

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

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

152. Those attending:-

Chris Pratt (Chairman), Val Hughes, Gill Hepplewhite, Peter Foster, Ian Holme,
Jean Peacock, Don Parr; John Howard, Ken Pattison; Jill Russell

also in attendance :- Peter Allan - Clerk

153 Apologies for absence:-

Malcolm Dunstone

154 Declarations of Interest:-

Personal: (Grange and Country Fair) Ian Holme, Ken Pattison, Jean Peacock, Val
Hughes and Jill Russell

155 Chairman's remarks

The Chairman thanked all the councillors who attended the Croft House hearing at the
Town Hall. (JP, AG., GH., KP., IH)

The Chairman announced that the Annual Assembly will take place immediately
before the April PC Meeting; an Agenda will be circulated by the Clerk.

The Chairman asked for a report on the Procedures and Standing order review. Ken
Pattison stated that there was considerable progress and that a number of procedures
should be completed on schedule, by 31st March, and the draft circulated to all
councillors, prior to a proposal for adoption at the April Meeting.

156 Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd February 2011.

The minutes, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chair after
confirmation by the council.

It was agreed that an item called 'Any Other Business' will be put on future agendas,
on the understanding that no material decisions could be taken under this heading,
although it was pointed out that any Standing Orders could be suspended if the
Council so voted in a meeting if an item was deemed to be of sufficient importance.

It was agreed that a set of the final minutes would be passed to Ken Pattison, who will
post them on the PC web site.

At this point the representative of the Northern Echo joined the meeting.

157 Matters Arising

Dog fouling continues to be a problem in the villages. The clerk was asked to follow this up with Streetscene, who have not responded to either the clerk's recent E Mail and Jill Russell's overtures. Ken Pattison offered to chase up the placing of a notice at the church gate.

It was suggested that the next Newsletter be prepared and distributed before the next election. This is a tight timeframe, and KP requested articles and content as quickly as possible.

The Chairman read a letter from the Hurworth Community Association detailing information and budgets for the forthcoming Hurworth Country Fair, to be held on Saturday 17th September. The letter requested that the Parish Council underwrite a possible loss on the event to a maximum of £3,000. The following comments ensued:-

IH. Said that he had attended the excellent presentation of the event, and felt that it has huge potential for the parish. It deserves the council's wholehearted support.

KP reported that the Great Aycliffe Fair has never been cancelled in its long history, and had always been paid for by the Town council.

JH expressed the view that the Fair committee have done an excellent job. He questioned the benefit of partnering with St Teresa's Hospice, and suggested they should share the potential risk.

JR says that she is strongly in favour of the event, and the council underwriting it. She intends playing her part in the organisation of the event.

KP outlined the benefits of partnering with St Teresa's Hospice. They add experience in organising large events, they will provide people and effectively insure that the Fair is successful. The hospice has a large following, and will generate public support.

DP reported that Hurworth Concert Band sponsor the hospice and return attribute benefit from public support and larger attendances.

GH made a speech stating that she would not vote on this topic as it was against her principles. When questioned by Councillor Peacock, she stated that she had 'taken advice', although from whom, she did not divulge. She suggested that the council should not support parish events which may fall into the category of 'speculation'. There was no support for this suggestion.

Ian Holme proposed the PC should underwrite the Hurworth Country Fair to a limit of £3,000; this was seconded by Ken Pattison, and carried unanimously except for the 'non vote' by Councillor Hepplewhite.

158 Public Participation

Mrs Sue Williams thanked the council for their help with the Croft House appeal, and expressed the residents' gratitude for the support the council have given them.

159 Allotments

The Clerk advised the council that a request has been made through the Allotment Committee to place orders for the water contracts at the Strait Lane allotments.

The amounts of the quotations are:-

Northumbrian Water for extending the water supply to the allotments is £1200 plus VAT.

Metcalfes of Holm Lynn Farm, have quoted £1500 for installing the pipes, taps, etc on site, and would be using a mechanical mole. The mole would mean that the allotments would not need to be dug up, and damage to the ground would be minimised.

The Clerk advised the council that purchases of a value over £500 require three quotations, as per the council's Standing Orders. However, where it is impractical to obtain or consider three quotations, the council could agree and minute their agreement to override the Standing Order.

A discussion followed:-

KP asked whether the allotment committee had confirmed that the allotment holders actually wanted the water facility.

GH said that the council have an obligation to provide water to allotments.

VH stated that most allotment holders wanted water. She recapitulated that the total funds required was £2700, of which the grant provided £2,000; therefore the PC needed to provide the extra £700,

PF said the the allotment holders have been asking for water for the last twenty years, and the PC should now go ahead and install the system.

IH said that if the allotment were undecided, it was likely that the grant would expire and the funds will no longer be available.

It was proposed by Val Hughes and seconded by Jill Russell that the PC provide the extra funding of £700. The motion was carried.

160 Correspondence

Peter Foster reported that HMS Hurworth would be docking at Hartlepool from 2nd to 7th June. It is expected that the councillors will be invited to visit the ship. A reception at the Grange is also to be arranged.

1. Scout's request to use the Green for Strawberry Fair. OK

2. County Durham & Cleveland Community Council, Workshop training on 22nd March. Ken Pattison and Peter Allan will attend.
3. TeesValley Rural Community Council no action
4. Request for allotment funding; see allotment report.
5. BDO Audit Briefing – **Clerk to pursue**
6. Letter and form from Land Registry – see Land Registry report.
7. Steve Ragg – new proposed employment regulations. **Clerk to F.U.**
8. Litterfree Durham – no action
9. Public Works Loan Board – annual statement
10. Darlington Association of Parish Councils Meeting on 21st March – no action
11. NALC Bulletin – circulated
12. E Mail from Ian White re salt bins – Clerk has responded
13. DMMO Claim – notice of meeting on 17th March – passed to John Buxton.
14. TeesValley Rural Community Council - circulated
15. A & J Lillie requesting salt bin on Elmfield Road; added to list
16. Tees Valley Rural Community Council - No action
17. Ordnance Survey – see Ken Pattison report
18. Letter from Jacksons, ref Croft Club. Clerk has acknowledged. **John Buxton and Clerk to reply.**
19. Malcolm Dunstone – litter report
20. Royal Garden Party – No luck for the Chairman.
21. Senior Citizens require Treasurer – Don Parr investigating
22. Request to spread ashes in nature reserve. Granted
23. Notice of Flood demonstration – circulated
24. Durham Police - no action

161 Land Registry

Ken Pattison reported that the registration of all the existing deeds has now been completed at the Land Registry, and that the council were required to pay a fee of £210. This was based on the valuations given to the Registry.

There are other parcels of land, including the Village Green that the council can make claim to, but the process may take several years. KP and the Clerk had agreed to investigate this further. **Action KP and Clerk**

162 Finance

The following accounts were passed for payment and signed by the signatories:-

T. Murray	February 2011 salary	333.41
Land Registry		210.00
P.D. Allan	(Travelling Exs and post)	88.72
Hurworth Community Association		28.70
H.M.R.C		83.20

Paid by direct Debit in February

Loan Board	£258.62
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It was agreed that a cheque would be sent to Northumbrian Water for the allotment water connection, value £1440.00, including VAT. **Action Clerk to send**

The Clerk had already circulated the latest Cash Forecast, so councillors were able to study the figures. The Clerk also advised the council that the financial year-end is 31st March, and therefore they needed to decide how they wanted to treat all unspent allocations. They should be carried forward as Specific Reserves, cancelled and the funds released, or could be placed in a General reserve.

Jill Russell requested that the Clean up allocation should be a specific reserve carried forward.

Ken Pattison proposed and Ian Holme seconded that all the allocations should be carried forward as General Reserves, and that a Finance Committee Meeting be convened next week to study the financial status in greater detail. **Action Clerk to convene meeting.** Notes for the meeting were:-

163 Village Green

KP reported that a third letter had been delivered to all residents on the north side of the Green area, and that a meeting had taken place at the site. Nine residents had attended and a consensus had been reached. The meeting was attended by KP, PF, GH and the Clerk.

Area No.

- 1 Kerbing all round, following the edge of the metalling. The suggestion was also made that this area could be converted into a car park, as it is in bad condition, and is not situated immediately in front of a resident's house.
- 2 Kerbing all round, following the edge of the metalling.
- 3 Kerbing all round, following the edge of the metalling.
- 4 Shutter and re-seed the grass area, place small boulders to deter vehicle encroachment. Ken Pattison to talk to Phil Haynes again about kerbing this area.
- 5 Recommended to do nothing at this time
- 6 Recommended to do nothing at this time
- 7 Recommended to do nothing at this time; but could consider repairing the corners.
- 8 Recommended to do nothing at this time; but could consider repairing the corners. It is expected to self-repair
- 9 Cut back and straighten, insert kerbs within the metal edge line. KP to contact DBC regarding utility cables, etc.
- 10 Cut back and straighten, insert kerbs within the metal edge line. KP to contact DBC regarding utility cables, etc. Match with Area 9.
- 11 Recommended to do nothing at this time
- 12 Cut back into straight line, and insert kerbs.
- 13 Cut back into straight line, and insert kerbs, also kerb down the sides.
- 14 Kerb all the way round.

Additional comments and suggestions:-

- a. Road outside the school needs repairing; also see two other slip roads.
- b. Cut back edges to allow passing space for vehicles. KP to raise this at the PC Meeting on 3rd March.
- c. The south side of the Green also needs attention, and PC should address this.
- d. Prune back the bust outside number 19.
- e. Objections to pots, but would like crocuses planting.
- f. Milkman is causing serious damage outside Areas 7 and 8.
- g. Peter Foster offered to plant crocuses while the kerbing is being inserted. PC to purchase the bulbs.

South side of Green.

- h. Join up the kerb opposite Dr Bagshaw's house.
- i. Join up the kerb opposite the PC Notice Board.
- j. Trees should be trimmed, as vans are damaging them.
- k. The internal road needs potholes filling in.

In summary, KP reported that the total area requiring kerbing, if all areas identified are addressed, would be 250 meters, and cost £8,800. This included certain identified areas on the south side of the green. Flower tubs had been rejected as they may become litter bins, but small boulders were accepted as a means of preventing further deterioration of the grass. The area outside Lime Cottage has been added to the schedule of work. The total project could therefore become £10,000. Peter Foster has been asked to provide a quotation for the stones.

It was also noted that sections of the slip roads were badly damaged and have large potholes. Helen Monaghan of DBC has been asked to provide a separate quotation for possible repair.

Mrs Burt has offered to pay for some work to be done outside her house on the south side. She will be happy to make a contribution.

The Chairman directed the meeting to take a decision to reconfirm the previous decision and go ahead with the £8,000 contract. A second phase could be considered at a later date. The meeting confirmed this recommendation. **Action KP to make another survey with DBC and place the contract.**

164 Parish Plan Review

The Clerk made the annual report on the progress of the Hurworth Parish Plan, details were circulated to all councillors, and will be attached to these minutes. Considerable progress has been made in the last twelve months.

165 Grit Bins

Ian Holme gave a report that a meeting has been held with DBC, and Alan Ward has agreed to make an inspection of all the identified sites, where the PC has suggested placing salt bins.

Forms detailing the DBC procedure were circulated to councillors, for their perusal.

It was noted that site inspections would mainly focus on the degree of the slope and the possible danger factor. Old age and disability would receive no priority.

DBC said that they may provide and install some bins, and if the PC purchases some, DBC will provision them with salt. They advised that the salt was for use on the roads, and should not be taken by residents for their own grounds or driveways. They also advised that residents often complain if the bins are situated outside their house, as they tend to attract youths as a sit-down meeting place.

The full report has been filed in the PC Office, and the council agreed to wait for the report from Mr Alan Ward.

166 Trees

John Howard reported that he has had further discussions with Phil Haynes at DBC, but had not made contact with John Carver regarding the tree grant.

Ken Pattison reported that Peter Foster has done a walk around the parish and identified places where trees would enhance the environment; he had suggested the species and provided pricing for the trees and planting thereof.

Ken Pattison said that the grant application would be submitted in the name of the FOTC, as they would take control of the project, and the long term maintenance of the trees.

It is expected that the grant application will be submitted by John Carver before the closing date in March.

167 PACT Report

Ian Holme had attended the February PACT Meeting, and read out the latest Crime Report, viz:-

Crimes in Hurworth, in last month:-

- 2 Burglaries
- 4 Burglary other (sheds)
- 1 theft from vehicle
- 2 Vehicle thefts
- 3 Criminal damage
- 4 Violent crimes

Farmwatch is proving to be successful, and three arrests have been made through this medium.

There has been one Speed Watch session in the month, with 11 out of 133 vehicles travelling in excess of the limit. These checks will continue.

There is no sight of our newly appointed Special Constable.

There was a presentation on Special Branch enlightening residents of the potential dangers and operations in place to combat terror. The message is ' IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT'. For further details contact www.durhampolice.uk/ antiterrorism or call 0800 789 321

The next PACT meeting will be on 31st March at Neasham Reading Rooms, starting at 6:30pm.

168 Highways

PF reported that there are ongoing problems of cars parking around the fountain, and thereby causing difficulties for lorries and large vehicles to turn. **Action Clerk to request police to see how this area can be controlled.**

Agreed to approach DBC and get yellow lines put around the fountain and on the corner opposite the Spar as parking was dangerous. This to be requested even though there is difficulty in enforcing. It should act as a deterrent. **Action clerk**

169 Planning Applications

Ref 11/00041/FUL - 18 Westfield Drive

Ref 11/00087/FUL – 23 Roundhill Road

Ref 11/00088/FUL – 7 Westfield Drive

Gill Hepplewhite reported that she attended the Airport meeting in February. The Windfarm project had been discussed and the meeting had agreed to allow six rather than ten wind turbines. The airport is very concerned about the height of the units, as they could cause problems with the radar system.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.