

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd February 2011, in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

134. Those attending:-

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

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

135 Apologies for absence:-

Jill Russell

136 Declarations of Interest:-

None

137 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman thanked Ken Pattison producing the latest Newsletter, which has been
very well received throughout the parish.

Names are required to hold the PC Surgeries, and the following was agreed

March John Howard and Ian Holme

April Chris Pratt and Ken Pattison

The Chairman advised that the local elections are likely to be held on 5th May 2011.
This is the date set for the Referendum and the Borough Council Elections. The PC
election date is still to be confirmed.

138 Minutes of the Meeting dated

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

139 PACT Report

Ken Pattison reported that the PACT Meeting statistics showed a drop in crime in the
parish. He then introduced Inspector Reaves, who would address the situation of the
recently appointed Special Constable.

The Region has a maximum of 150 Specials, and recruitment must go through a formal procedure. There are always more applicants than positions, and candidates have a two day window to make their application, via a web site.

Our Special Constable, Tracey Fairweather, was appointed, via a transfer from another region, which now appears to have been outside the regulations. However, a compromise has been reached whereby She will cover three areas, Middleton St George, Neasham and Hurworth.

Tracy has not been working recently, but will be back 'on duty' this month.

Specials are not paid, and are strictly volunteers, which means they are 'not on our staff'. Darlington Area Specials receive an annual bounty of £1500, whereas most other areas no longer pay this.

Mr Pattison reported that the Speedwatch operations had been neglected, and instead of three checks per month, it was now down to only one. He hoped that our Special Constable would soon participate in this, and also Youth Club supervision on Friday evenings. He also reported instances of severe congestion on Westfield Drive, leading to the Primary School.

Alan Gibson said he is pessimistic about the effectiveness of a Special Constable.

140 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. Jean Peacock asked the PC to donate £25 to the HCA for delivering the Parish Newsletters; this was agreed.
- b. There are still problems about the emptying of dog bins. The Clerk has already requested a schedule of emptying days from Streetscene, and will follow this up. **Action for Clerk**
- c. Most items are on tonight's agenda, and hence deferred until later in the meeting.
- d. Cllr Pattison updated the council on the HCA proposals for the Country Fair. It was requested that the PC showed their continuing support for the event by agreeing to underwrite some of the costs in order to protect the HCA, should the event fall victim to the weather.

After considerable debate, a number of councillors felt unable to agree this financial support at this time, due to lack of notice to consider this decision, and the lack of a formal request or presentation from the HCA.

Cllr Pattison requested that his dissatisfaction with this outcome be placed on record.

141. Public Participation

Croft House. Several residents attended the meeting and raised their continuing concern over the Yuill determination to build at Croft House. They asked the PC to show their support by writing another letter to DBC, highlighting their concerns.

The resident group has already written to DBC expressing their desire to attend the forthcoming Planning Meeting, to give their views, and object about the procedure being followed. They request that a new Planning Application should be made, in accordance with the current Environmental Planning conditions.

Alan Gibson proposed that the PC send another letter, using our previous letter as a basis, and adding our further concerns.

Martin Swainson stated that the flooding model has changed, and suggested we take this up, as last time the application failed due to 'appearance' rather than flood concerns.

Ian Holme agreed to work with the Clerk to draft and send a suitable letter.

Action Ian Holme and Clerk.

Action:-

Alan Gibson and Jean Hepplewhite will attend the Application Meeting.

The residents also reported that they have been liaising with the **Durham Flood Warden Group**, and will be attending the meeting on 14TH February.

They say that the 'system' appears to be in place, but they had had a flood warning in the middle of the night, when all DBC offices were closed. They will discuss this at the forthcoming meeting.

142 Correspondence and Matters of Interest

F1 Response to our questions about Election Costs.

F2 CDALC advised us that County Planners are insisting on charging allotment holders £170, if they want to install a shed. It does not apply to us yet.

F3 Training courses are available for Data protection education. The council decided not to embark on courses before the next election.

F4 Are hens allowed on allotments. DBC Legal Department require £196.41 to give legal advice on this question. The Council decided to not allow hens or rabbits on allotments, in accordance with the 1932 Allotment Rules manual.

F5 Thank you letter received from Hurworth Senior Citizens.

F6 Green Award Scheme. The council decided not to participate in this scheme.

F7 Butterwick Hospice requested support, but the council declined on this occasion.

F8 Letter from Nathaniel Lichfield, representing Yuill Contractors, advising us of the forthcoming meeting of appeal on 22nd February. This was discussed under Croft House development.

F9 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service advised us that there are changes in their procedures, and invited people to attend a consultation meeting on 17th February.

F10 Tees Valley Rural Community Council informed us of two events taking place;-
2nd March TVRCC Summit
22nd March Free workshop for local councils by the CDCC Training Partnership.

No takers from the council.

F11 Details of the Standards Board Committee meeting held on 17th January have been received, and are available in the Clerk's office.

F12 A request has been made to allow Mrs Gemma Adams to sprinkle the ashes of her grandmother, Audrey Roberts in the Nature Reserve. The council agreed.

F13 Nominations for a person to attend the Royal Garden Party were invited. Chris Pratt's name will be put forward. **Action Clerk** to register this.

F14 Ian Holme reported an accident caused by a bad pothole on the back road to Neasham. He has reported it to DBC, who have taken action and repaired the hole.

F15 We received a communiqué from P3 Group regarding grants available and assistance offered for Rights of way and path development. It appears not include Hurworth, but John Buxton will be requested to investigate.

F16. Mr Brian Hillary has registered his burial site with the Clerk, in the form of an official document. **Action: Don Parr** will verify the plot details.

F17 A letter has been received from Mrs Bell, requesting a grit bin to be positioned outside number 7 Elmfield Road. **Action: This will be added to Ian Holme list. Clerk to acknowledge the letter.**

F18 We have been advised of changes in the accounting and audit procedures. **Action: the Clerk will arrange a meeting with Stephen Ragg** to go through the procedures.

F19 Cllr Dunstone reported parking and traffic complaints in Hurworth Place, and the high chance of an accident. He is addressing the matter.

143 Land Registry

Cllr Pattison reported that we have received a letter from the Land Registry, and a meeting has been set up for Monday, 14th February to further progress the registration of the deeds. Some registration fees will be required in due course, based on property valuations. He expected these charges to be a few hundred pounds.

Unfortunately the person who we have been dealing with has moved on, so there may be some recapitulation to be done.

Action Ken Pattison and the Clerk to attend meeting

144 Accounts for Payment, and Financial Report

The schedule of Payments had been circulated, but three more cheques were approved at the meeting. The final schedule is below:-

T. Murray	(Jan 2011 salary)	338.32
T. Murray	(July 2010 salary)	310.60
P.D. Allan	(stationery)	32.24
Hurworth Community Association		5.05
H.M.R.C		162.20
M T Print	(Newsletter)	477.00
Darlington B.C.	(Dog bins)	300.00
Friends of Rockliffe Court	(donation)	200.00
Val Hughes		38.00
Darlington B.C.	(removal of tree)	360.00
Gill Hepplewhite		25.50
David Parker	(trimming the Green)	100.00

It should be noted that the Litter Picker had not been paid his July 2011 salary, and after verification, it was approved and paid at this meeting.

The updated Budget and Cash Flow forecast had been circulated, and there were no queries on this month's figures.

145 Village Green

Cllr Pattison gave a report; The trimming has now been completed, and we can evaluate the boundaries of the grass, road and pavement.

Ken Pattison will take the measurements, so that the best method of preserving the Green can be examined.

Mr Pattison has informed DBC of the progress and confirmed that their quotation will remain valid.

He requested the Clerk to write to all residents again, updating them with the progress, and advising them that a meeting will be held soon. This may be held on the site.

Action Clerk to write and deliver the letters.

146 Allotment Report

Val Hughes reported on events at the allotments. They have identified a contractor who will dig the ditches and install the water pipes from the main entry point to the allotment tap points. The cost is estimated at £600.

There has been a query regarding keeping hens on allotments, and legal consultation has been considered. However, the meeting agreed that hens will not be allowed, as per the PC Allotment Rules dated 1932.

An Open Meeting for all allotment holders will be held in the Hadwin Lounge on 15th March. The Clerk has booked the room.

147 Gritting and salt bins

Ian Holme reported that despite several attempts to arrange a meeting with the DBC department which handles grit bins, the person responsible is on sick leave. The Clerk is trying to identify an alternative person to meet. **Action Clerk** to arrange the meeting.

148 Association reports, given by Gill Hepplewhite.

- a. **Darlington Association of Parish Councils.** the meeting mainly discussed police matters, and the effect of the cut back in costs. Mrs Hepplewhite reminded the meeting that policing does effect us all in Darlington and areas with the reorganisation.
- b. **Durham Association of Parish Councils; Airport Committee:** Teesside Airport is still facing a decline, but in comparison to other airports is keeping ahead of the general decline. Heathrow Airport is down to 67% usage, which is a major decline in business.
- c. **Allotments;** Gill reported that the Working Party has been re-established with 3 representatives from Strait Lane, 1 from the Grange allotments, and 3 PC representatives. Five allotments became available this year end, and they have been reassigned. All allotment holders have paid their 2011 fees. There are now five names on the Waiting List, 2 of which are for Grange allotments.

149. Highway Matters

The following issues were raised:-

- a. Don Parr raised complaints about dogs using the graveyard as a toilet. Ken Pattison agreed to talk to Rebecca McKewan at DBC about putting up appropriate notices. There are restrictions on the wording of notices in this regard, and dog ban notices are not legal in Hurworth. **Action** Ken Pattison to contact Ms McKewan.
Martin Swainson advised the meeting that DBC were deploying more underground dog patrols.

- b. Peter Foster suggested placing an article in the next Newsletter, strongly highlighting the dog fouling problem.
- c. Gill Hepplewhite reported pot holes on Roundhill Road.
- d. Alan Gibson reported that a vehicle has damaged the railings at the entrance to Avon Road. **Action Clerk** to write to DBC to get the railings repaired.
- e. Ken Pattison has received complaints about the state of the pavement at the north side of the Green. **Action Clerk** to write specific letter to DBC to bring this to their attention and request repairs. Also he has received a complaint about the suckers on the tree outside the old post office. **Action John Howard** will mention this to Phil Haynes at DBC.
- f. It was agreed that the repairs made to potholes on Roundhill Road were not done satisfactorily, and the work requires further attention.
- g. The same applies to the major work carried out on Woodlands Way. The poor work has resulted in a partial collapse of the road. Martin Swainson is addressing this problem.

150 Trees

John Howard gave a thorough report of his meetings and dialogue with Phil Haynes of DBC.

- a. John Howard visited the resident in Bryan Close, who complained about the beach tree damaging his wall, This was settled with no action to be taken.
- b. Mr Howard also visited the resident who had been cutting holly from the trees in the Churchyard. The arborist inspected the trees and states that the trees will recover. The resident has been advised not to raid the churchyard trees again.
- c. Mr Howard distributed an excellent report drawn up by Phil Haynes, suggesting where trees could be planted on the Green, indicating suitable trees and their approximate cost. Grants are currently available for tree planting, and it was agreed that the PC should apply for suitable grants. It was suggested that John Carver, a local resident, would help prepare the applications. It was also agreed that John Howard would contact Phil Haynes and together identify other areas in the parish where specimen trees would enhance the environment. **Action John Howard** to prepare a second report identifying more trees for planting. **Peter Foster** agreed to assist. **John Howard and Peter Foster** were asked to let the Clerk have information within two weeks if possible in order to meet the grant closure date of 10th March.

151. Planning Applications

The following applications were perused, and considered, the comments shown are to be conveyed to DBC Planning Department.. **Action Clerk** to respond.

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Comments</u>
10/00814/CAC	Hurworth Ouse School	No comment
11/00041.FUL	18 Westfield Drive, Hurworth	No comment
11/00008/FUL	Roundhill Farm	No comment
APP/N1350/10 etc	Croft House	Letter being sent

10/00825/FUL	Hurworth Ouse School	No comment
11/00027/FUL	4 Friars Pardon, Hurworth	No comment

The meeting closed at 9:20pm., and Chairman thanked all councillors for attending.

Date of Next Meeting

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