

# **Hurworth Parish Council**

## **Minutes**

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Hadwin Lounge,  
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

### **248. Those attending:-**

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Ian Holme, Val Hughes, Jean Peacock,  
Tony Needham; Jeff Kemp; John Howard; Norma Kyle.

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

### **249 Apologies for absence:-**

Chris Pratt, Jill Russell, Gill Hepplewhite, Peter Foster (belated apology)

### **250 Declarations of Interest:-**

Item 263 Personal Interest: Ken Pattison, Val Hughes, Ian Holme,  
Jean Peacock

### **251 Minutes of the Meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Ian Holme.

### **252 Matters Arising**

1. **Insurance Review:** The Chairman advised the meeting that a review is still in progress and should be concluded before the next meeting. **Action: Chairman and Clerk**
2. **Salt bins** – On today's agenda..
3. **Primary School visit:** School will be back next week, and TN will make the arrangements. **Action Tony Needham.**
4. **Big Tree Plant:** On today's agenda

### **253. Public Participation**

a. Mr Henry Duran lodged a complaint about the bad behaviour of youths, on Friday evenings, at the **Youth Club** at All Saints Church. Henry said that youths were running around the graveyard, and move and disturb headstones and also drink in the cemetery.

John Howard supported the complaint, and said that he had received other complaints along the same lines.

Norma Kyle responded on behalf of the council, and explained that she is one of 6 volunteer youth leaders, and that there is also two paid youth leaders. She is aware that there have been a couple of issues, but these have been addressed. All members are now issued with a membership card, and this gets stamped to prove to parents that their child has actually attended the club. Also they have instigated a 'football' style red card system, which is used to maintain discipline during youth club sessions.

Norma further stated that no specific incidents were reported to the pc by the member of the public, or had been raised as an issue to the youth club organisers or to the police. No official complaints had been received over the last twelve months from the public or the community. NK commented that the youth club has a strict code of conduct and the majority of attendees are very well behaved. Should an issue arise there is a policy in place to deal with unacceptable behaviours.

The Chair stated that the youth club is in the jurisdiction of the police, and Ian Holme agreed to raise it again at the next PACT Meeting. Action Ian Holme to raise at next PACT meeting.

b. Mrs Sue Dell requested an update on the **Croft House** situation.

The Chair reported that the council had just received on 31<sup>st</sup> August, detailed plans of the site. It appeared that they are not complete, and he is going to talk to the Planning Department and get the supplementary information.

John Howard stated that he has good contacts within the Planning Department, and that he understands that this application is now finalised, and in view of the recent Localisation Act, the project will now be expedited.

The Chair directed that a Working Party should be established quickly, and they will meet next week. The Working Party will consist of both councillors and residents. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September at the Grange.

c. Sue Williams lodged her concern about the parking on the pavements between Oxford Garage and the Station Hotel. Often there is insufficient space for pushchairs is disabled persons to pass on the Pavement.

The Chairman explained that the council have previously registered this complaint with DBC, but added that a further meeting with the Highways Department is to be scheduled, and this matter will again be raised with them. **Action; Chair and Clerk to arrange meeting with Highways Department.**

## **254. 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

2. The Clerk reported that the Auditors have completed their audit, and we have a clean bill of health. An appropriate notice has been displayed on the Council Office Notice Board.

### 3. *Accounts for Payment;*

Sue Webster	August – first salary	£441.70
H.C.A.	Photocopying	£4.03
P. D. Allan	Postage, mileage	£90.78
Namesco	Web site	£23.99
Johnson's DIY	Fence repairs	£367.00
BDO	Audit fees	£516.00
MT Print	Newsletter	£585.00
David Parker	Garden maintenance	£172.39
Barclays bank	Charges	£2.30
Barclays bank	Charges	£4.60
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£11.84
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.40
Direct Debit	Public works Loan Board	£258.62
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£9.00
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.40

4. The council have applied to the Big Lottery Fund for a grant for the replacement of the window frames And windows in the Fletcher Hall, value £6850.
5. The claim to reclaim the litter picker costs has been submitted.

## 255 Allotment Report

Val Hughes reported that the Allotment Working Party had held a meeting, and the following points had ensued:-

1. Three letters have been sent to allotment holders, whose plots were not up to scratch.
2. The Working Party request that the PC hire a skip for Strait Lane allotments, as there is a large amount of rubbish to dispose of. Norma Kyle suggested using Hippo bags, which would be collected, and would be cheaper. After a debate, it was agreed that the PC will hire a skip in October, proposed by Val Hughes , seconded by Norma Kyle. In the past much of the debris was burnt, but there are no empty plots available to have fires.
3. The Working Party are considering introducing a bond, which is designed to ensure that allotment holders keep their plot in good order, and when they give up their plot, it is left in an appropriate condition.

The meeting raised the question of whether the allotments are insured for public liability. **Action the Clerk to ascertain.**

Val Hughes suggested we join the Allotment Association, for an annual fee of £65. This offers free legal advice, and also some insurance cover.

The proposal to join was proposed by Val Hughes and seconded by Norma Kyle. The motion was carried. **Action Val Hughes and the Clerk to make the application.**

## **256. Training**

The Clerk reported that we have reserved ten places with DCCLA. However, Steve Ragg has informed us that seventy people have applied, and this is too large a party.

Upon his recommendation, the meeting agreed to wait until November, when a similar course will be held in Stockton.

## **257. Matters of Interest – Correspondence**

1. Letter from Barbara Bell complaining that the salt bin location on Elmfield Road should be changed to a site at the bottom of Ashville Drive. Ian Holme responded that this is not feasible, as users of Elmfield Road would not have easy access to it.
2. Eon. The Chair outlined the details of a letter seeking support for an appeal against a proposed wind farm near Newton Aycliffe. It was agreed that as this is outside of our area, we should not respond.
3. Details of the Big Tree Plant have been received, and these will be handed to Norma Kyle.
4. We have received a complaint about fly tipping and rubbish in Westfield Drive. Tony Needham is addressing this.
5. Details of grants available in the area have been received from the Big Lottery Fund. The Clerk will attend to this.
6. We have received a letter advising us of the major road repairs between Neasham Road and Morton Palms. This is due to start on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

## **258. Hurworth Village Green**

The Chair reported that the work has started and the project is progressing satisfactorily. Also DBC has agreed to put slurry on the pavements, which will improve their condition.

The Chair has asked Helen Monaghan for a quotation for recovering the road near where the curbing is being done.

## **259. PACT Report**

Jeff Kemp, who had attended the July Meeting, reported as follows:-

Meeting dated 27th July at Neasham Reading Rooms.

Burglaries	Nil	
Motor Vehicle theft	One	Emerson Road
Lead Thefts	Three	Coach Lane, Avon and Hurworth Road.
Cable Theft (6K)	One	New Prep. School building Site
Theft from Farms	Two	Hay and Machinery Burmah Road.
Anti Social Behaviour	One	

Over 1 Hr speed check,132 Vehicles of which 16 were speeding.It was decided that purchase of special equipment not appropriate as no prosecution can be made by the public

Parking still a problem at schools. A trial set of removable fencing to be placed on the pavement where yellow zig zag line are.( Middleton St George)

It was noted that not all crimes-noted events were reported. The police request that all should be reported as a pattern etc may be found or links to already reported crime

Proposal to meet at Middleton. This was for our consideration..

Proposal made for us to join Cleveland Association of Parish Councils, as Neasham has done along with several parish councils east of us.

This was discussed by the council, and it was decided that we were content with the service provided by Steve Ragg at Durham

Next meeting at Dinsdale 28th Sept.2011

There is a suggestion that in future all PACT Meetings should be held at Middleton St George. Ian Holmes is opposing this, but ut was agreed that for the period when the Neasham road is having major repairs, MSG will be acceptable.

## **260. Highways**

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- 1) TN reported that in the last two months the Parish had received a good response from DBC Street Scene with a significant amount of grass cutting and hedge trimming. The quad bike squadron had arrived on three occasions to do weed spraying. Foothpath No.5 which runs alongside the Strait Lane allotments had been cleaned up twice. Rock-liffe Court road is scheduled for a clean up within the next fortnight.
- 2) TN reported that two areas, namely one next to the Comet and the other at Avon Road entrance, had been tidied up.

- 3) TN reported that, after long consultations with DBC Cemeteries dept regarding All Saints Church graveyard, they had finally confirmed that they accepted liability for the erection of the fence on the south side of the graveyard. At the moment they are obtaining quotations for the job and hopefully work should take place shortly. TN expressed his thanks to Peter Allan and Ken Pattison for their input into resolving this issue.
- 4) TN reported that correspondence had been sent to Steve Brannan at DBC Highways in respect of the poor state of some of the roads in the parish namely :

- \*Belgrave Terrace – numerous large potholes and top surface erosion
- \*Elmfield Road – numerous potholes and top surface erosion
- \*The Chase – numerous large potholes and top surface erosion
- \*Church Row (area between The Emerson Arms/Strait Lane junction) – subsidence due to previous utility road works
- \*Strait Lane – numerous large potholes
- \*Westfield Drive – in a critical state due to heavy vehicle movements

Received a reply the following day as follows “The Highways Inspector will look at areas tomorrow and place orders for any actionable defect he identifies. Work is normally completed within 20 working days. Any work identified will be completed by 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. Scheduled planned workings are The Chase, Chase End and Westfield Drive to be resurfaced by Sept/Oct (Autumn), along with resurfacing of The Green and outside All Saints Church footpaths, plus all footpaths to be resurfaced on the Avon Road (Grange) estate.

- 5) TN reported on the strip of land opposite houses No. 2 to No.16 Westfield Drive which has become an eyesore. The hedging had not been managed or maintained resulting in it becoming an overgrown wilderness. It is essential this is addressed as it is now a health and safety issue. The grass verge has not been maintained, leaving it long and full of nettles, also some residents have been dumping garden waste onto the grass verge. A Land Search has been conducted revealing the land is unregistered apart from 3 small areas which are freehold. Consultation has taken place between Neil Campbell from DBC and Gill Hoplewhite, John Howard and Ken Pattison from the Parish Council.

## **261. Trees**

John Howard reported as follows:-

1. He will look at the dead tree reported in Friars Pardon, and take suitable action.

2. He will take similar action with the small tree near the Primary School.

Other trees which have reported, have been investigated. The trees in question have TPO's, and Phil Haines, DBC, insists that planning application must be made before any work can be done on them. Mr Schoon, 8 The Green, has now applied for planning permission to remove his tree. Mr Peart has been informed that he needs to apply.

We have also requested that Phil Haines trims the tree on the south side of the Green, which is now partially blocking the roadway.

### **262 Croft Club**

The chair confirmed that the Clerk was the only PC person who should deal with the Croft Club dispute. He may call on John Buxton for advice if required.

### **263 Hurworth Community Association**

HCA sent a letter requesting the Parish Council to take responsibility for all the trees within the Grange property.

The Chair opened the debate, and expressed his total support for this request.

John Howard opposed the suggestion, and said the HCA should support itself, under the terms of their all-repairing lease.

Ian Holme supported JH view, while confirming the in principle the council should support the Community Association. Tony Needham supported this view.

Val Hughes applauded the work the HCA do, and stressed the value of such an excellent venue.

A proposal was tabled by Ian Holme, seconded by Val Hughes, to reply to the HCA saying 'We are not currently in a position to take on this added responsibility, but will review the situation again at a later date, probably at our Annual review.' The motion was carried, with one against and one abstention.

### **264 Big Tree Plant**

Norma Kyle reported that she has carried out a survey in the parish, and has Peter Foster's original suggestion list.

Norma has completed the Application form, and is currently seeking community support, as this grant expects community involvement.

It was agreed that Norma will join FOTC on their stand at the Country Fair, and encourage residents to become involved and support this initiative. Ideally, the community should plant the trees, and then water and tend them as they grow.

Val Hughes requested that the Grange should be included in the plans to plant more trees. The meeting felt that there are already enough trees in the Grange property.

### **265 Salt Bins**

The Clerk reported that DBC has informed us that salt will not be available in the coming winter, and that DBC were no longer filling their own bins.

The five sites have been located, but the resident in Elmfield Road, where the bin is to be sited is objecting strongly. Conversely Mrs Bell would like it positioned at the bottom of Ashville Drive.

After some debate, it was agreed that we will proceed and order five bins.

**Action Clerk to order bins, also obtain a price for salt.**

### **266 Skateboard Project**

Gill Russell was not present at the meeting, so Ian Holme reported that there was no real progress, but the prime consideration is that the money be spent on the refurbishment of the skateboard surface with the correct surface materials. The Chair stressed the need for a specification, and Keith Sandick is to be asked to obtain this.

Ian Holme agreed to pursue the project and get a decision soon. **Action Ian Holme.**

### **267 Youth Club Complaints**

This was handled under Public Participation.

### **268 Council House Applications**

John Howard raised the subject of the PC offering support to long-term resident of Hurworth parish, in receiving preference when council houses become available within this parish.

It is known that there is a points based system for evaluating applicants, but it is feared that long-term ties with the parish is not a strong factor.

John Howard agreed to get details of the points system, and then the PC will be able in a better position to come to a decision on how best to approach this.

**Action John Howard**

### **269. Planning Applications**

Notice of the Planning Applications had been circulated to all councillors during the month, and some councillors have studied the details.

It was agreed that we respond with 'no comment' to all these applications.



## **270 AOB**

Norma Kyle reported the accident which had occurred near the Otter and Fish. It was thought to have been caused by congestion in Strait Lane, at the end of Timmies Lane. It was suggested that we write to DBC requesting they paint white lines on the roads around this area.

Subsequently, it was found that the accident happened on the main road, destroying the traffic island, yet again.

Meeting ended at 9:30pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00pm