

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7th July 2011, in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

229. Those attending:-

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Peter Foster, Ian Holme. Val Hughes, Gill
Hepplewhite, Jill Russell, Jean Peacock, Tony Needham; Jeff Kemp;

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

230 Apologies for absence:-

John Howard, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle;

231 Declarations of Interest:-

None

232 Minutes of the Meeting dated 9th June April 2011.

The minutes, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the
Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and
seconded by Peter Foster.

233 Matters Arising

1. **Insurance Review:** The Chairman advised the meeting that a review has been carried out with the assistance of a third party, and that anomalies identified are being acted upon. **Action: Chairman and Clerk**
2. **Salt bins** – Ian Holme reported that he will be carrying out a full village review with Tony Needham before the end of July, and will provide a report of their recommendations at the September Meeting.
3. **8 The Green:** John Howard has visited the owner, and a safety fence has been erected. The Clerk has been in correspondence with the owner, and the wall will be rebuilt shortly; a Planning Application has been received for the removal of the sweet chestnut tree.
4. **Primary School visit:** Nine councillors have indicated that they would like to attend. The visit has been delayed slightly due to holidays of the site superintendent, and Tony Needham will arrange the date. **Action Tony Needham.**

5. **Big Tree Plant:** Norma Kyle is working on the grant application. In her absence the Chairman stated that Norma had walked the areas with Peter Foster and would be supplying a report in about a week indicating we should go ahead with the grant application. This was agreed by the Council.
6. **Fence at the Comet Inn.** Tony Needham has been following this up with Street Scene, and expects the work to be done within 7 days. In the event that Street Scene will not do this work, it was agreed that the **Chairman and Clerk will make suitable arrangements** during the recess.

234. Public Participation

Mr Ian Dell addressed the meeting with an update of the resident's perception of the Croft House planning application appeal. It is believed that there are 4 Objectives outstanding for Yuill homes to satisfy, and that two have been addressed and two are still outstanding. He stated that the Administer had added additional conditions, which also required the developer to fulfil.

He referred to the likelihood that the PC would receive an Easement Request, Therefore he requested that in any future negotiations, the PC insist that Yuills utilise the latest Flood Risk data (from the Environment Agency) as the basis for the proposed surface water drainage system.

235 Yuill Homes – Croft House

The Chair informed the meeting that the PC has received a letter from Yuill Homes requesting a meeting to discuss the easement, and read out the response made by the PC, which is in the form of a 'Holding Letter'. The PC believes that there could be as many as 17 conditions still to be met, and that the application was far from complete. The PC repeated its support for the residents.

236. Financial Review and Accounts for Payment

1. In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 30th June 2011.

Gill Hepplewhite queried the costs from Talk Talk and BT: The Chairman said that he was already investigating the communication costs and would report back next meeting. **Action: Chairman**

2. *Accounts for Payment;*

Sue Webster	June salary	£489.02
H.C.A.	Photocopying	£6.20
P. D. Allan	Postage, jacket, cartridges, mileage	£101.37
Northumbria Water	Allotment water	£27.16
HCA	Installing water meter Grange allotments	£161.00
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£16.72
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.40
Direct Debit	BT	£56.88

237 Allotment Report

Val Hughes reported that the complaints regarding the upkeep of two allotments have now been resolved; work has been done and the situation is satisfactory.

We have received the first water bill for Strait Lane allotments, and it appears very reasonable. The water meter and stopcock have been fitted at the Grange allotments, as agreed.

238 Burma Road

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by the Press, regarding the council's views on the Planning Application for more gypsy sites within the Parish but made no comment.

The Chairman tabled an article from the Northern Echo reporting on the gypsy appeal to over turn their 3 year temporary tenure to full tenure. An internet link was provided which enabled people to express their views. The meeting agreed that the PC should lodge an objection against further developments of gypsy dwellings via this link and recommended members to also do it individually.

A suitable item will be added to the PC web site and an article placed in the next Newsletter, advising residents to lodge their objections. **Action Chairman to follow up with the Clerk.**

239 Darlington Association of Parish Councils

Gill Hepplewhite informed the meeting that she had attended the meeting, and her view was that several of the PC members were becoming disillusioned with the organisation. The three large PC's were going to be asked to pay £100, instead of the previous fee of £25.

After discussion a proposal was tabled by Peter Foster and seconded by Ian Holme that we should resign our membership of this association. Gill Hepplewhite agreed with the proposal, and it was carried unanimously. **Action: The Clerk will inform the Association.**

240. Training

The Chairman told the meeting that he had performed a hands-on session with the E Learning software, and that he thought it was easy to use. He recommended that all councillors should go through the five modules. The web site address is [www. ntselearning.co.uk](http://www.ntselearning.co.uk).

The meeting had all been circulated with details of the training course to be held in September / October, probably in Norton. Most councillors indicated they would like to attend, and the Clerk was asked to reserve ten places. The cost is £27 per head. **Action: Clerk to reserve 10 places.**

241. Matters of Interest – Correspondence

1. Letter from HCA reminding the PC that they need to have the final word about the plans and contract for work on the Skateboard. Jill Russell reported that the HiP had discussed the project with appropriate contractors and the DBC. A special surface is required. They are currently obtaining quotations, and if the HCA have received any quotations, would they pass these to Jill.

The Chairman stressed that all quotations should be based on a common work specification, so a fair comparison can be adjudged, and urgently requested that the HiP representatives talk to HCA (Keith Fletcher).

The Chairman requested that it would be advantageous if the resurfacing could be finished prior to the Hurworth Country Fair; Ian Holme said that they would try to expedite the project, but they did not want to shortcut the process to the possible disadvantage of the skateboard project.

2. Letter from HCA, saying that they have paid the £300 cost of felling the tree in the Grange grounds. However, as the PC are responsible for all the trees in the Parish, and have a budget for this, then why does it not also have responsibility for the trees in the Grange.

Ian Holme stated that this will be a big topic, with long term considerations; he suggested it be placed on the Agenda for the September PC Meeting. All agreed.

3. Letter from HCA requesting permission for them to proceed with the proposed bar extension, providing a serving facility into the Fletcher Hall. Ian Holme and Peter Foster showed their strong support for this project, and proposed and seconded a motion to give HCA permission. This was carried unanimously.

242. Hurworth Village Green

This topic had been discussed at length at the July Finance Working Party Meeting, and a recommendation was put to the PC.

The project is designed to improve the appearance of the Green, and to try to discourage parking on the grass areas. The meeting agreed to proceed with the project, based on the original phase one specification, with a few minor additions, which takes the final cost to £8,764.

A motion was tabled by Ian Holme and seconded by Peter Foster that the project should go ahead and agreed to allocate up to £9,000 for the work.

The motion was carried with eight votes for and one abstention.

Peter Foster offered to plant crocuses in the grass areas, to enhance the beautification of the Green. The meeting thanked Cllr Foster.

The meeting then agreed to position 'no parking on grass' signs on the areas being improved. Jill Russell requested that the council purchase better quality signs, if they are to become permanent. The meeting agreed to use the existing signs in the short-term, and consider different ones later. This was adjourned to the September meeting.

A letter is to be sent to all residents on the Green informing them of the decision and all the details.

It is anticipated work will start in 2/3 weeks time for a duration of 2/3 weeks starting at the Bay Horse and working progressively up the Green. **Action; Chairman and Clerk**

243. PACT Report

Ian Holme, who had attended the July Meeting, reported as follows:-

Following are the details of last weeks PACT meeting which will be reported at this weeks pc meeting. Just thought it would help to issue now to save minute taking on the night and allow info to be added to web-site.

PACT meeting at Middleton St George 30/6/2011
Hurworth Crime Figures

2 Burglary "other" (garage and shed broken into)
0 Vehicle crime
1 Criminal damage
2 Anti-social behaviour (grange traffic lights & firework in telephone box)
7 Theft, all metal theft related, principally lead
(intent is to raise awareness of this in newsletter)

Speedwatch
190 cars checked:- 3 speeding.

Still no news on Special PC.

Next meeting 27th July, Neasham reading rooms, 6.30pm

244. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- The grass and hedge cutting at Strait Lane allotments has been done.
- The burnt out bin on Croft Road has been replaced.
- Street Scene has intimated that they would attend to the fence at the Comet, within a few days.

- Westfield Drive. Martin Swainston reported that he has received assurances that the road and pavements will be re-instated when the construction projects have been completed. However, the carriageway has effectively collapsed, and substantial work is required. DBC agree to do this work, but must wait until adequate funds have been made available to them. Alan Ward at DBC has made the undertaking to Cllr Swainston.

Gill Hepplewhite reported constant occurrences of speeding in Westfield Drive, and it was agreed that Ian Holme will raise this at the next PACT Meeting. Martin Swainston undertook to speak to DBC, and see if he can apply a degree of constraint.

The fence at Grange Estate / Avon Road is in need of repair. Tony Needham agreed to investigate and report back to Chairman and Clerk for action to be agreed, probably a quotation for replacement. **Action; Chairman, Clerk, Tony Needham.**

Resident's hedges. It was agreed that most of the complaints received about hedge trimming was in fact the resident's responsibility. The meeting agreed that the PC should write to the residents requesting they trim their hedges, and if they do not comply, the council will do the work and send them an invoice for the cost of the work. **Action Tony Needham and Clerk to review.**

It has been established that DBC have adopted the road and pavement around Hurworth surgery. Therefore they will be asked to clean up the area. Tony Needham is addressing.

245. Trees

In the absence of John Howard, there was nothing to report.

246. Planning Applications

It was agreed that in future, the Clerk will E Mail a list of all applications received on a weekly basis. **Action Clerk.** Also the Clerk said that he would put all the Planning Applications on the table thirty minutes before the PC Monthly meetings.

The Chairman read out a letter received advising of a new development to the west of Neasham Road, which is adjacent to Hurworth Parish. Councillors could attend the pre-application meeting at the Town Hall on 12th July 4.15pm if they so w **Reference** **Site**

11/00303/FUL	Stable Cottage, Newbus Grange
11/00393/DC	Hurworth School, Croft Road
11/00362/TF	8 The Green, Hurworth
11/00392/FUL	32 Church Row, Hurworth

The council wish to **lodge their opposition** to the following Applications:-

11/00333/FUL

Field at Snipe Lane. Change of use. Hurworth already has a number of gypsy sites within the parish. We feel that a further increase would be inappropriate in the rural environment. Therefore the Parish Council will continue to oppose any further and disproportionate intensification of Gypsy sites in the Parish. This further development is contrary to the Hurworth parish Plan.

APP/N1350/A11/2153205/NWF Proposed gypsy site at Little Beck, Burma Road, Hurworth. There are already a number of gypsies living in the Burma Road location, and further sites being permitted will intensify the gypsy population. We ask you to look carefully at the ever-growing number of gypsies which are receiving planning permission to become residents of Hurworth parish. We request that you raise our strong objection. This further development is contrary to the Hurworth parish Plan.

. Action Clerk to write to DBC Planning Department.

Jean Peacock and Val Hughes reported on the hearing regarding the Planning Application for building two houses at 37 The Wayside. It appears that the Chair of this committee had not seen or not used the letter of objection submitted by HPC. He refused to recognise Val Hughes, when she tried to speak and correct the position. It was agreed that PC would register this complaint and restate our objection. **Action the Clerk**

It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase a date stamp, and stamp all incoming correspondence. **Action the Clerk**

247 AOB

Val Hughes raised concerns over the state of the Fountain; the Chairman reported that the work had been assigned and would be carried out within the next few days.

The Chairman asked councillors to submit articles for the next newsletter.

Meeting ended at 9:20pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday, 1st September at 7:00pm