

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6th January, in the Hadwin Hall,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending:-

Chris Pratt, Val Hughes, Gill Hepplewhite, Peter Foster, Alan Gibson, Ian Holme,
Jean Peacock, , Don Parr; Jill Russell, Ken Pattison;

also in attendance :- Cllr Malcolm Dunstone, Peter Allan - Clerk

116 Apologies for absence:-

John Howard (after meeting)

117 Declarations of Interest:-

None

118 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman reported that the council had received three applications for the position of Parish Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer. Having evaluated the applications, the selection Committee had decided to offer the position to Peter Allan. The other two applicants were rejected on the basis that one had no relevant experience, and the other had already been rejected on a previous occasion. Terms and conditions have been agreed between the PC and Mr Allan, and he accepted the position as from 1st January 2011.

Peter Allan had stepped in to cover as Acting Clerk, until this appointment was made, this also resulted in an immediate saving of cost.

Peter Allan resigned from the Parish Council on 31st December, thereby eliminating any conflict of interests. In accordance with the regulations, Mr Allan will not be paid until after 12 complete months from his resignation from the council.

119 Minutes of the Meeting dated 4th November 2010.

The minutes, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chair after a proposal of confirmation by Ian Holme and seconded by Val Hughes.

120 Matters Arising from the Minutes

1. Jill Russell reported the dog litter bins, which have been sponsored, have been now been installed. However, one has been moved, and Jill will be resolving this particular problem, with the resident concerned.

2. The Clerk had spoken to the representative of the Hurworth Senior Citizens Association, regarding the donation they require. After discussion, the council agreed to make a donation of £200.
3. With regard to the parking congestion near the primary School, Ken Pattison agreed to bring this up at the next PACT Meeting. **Action KP**
4. It was agreed that we should get more details about the Green Flag Scheme, and the Clerk was charged with obtaining and circulating this information.
Action Clerk
5. The Newsletter; Cllr Pattison reported that 15 articles were embedded in this issue of the newsletter

All other items are on the tonight's agenda.

121 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

122 Correspondences

1. A complaint has been received drawing our attention to prohibited and illegal chemicals being placed/ used in the Strait Lane allotments. The matter has been placed on the Allotment Committee meeting agenda.
2. A resident has written quoting the legal situation regarding keeping hens and rabbits. The matter has been placed on the Allotment Committee meeting agenda.
3. We have received a letter from a Debt Collector demanding payment for electricity usage in 2005. It appeared to relate to the Christmas tree lights in 2005. After discussion, Cllr Gibson recommended that we settle the bill, for £171.32. **Action: Clerk to pay the account**
4. Complaint received about the service being provided by Arriva. The No 12 bus appears to be very unreliable, and the position of the bus stop in Darlington is considered undesirable.
5. Research has been made into re-positioning the bus stop, and the alternative position would be opposite the Town Hall. This had been rejected because passengers did not want the extra walk across the market place. Cllr Gibson made the point that the No 12 bus often gets delayed due to congestion on Yarm Road, but his experience with the service was quite satisfactory. The statistics of Arriva's Service were perused, showing performance figures of over ninety percent. **Action; Clerk to write to Arriva with the comments, and referring them to their own statistics.**
6. Letter from Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Detailing early arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Council decided on no action at this time.
7. Letter from East Riding Horticulture Ltd marketing products relating to grit bins, and ice clearing equipment. It was agreed to file this in case we decide to go further with the gritting campaign.
8. A Letter from a resident has been received, drawing our attention to the slippery conditions at Rockcliffe Court. Requesting grit or salt to be provided to make the area less dangerous for **vulnerable people. Action: Clerk to reply, and advise that we are addressing the gritting problems within the parish.**

9. We have received the latest draft of the 'Durham County Council 'Statement of Licensing Policy'. No action required.
10. Invitation from Steve Ragg for members to attend the next Association of Parish Council and Parish Meetings meeting. Our representatives, Peter Foster and Gill Hepplewhite will be attending.
11. Request from Action for Children for participation in a variety of schemes or make a donation. Council agreed to take no action

123

Land Registry

Cllr Pattison reported that all the deeds from the Office have been taken to the Land Registry, and that the Registry is now working through the various documents, and will register those applicable, and report back on any instances which require further investigation.

124 Accounts for Payment, Financial Report and banking update.

The clerk reported that the bank accounts are now 'on-line', and the system is operational. The clerk also reported that the bank accounts have now been reconciled, and some transactions, which had not been recorded have now been incorporated.

The following cheques were signed, and passed for payment.

T. Murray	(salary)	338.32
P.D. Allan	(stationery)	46.57
Hurworth Community Association	(photocopying)	4.88
H.M.R.C	(PAYE)	84.60

It was agreed that in future the Clerk will E Mail the updated Cash Forecast and Budget to all councillors one week prior to the PC Meeting.

125 Village Green

Cllr Pattison gave a report; Helen Monaghan at DBC has been informed of the council's decision to award the contract for the curbing to them, once final measurements were calculated. Ken Pattison and Peter Allan re-visited the site and measured all sections, and took photographs of the plots.

A letter had been delivered to all residents affected along the north side of the Green. We have received five responses, in writing and several other verbal observations. It is clear that the residents have mixed feelings and are not in unison on the remedy.

Cllr Pattison suggested the following course of action:-

1. We should trim back the edge and establish the correct border.
2. Hold a public meeting for the residents who will be affected by the action we are proposing.
3. Send a second letter to the residents explaining the above actions.

The meeting agreed to Cllr Pattison's suggestions.

Actions: KP to arrange for the edging work to be carried out. A letter will be sent to residents, and a meeting convened.

126 Gritting and Winter Conditions

Cllr Ian Holme gave a comprehensive report of the need for gritting bins. He has made a survey of the two villages and drawn up a schedule of the requirements. He then highlighted the most important four sites, which need urgent attention.

Cllr Gibson raised the question of insurance cover, and this is noted.

Action; Cllr Holme and the Clerk are to set up a meeting with the Highways Dept to discuss the issue and reach a solution to move forward. It was suggested that having reached a solution, we may be able to sub-contract it to StreetScene.

127 Dog Bins

This was covered in Matters Arising, by Cllr Russell.

128. PACT Report

There was no meeting held in December 2010.

129. Highway Matters

The following issues were raised:-

- a. Cllr Pattison reported the poor state of the Chase in the winter conditions
- b. Cllr Hepplewhite reported the bad condition of Roundhill Road going out of Hurworth towards Darlington.
- c. Cllr Russell reported a resident's complaint about access to Blind Lane; and their request for a 20mph limit **Action: Clerk to write to landowner requesting assistance in assuring public safety on his road.**
- d. Cllr Peacock reported the very bad state of the area beside Croft House. **Action the Clerk to send a letter to StreetScene highlighting the problem.**
- e. Cllr Parr reported that the complaint regarding disability access near the fish and chip shop had been addressed.

130. Council Procedures

Cllr Pattison raised this subject and it was agreed that he would compile a list of headings, which could then be addressed. **Action Ken Pattison to prepare the list. Cllr Pattison and the clerk to develop a set on procedures by April 2011**, in time for the new council.

Cllr Foster said that courses were available for this, and we should consider attending,

131 Allotments

Cllr Hughes gave a report covering the meeting of allotment holders held on 29th December to discuss an Allotment Association. 22 people attended, but many allotment holders did not attend. The speaker did not really address the relevant topic, so the general feeling was that not much progress had been achieved.

A Register is now in place and is up to date, listing all 57 allotments and their tenants. There are currently nine names on the Waiting List. A Statement of Rules, dated 1932 are in our possession, and it is believed these have never been revised.

£420 has been received in allotment rents, some are still outstanding.

An Allotment Meeting has been convened for 13th January 2011.

132 Election – May 2011

Cllr Foster explained how the election procedure operated and the requirement for three polling stations, at Linden Court, Elm Ridge and either the Primary School or Hurworth Village Hall

There had been suggestions that we should have only one polling station and it should be based at the Grange.

Action: Clerk to write To DBC referring to the shared cost of £4650, and asking where the Skerne Park residents would vote, and whether the cost should be further shared with the Borough Council elections. Further information required to fully understand what services we will receive for our contribution.

133 Trees

This matter was not discussed due to the non-attendance of Cllr Howard.
(Cllr Howard is to contact the DBC Arborist regarding tree problems at Bryan Close.)

134. Planning Applications

1. Puchalla – further application
2. Yuill contractors continuing appeal at Croft House.

No action or comment required.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm., and Chairman thanked all councillors for attending.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 3rd February 2011 at 7:00opm.