

# **Hurworth Parish Council**

## **Minutes**

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011, in the Hadwin Lounge,  
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

### **170. Those attending:-**

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

also in attendance: - Malcolm Dunstone: and Peter Allan - Clerk

### **171 Apologies for absence:-**

None

### **172 Declarations of Interest:-**

None

### **173 Chairman's remarks**

The Chairman, having just given his annual report at the Annual Assembly, made no further remarks.

### **174 Minutes of the Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.**

The minutes, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chair after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Ken Pattison and seconded by Jean Peacock.

The meeting was joined by the representative of the Northern Echo (Press).

### **175 Matters Arising**

All Action Items from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 had been addressed. Items requiring further attention are on the Agenda, and will be discussed at that time.

Val Hughes requested that she would like to see a full list of the land which has now been registered with the Land Registry. **Action the Clerk**

Ken Pattison thanked everybody for their responses and articles for the Newsletter; 17 articles have been submitted, and the newsletter will be distributed before the end of April.

Ken Pattison informed the meeting that we have had a request by a writer, to place a small advertisement in the Parish Newsletter. After discussion, and a cautionary speech by Val Hughes, the meeting agreed that the council will not accept any

advertisements; it is important to keep the document interesting and not lose the focus.

### **176 Minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

An Emergency Meeting was convened by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Pattison, on 21<sup>st</sup> March, with the one agenda item, this being the DBC Dosh Fund Grant for skateboard refurbishment. This required matched funding, and an immediate decision was required in order to catch the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline.

The Clerk had briefed council members, via E Mail, of the urgency of this matter, and invited all PC members to attend a meeting of the Hurworth Community Association, when this would be discussed. Four council members and the Clerk attended the HCA meeting, and this was followed by the Emergency P.C. Meeting. Four members forming a quorum.

Alan Gibson and Don Parr questioned the legality of this meeting, and the power of four councillors to make a decision to allocate £2,000, being the matching fund requirement. Ken Pattison confirmed that the £2,000 had already been allocated as a Specific Reserve for Youth Facilities, therefore it was correct to assign the allocated funds to a youth facility project.

Alan Gibson and Peter Foster expressed their concerns about noise and disruption which could occur from youths coming from outside of the parish. The Chairman stated that the HCA had effectively taken the decision, and had conveyed to the council that they have no concerns about youth behaviour in the skateboard area.

Following this discussion the Emergency Meeting Minutes were signed, and the decision ratified. **Action Clerk to ensure we receive the Dosh fund grant.**

### **177. Election 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

The Chairman confirmed that there is no need to hold an election in the Hurworth Parishes, as there are no wards where the candidates are in competition. However, the council requires one more councillor in Hurworth Place ward, and this has been declared as 'Casual Vacancy'.

Ken Pattison and the Clerk have investigated the procedure thoroughly, and taken advice from both Yvonne Scullion at DBC and Steve Ragg at DCALC.

Ken Pattison outlined the procedure and timeframe, this being; the vacancy to be advertised very simply once the official letter is received from DBC informing us of the election result. A sentence informing there is a vacancy, with a closing date of May 5<sup>th</sup> '11, and interested parties to contact the clerk, would be placed on notice boards, on the web site and in the Newsletter. Any interests received would be checked for correctness by the Chair/Clerk and then tabled at the next meeting of the Parish Council to enable voting to take place. The voting methodology to be the first to obtain an overall majority as outlined in the Parish Council Governance Toolkit 2009. The council confirmed their agreement. **Action clerk to display advertisement for the vacancy, KP to include it into the newsletter.**

### **178 Public Participation**

Mrs Mary Honneyman wished to ask for further information regarding the water supply at the allotments. She said that some residents have their own water, either using a well or their own water supply.

## **179 Allotments**

Val Hughes responded, and covered the allotment report at this stage.

The civil work has been completed and Northumbrian Water have made the connection and performed the pressure tests. The water will be switched on very soon.

Val Hughes suggested that the PC should pay for the water bill this year, as it is too late to ask allotments to pay an additional amount. The Council concurred as the clerk confirmed allotment holders have a contract, and all have paid their annual rent of £10 for 2011.

It was agreed that the PC will pay the 2011 water bills, and the subject will be revisited in October, when the cost can be better defined. Mrs Honneyman said that allotment holders should have an option to take water, or use their own. Ian Holme stated that all allotment holders should be treated the same, and if there is a charge, then all should pay it, and they have the option as to whether they use the water. It was pointed out by Councillors Gibson/Foster that it is illegal to use tap water from local houses but wells are probably ok. **Clerk to verify.**

Don Parr asked if the Allotment Association is going ahead; Val Hughes responded that the next meeting to discuss this will be on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

## **180 Correspondence**

1. Local Sustainable Transport Fund
2. Neighbourhood Development Plans
3. Borough and Parish Elections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011
4. G.L Veal – Open ground at Emerson Road. PDA handled
5. HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE for 2011-12
6. Arriva stats
7. Litter Picker resignation letter
8. Talk Talk service update (KP to look at costs)
9. Legal services DBC – DMMO Claim – ROW Croft Club
10. NALC – Communities in Action Conference and Exhibition
11. DBC Framework comments by 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011
12. E Mails regarding wall repairs at All Saints Church
13. Jacksons - ROW affair PDA responded
14. DCALC – Meeting of National Allotment Society – sent to VH and GH.
15. Land Registry – border of deeds – KP addressing with Clerk
16. eibe Play Consultant – sales letter, PDA replied
17. Tax Refund scam???
18. BDO Audit of Burial Committee – PDA resolved.
19. Invitation to Allotments Regeneration Initiative. Replies by 18<sup>th</sup> April.

20. Steve Ragg response to KP reference co-opting councillors – KP to address
21. Directions regarding Purdah – no longer relevant. – IH raised.
22. Emails from John Buxton regarding water costs – VH addressing.
23. Armed Forces Day – Fly a Flag
24. Doreen Robinson – overgrown bushes hindering access.

**Action; Chairman** will write to Terry Murray thanking him for his long service and wishing him well in his retirement.

**Action; Clerk** to purchase a flag for the Flag Day event

**Action; Clerk** to write to Highways Department regarding overgrowing bushes in Ashfield Drive and outside the Rectory.

Ken Pattison suggested that the Chairman and Clerk should review the correspondence prior to the meeting, and eliminate any items which were not deemed important or required action. This was seconded by Ian Holme and Council agreed.

Peter Foster reported that HMS Hurworth would be docking at Hartlepool from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June. It is expected that the councillors will be invited to visit the ship. A reception is to be arranged for Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. **Action Peter Foster to make the arrangements**

## **181 Accounts for Payment and Financial Report**

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

T. Murray	March 2011 salary	333.41
H.M.R.C	Tax PAYE	83.20
DCALC	Training March 2010	81.00
DCALC	Subscription for 2011-12	387.06

Paid by direct Debit in February

BT	£56.54
Talk Talk	£20.96

The Clerk had already circulated the latest Cash Forecast, so councillors were able to study the figures. A Finance Meeting had been held, and the Cash Projections and Budgets for 2011, 2012 and 2013 (to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013), are now incorporated into the Financial Report circulated prior to this meeting. There were no questions.

Don Parr requested that, in future, Accounts for Payment should be circulated prior to the meeting. **Action clerk** to accommodate.

**Action: Clerk** to ascertain final cost of election, which we believe should be zero.

## **182 Procedures and Standing Orders.**

Ken Pattison reported that he and the Clerk have now prepared nine procedure documents, and hoped to complete the full set before the AGM in May. Each procedure is contained within a two-page document.

It was agreed that the documents would be circulated to all councillors prior to the AGM, and this should include the two newly elected councillors.

### **183. Litter Picker**

This subject had already been discussed, and it was agreed that we advertise for a replacement as quickly as possible.

### **184. Darlington Association of Parish Councils**

Peter Foster had attended the last meeting, when the subject was focused on the partnership between Darlington and Tees Valley Associations. Both are struggling through lack of funding, and a partnership appears to be one solution.

Ken Pattison questioned the benefit to Hurworth Parish Council, of being a member of this association, as we get our information and service from CDALC.

The annual subscription is £25, and there are four meetings each year. Alan Gibson suggested that as the subscription is only £25, we should continue to be a member.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to find out what services and help we get from membership.**

### **185. Village Green**

Ken Pattison reported that a further meeting and walk around had been carried out by Cllrs Foster, Hepplewhite and himself with the engineer and Civils Manager from DBC.

A final schedule has been agreed, with priorities established. Mrs Burt has offered to contribute for work done near her house, and this will be identified in the final estimate from DBC.

We are now waiting for the revised report from DBC.

### **186 Grit Bins**

Ian Holmes gave a report stating that as the DBC had declined supplying any bins, the PC would re-visit the identified sites and talk to the residents about positioning bins near their house. It is thought that there may be some reluctance to the positioning as these bins can attract youths and litter.

**Action: Ian Holmes and the clerk will do a walk around, and talk to residents.**

### **187 PACT Report**

Ken Pattison had attended the March PACT Meeting, and reported as follows:-

1. Crimes figures in the Parish are continuing to fall
2. General feeling is that Speed Watch is not very effective, and no sessions had been held in March.
3. The Special Constable is still AWOL, but it is hoped this problem will be resolved soon.
4. It was urged that our PC should attend the monthly Police Meeting at the Town Hall, and raise any topics which we feel are not being adequately addressed. The next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> April. Action: **The clerk to inform Middleton St George and Neasham that we shall be attending, the clerk and Cllr Pattison to go .**

The next PACT Meeting will be held in Middleton St George at 6:30pm. Ken can not attend, and Val Hughes offered to attend in his place.

### **188 Highways**

Gil Hepplewhite observed that a number of areas of the road in Westfield Drive have been circled for attention.

### **189 Planning Applications**

1. **Ref 11/00153/FUL Strait Lane**
2. **Ref 11/00153/ FUL Strait Lane** – additional plans

**190** The Chairman thanked Alan Gibson for his thirty years of service on the Parish Council, and presented him with two bottles to drink with his Sunday lunch.

The Chairman also thanked Don Parr for his service, as he has not stood for re-election.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm