

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 9th June 2011, in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

210. Those attending:-

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Peter Foster, Chris Pratt
Jean Peacock, Tony Needham; Jeff Kemp; Norma Kyle;

also in attendance: - Joe Kelley (DBC Councillor), Peter Allan - Clerk

211 Apologies for absence:-

Val Hughes, Gill Hepplewhite, Jill Russell, John Howard, Ian Holme.

212 Declarations of Interest:-

None

213 Minutes of the Meeting dated 9th May April 2011.

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

214 Matters Arising

1. Request for trimming the trees at the flats at Church Row; Joe Kelley offered to follow this up. **Action Joe Kelley**
2. HCA request for the council to pay for the water meter installation for the Grange allotments. This was deferred to the next Finance Meeting.
3. Meeting to discuss traffic in the village, with Michael Straugheir, has not yet been scheduled.

215. Annual Audit

The annual accounts, having been discussed in detail at the Finance Meeting on 23rd April 2011, and having been subjected to the internal audit by Mr Gordon Fletcher, were formally approved by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by Peter Foster.

216. Public Participation

No items new items were raised

217. Financial Review and Accounts for Payment

1. In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, and there were no questions on the accounts to 31st May 2011.
2. **Accounts for Payment**

T. Murray	May –final salary	£247.19
Sue Webster	May – first salary	£94.65
H.C.A.	Rent and utilities	£617.81
Fosters	Tree work	£400.00
Emerson Arms	HMS Hurworth – entertaining	£705.00
K. Pattison	Computer parts and mileage exs	£232.28
Hurworth Country Fair	Sponsorship	£500.00
K. Pattison	Honorarium	£100.00
HMRC	PAYE tax	£62.00
P. D. Allan	Gift for T. Murray, parking, mileage	£28.15
DBC	Shared insurance	£148.40
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.60
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£12.06
Viking	15 reams of paper	£70.02
John Robinson	Tax rebate	£249.26
P.D Allan	Gift for John Buxton	£44.94

The Chairman explained that the invoice for Fosters related to emergency tree attention to one tree at Hurworth Grange, which had split into two pieces and had become a danger. This was cut down. A second tree situated on the Green required emergency cut back attention. The Chairman, having obtained permission from DBC, took immediate action. Jean Peacock, on behalf of John Howard raised an objection to HPC paying the bill. The Chairman, alluded to the emergency situation. The bill for £400, is made up of the two items plus a second tree on the Grange leaning on the Orpen's fence but on HPC land, thus only £300 will be invoiced to HCA for the tree work at the Grange. **Action Clerk to raise the invoice.** The Chairman thanked Fosters for their prompt action.

The chairman explained to the meeting the details of the visit by HMS Hurworth, and the entertainment provided for them at the Emerson Arms. The cost of the evening was more than previously budgeted due to the attendance of 21 officers and crew members. The invoice for £705 was approved, and thanks expressed to the Emerson Arms for their efforts it making it an excellent evening.

The Clerk reported that an evaluation of the insurance requirements of the council will be carried out, to ensure all risks are covered. **Action Chairman and Clerk**

Signatories

The forms have been completed and returned to Barclay's Bank to change the signatories. We await their confirmation of the change becoming effective.

218 Allotment Report

Val Hughes, in absentia, provided a report, which the Chairman read to the meeting:-

Allotment Report

- A water meter and stopcock has been fitted at the Grange allotments
- The big gate at Strait Lane has had a new wheel fitted by Ian White and will probably survive another year.
- It has been the warmest spring on record and the driest in over a hundred years yet you may be happy to know that according to the water meter water usage at the allotment has been modest.

219. Croft Club Right of Way Status

The council has received a letter from Mr John Buxton tendering his resignation as the Council's representative in the Croft Club RoW application.

Effectively the matter is over, and the council prevailed in obtaining the RoW status. An objection may be lodged, but this must take its course. The council had offered to plant a hedge to section off the RoW from the Club, to provide more privacy, this was linked to obtaining a grant, and also to the Club making no further appeals, and bringing the matter to an early close. A motion was discussed to make this offer firm and not dependent upon receiving a grant, however the council rejected this suggestion, and also agreed that if an objection was lodged, the offer will immediately be removed from the table.

Tony Needham suggested that we may be able to use part of the potential general tree grant to subsidise this hedge. This was left in abeyance.

The council thanked John Buxton for his diligent efforts, and accepted his resignation as from the date of this meeting. Chris Pratt recommended that the council give John Buxton a present in recognition for all the work he has done. **Action Clerk to write thank-you letter and take 6 bottles of wine to John.**

Action: Clerk to inform the solicitors.

220. Correspondence

1. DBC – Local council Advisory Service – Annual Seminars -- no action
2. Durham Police – Policing Priorities - poster displayed, observations noted.
3. Communities in Action Conferences and Exhibitions 2011 – Not appropriate topics
4. Letter from Miss Oughton regarding bus service complaints – letter sent to Arriva, and acknowledgement to Miss Oughton.
5. Correspondence from Philip Waite, showing interest in Skateboard project. Details passed to Jill Russell and Norma Kyle.
6. E Mail from Mr Lawman requesting support for Help the Heroes – acknowledged.
7. Letter from Judith Mc Nab requesting a salt bin to be positioned in Fox Close. **Ian Holme to follow up.**

221. Litter Picker

The Clerk reported that Terry Murray has now left. All paperwork is complete and a present of a large bottle of gin was duly delivered with a thank you letter.

Sue Webster has started as the new litter picker, she has signed her contract and the paperwork has been established.

Action: Reminder: The subcommittee should meet to discuss and decide upon any changes to the litter pickers route.

222. Village Green Project

A new quotation has been received from DBC, which embraces the extended work now envisaged. The total is over £11,000.

The residents have requested that we do full sections rather than piecemeal patching, and this has increased the cost.

The Chairman recommended that the council digest the details forwarded to them by e-mail, which are available in schematic format, and that they also “walk” the Green to be aware of exactly what could be done and where, also look at photographs on the HPC web site which show clearly how the Green can be adversely affected during wet, boggy weather. The intent is then to discuss the matter in detail at a Finance Working Group meeting on Mon 27th June @ 6.30pm and make recommendations to the full council to enable decisions at the next meeting on 7th July. **Action councillors to do their homework.**

223. PACT Report

Ian Holme, in absentia, submitted his report, via the Chairman.

Crime last month:

0 Burglary

0 Theft from vehicles

1 vehicles theft (childs quad bike)

Thefts; 2 thefts from Eurojag

2 thefts of farm equipment (electric fence & muck spreader)

2 Rowdy behaviour (youths playing football)

Speedwatch

Taken place in all villages last month;

Hurworth: 100 vehicles checked with 9 exceeding the speed limit (35mph +)

No drivers have been prosecuted (none have exceeded two warnings)

Traffic police have also been operational in Hurworth in the last month doing speed checks.

Special Constabulary

Apparently a new Special has been identified who they hope will become operational shortly.(no confirmed timescale.....)

AOB

Thornaby Angling association:

The letter from Thornaby Angling association was handed to the Police reps and PCSO John Angus confirmed he would be looking into the concerns raised and check on the area of riverbank path mentioned. **Action Clerk to update the Angling Association.**

Hurworth School Leavers Day:

This event has been subject to some press coverage. It was confirmed that there was no anti-social behaviour requiring further police action.

Next meeting 30th June at MSG

The Chairman informed the council that he and the Clerk had attended the Senior Police Open meeting at the Town Hall, and tabled our concern regarding the 'missing' Special Constable.

224. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

1. He and the Chairman had a meeting with Malcolm Thompson at DBC Countryside, regarding the problems on Pathway One. Mr Thompson has already followed up by visiting the site, and concurs that action is required. He has arranged for a Ranger to go and trim the offending trees. He will identify the owner of the land, and enter into discussions regarding the status of the RoW, and the owner's obligations. Mr Thompson has reported back, [via E Mail](#) to the Chairman, and will keep him informed of progress.
2. The Clerk has written to DBC regarding the work being carried out at Westfield Drive and our concerns about traffic and making-good the roads and pavements upon completion. No response has been received, and Joe Kelley agreed to follow this up on behalf of the council.
3. The wall opposite the Primary School has fallen down and constitutes a danger to children who pass this area and are apt to play in the hedgerow. The wall has barbed wire attached and this intensifies the risk. Tony Needham has had a meeting with the Primary School Head Master and Secretary and they are going to warn the children of the danger. Tony Needham has also spoken to a DBC representative and they are going to arrange to 'fence' the area off.
4. **Action Clerk and Tony Needham** to identify and contact the owner of 8 The Green, and try to arrange for the wall to be repaired quickly.

The Chairman suggested that we write to other residents of the Green in this area, and request them to inspect their walls, in case other walls become a danger of falling down.

5. The Primary School have made an invitation to the Parish Council to 'walk around' the school and see the changes and improvements which are being made. Councillors expressed their interest in doing this. **(Tony Needham to liaise)**
6. Jeff Kemp reported that horses are using the open green space at Manorfield. It was suggested that we write to all equestrian clubs in the area to request

they stick to the bridal paths. Action; Clerk to E Mail all equestrian clubs. Norma recommended we also place a notice in the next Newsletter to reflect this.

7. Jean Peacock reported that the fence at Hurworth Place, where we have the PC Notice board is rotten. Action: **Tony Needham offered to inspect this and report back.**

225. Trees

The Chairman opened the subject of the availability of substantial grants for planting and maintaining trees in the parish. Grants of up to £25,000 could be available. Peter Foster and John Howard have already done some preparatory work of identifying suitable locations for trees and also the type of tree recommended. It was agreed that we include a Christmas tree in the Green.

Jeff Kemp expressed his concern about the ongoing upkeep of the new trees, and the Chairman explained that Fosters have given a commitment and quotation to handle this work in the future; it will be include [in](#) the grant application.

The cost of the project must be initially funded by the council, and when completed, the grant would be obtained.

The next available date for submission is August, and Norma Kyle offered to take on the lead role in compiling our application together with Peter Foster. Also to involve John Howard and keep Phil Haynes (DBC arbotist informed). Chairman to pass on existing info and help as required. **Action Norma Kyle.**

226 HMS Hurworth

Peter Foster reported on the events which took place during the visit of HMS Hurworth. The schedule included the following:-

- Cocktail Party on the ship, attended by residents of Hurworth and Darlington dignitaries.
- Captain's Luncheon; the PC were represented by Mr and Mrs Peacock.
- Visit to Rockliffe Hall Hotel Complex by officers from the ship.
- Meet the villagers BBQ at the Emerson Arms. Total attendance was 21 Officers and Crew and fifty villagers, including seven councillors.
- Ship Open Day on Saturday, attended by circa 200 visitors.
- Seven officers and crew attended All Saints morning service followed by faith lunch.
- Gentlemen of Hurworth then took over in the Bay Horse followed by successful cricket match.
- Five crew members did work at Rockliffe Court care home.
- Open day on Monday, which was attended by six wrens from World War 2.

The visit was regarded as a major success from all aspects.

227. Planning Applications

The following applications have been received:-

Reference**Site**

11/00313/LBC	The Old Hall, 50 The Green
11/00192/LBC	Springfield Farm Croft Road
11/00252/FUL	Hurworth Grange disabled ramp
11/00308/FUL	Hurworth Comprehensive School
11/00297/FUL	Field at OSGR, Snipe Lane, Darlington
11/00318/FUL	15 Westfield Drive

The council, having reviewed the applications, agreed to provide a 'No comment' on each application; the **Clerk will convey** this to the DBC Planning Department.

228. Any Other Business

1. Foam on the river. Jean Peacock gave a report of a visit by her and the Chairman to the Stressholme Sewage Works. They were impressed by the new installations and efficiency of the plant. The foam is said to be harmless and not chemical based. The Plant is still trying to determine why the foam is generated.
2. Land Registry. The Chairman and the Clerk have had another meeting with the Land Registry. The deeds which have been lodged will be completed this month. Applications for ownership of the Village Green, Grange estate Play Area and other small plots will be lodged, after the preparation work has been completed.
3. Bees. Ken Pattison informed the meeting that consideration was being given to bees being kept on the Grange property. A presentation has been made, and further feedback will be forthcoming shortly.

The Clerk has circulated the Roster for Surgery duty to all councillors; please make suitable arrangements if you are unable to attend.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th July 2011 at 7:00pm

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

