail. Cllr

Howard suggested Jack Publishing would give a competitive quote. Cllr Holme said two A4 sheets made it heavy to deliver, and agreed quotes should be obtained for future print. Cllr Pattison also asked who was going to do the next issue as he does not want to do it. Cllr Russell said she may be able to help. Cllr Pattison left the meeting early at 8.25pm, but agreed to organise the next issue because of his discussions with printers.

Item 17. – Hurworth School, consultation process - Cllr Holme gave an update on this. The school are exploring an academy status and Cllr Holme explained the benefits of this. He suggested the Parish Council write a letter in support of this and will liaise with the clerk on the content of the letter.

Item 18. – Planning Applications - There were no objections to any of the items listed.

Additional matters raised - Cllr Howard asked if money should be given to the person who is re-pointing the church wall. The man did not want to be considered part of FOTC, he would have been paid if he had done so, the matter was left as is. NB All FOTC work is voluntary and unpaid.

Hurworth Parish Council lay a poppy wreath on the War Memorial in All Saints church yard each Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Hughes requested a donation to the Royal British Legion who supply the wreath. A donation of £50 from HPC to the British Legion was agreed. it was agreed to give £50.00.

Cllr Pattison asked for a file showing correspondence received by the clerk to be available at the next meeting under matters of information. He also asked the clerk to raise a cheque for £55.00 and send in an application for an Ordinance Survey map of the parish.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Next meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

