

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

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

289. Those attending:-

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes,
Norma Kyle. Tony Needham, Jeff Kemp; John Howard, Gill Hepplewhite,

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

290 Apologies for absence:-

Ian Holme. Chris Pratt, Martin Swainston (DBC Councillor).

291 Declarations of Interest:-

None declared.

292 Minutes of the Meeting dated 1st September 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 Jeff Kemp.

293 Matters Arising

1. **Insurance Review:** some progress has been made, and this should be concluded by end of November... **Action Chair and Clerk**
2. **Salt bins** – On today's agenda.
3. **Visit to Priory Hurworth house School** – the council have been invited to look round the school on Tuesday, 8th November, at their formal Open Day. Seven councillors will be attending; the Clerk will inform the school.
4. **Blind Lane** – 3 notices are being installed at this location, and a further 4 'No Parking' signs on the Village Green. The order has been placed with Chris Johnson DIY.
5. It was noted that a HPC notice already exists on the Green, advising vehicle owners that parking on the Green can attract a fine of up to £200. Peter Foster recalled that this has been there for many years, and the fine was increased to this level in 2002.

6. Durham and Tees Valley Airport Association - The Clerk advised that HPC have been accepted as a member of this association. It was proposed by Gill Hepplewhite and seconded by Jean Peacock that Peter Foster should be our official representative on this committee. All agreed.

294. Public Participation

Nobody from the public raised any matters.

295. Allotment Report – Val Hughes

A document had been circulated to all councillors with a draft of the **Provisional Procedure** for modifying the rules and regulations of the 1932 HPC existing Allotment Rules and Regulations.

After one modification, raised by Norma Kyle, had been inserted, the document was formally accepted, proposed by John Howard and seconded by Jeff Kemp. This will be recorded in the Procedures Manual (number 21), and also posted on the HPC web site.

Tony Needham recommended that the new rule changes, before being finalised, should be sent to DBC for their review and comments.

The Chairman requested the agreement of the council, to allow an expense to pay for legal advice, which may be required prior to concluding the changes to the Rules and Regulations. This was proposed by John Howard and seconded by Jeff Kemp. John Howard also recommended consultation with CDALC.

General Report. At the October Allotment Working Group Meeting, it was decided to ask the PC to allocate funds for the following items:-

1. A shed to keep the common allotment tools, including the lawn mower in. Estimate £300.
2. To replace the gate posts and gate at the entrance to Strait Lane allotments; the repair done recently is only a temporary fix. Estimate £400.
3. Extend the fence at the Grange allotment site, by approx 20 yards. Estimate required.

The council agreed to proceed with all of these requests, proposed by Peter Foster and seconded by Norma Kyle . Objection by John Howard is recorded. The clerk is empowered to obtain the estimates and raise the orders for each of these items. **Action the Clerk.**

Val Hughes reported that all the allotments have now been numbered with Plot Numbers.

It was agreed that all comments regarding the rule changes should be channelled to the Clerk, and that the Working Group should continue with their modification process. Proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by John Howard.

Peter Foster commented that this process had been talked about for many years, and it is 'great' that somebody has now taken the lead and is making it happen.

296. Accounts for Payment

Sue Webster	October salary	£410.15
H.C.A.	Photocopying	£3.73
DBC	Village Green kerbing	£9758.04
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath	£17.00
Jean Peacock	Wreath for Alan Gibson	£36.95
Westwood Timber	Fence at All Saints Church	£360.00

The funds from the Big Lottery grant have been received £6,800.

Financial report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 31st October 2011. There were no questions.

December is the time when the next year's budget is prepared and the Precept established for the next year for submission to DBC latest end Jan '12.

The Chairman recommended that the Finance Meeting should take place in camera immediately after the December PC Meeting. If discussions were not concluded in the time available an additional special meeting would be arranged within 14 days to complete. Prior to this meeting, the Clerk will distribute the previous year's budgets, up to date Variance Reports and Precept setting data and format, to all councillors.

The Chairman asked all councillors to give thought to any project or expense they would like to be incorporated into the 2012-13 Budget and to inform the clerk, if possible with an estimate of cost, prior to the Dec PC meeting so that a list could be compiled by the clerk and distributed before the meeting, thus hopefully reducing the time required in the meeting.

The council agreed to this process and date of the meeting.

297 Training

The following people will be attending the formal training at Norton on 7th November: Ken Pattison, Val Hughes, Jeff Kemp, Tony Needham and Peter Allan.

The Chairman encouraged councillors to enrol for the SOS Course, which will be held at Darlington Area on 30th November 2012.

298. Correspondence

The Chairman had read all the correspondence, and sifted out the items of importance to the council. These are as follows:-

1. Letter from HMS Hurworth; they will be unable to attend this year's Remembrance service.
2. HCA letter requesting permission to replace the windows in the Fletcher Hall. Agreed by the PC, Proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by Val Hughes.

299. PACT Report

Due to the absence of Ian Holme there was no PACT report at this meeting.

A meeting has been held with Michael Straugheir, Police Head Quarters, Durham, to discuss concerns over traffic speed and parking in this parish.

The following items were highlighted for follow up.

1. Moving the monument from the Spar Corner to the Village Green.
2. Results of the latest Traffic Survey
3. The practicality and cost of erecting permanent Speed indicators in the villages.
4. Hurworth's Special Constable
5. There appears to be no solution to the congestion at Oxford Garage and the Station Hotel.
6. Parking on the pavement is not allowed, but is subjective, and therefore very difficult to enforce.
7. The Twenty Mile per hour speed limit appears to not work well in other areas.
8. Possible introduction of yellow lines at the Spar corner.

299. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

1. Westfield Drive Resurfacing Work

This has been completed

2. Traffic islands

These have been tidied up

3. The Chase

This work has been delayed due to delays caused elsewhere.

300. Trees

John Howard reported:-

1. John Howard has Mr Schoon, 8 The Green and confirmed that the tree roots will be protected when his back wall is replaced.
2. DBC have done some pruning in Church Row area, but unfortunately not the trees we requested.
3. John Howard has talked to Phil Haines and confirmed to him that HPC are prepared to pay his department for tree work and autumn pruning.
4. Phil Haines also confirmed he would be able to do more work, if the Big Tree contract is eventually placed with DBC.
5. The cherry tree which was severely cut back in Friars Pardon was investigated, and John Howard has reprimanded the person who took it upon himself to address this tree, which has a TPO.
6. Albert Burton has been referred by DBC to HPC, for work which he wants doing on trees near his property. **Action item: John Howard will visit and resolve this matter.**

301 Salt Bins

Tony Needham reported that the five salt bins have been ordered with DBC. Upon following the order up, it has been channelled to Alan Ward, who is again off sick. Nobody else appears to be able to process the order. Tony will continue to chase this.

Mrs Barbara Bell has been sent a letter, expressing our regret that we cannot position a salt bin outside her house.

302 Big Tree Plant

There is nothing to report.

However, the CDALC newsletter advertises an opportunity to obtain a grant of £150 for planting trees. **Action: clerk to try to obtain this grant.**

303. Planning Applications

Jeff Kemp gave the following report:-

Review of Planning Applications for October 2011

1) Planning Application No. 11/00662 on Snipe Lane.

A revised application for erection of a detached building for storage of goods. Observation: It is a very expensive construction in my opinion for storage of goods only e.g. Pan/Tile roofing, with part wood boarded exterior on rendered slab walling. A possible easy conversion to residential at some time in the future?

Suggest No Comment

2) Notification of Planning Application meeting for a change of use of the play area at the Tawny Owl Pub and erection of a steel frame building at the Paddocks, High Linhams on Bridge Road.

Both of these have been previously reviewed by the council with no comment except the general objection to the large numbers of planning approvals in and around our Parish for Travellers/ Gypsies

304. Skateboard

Nothing to report.

However, it is understood that it will be imprudent to re-surface the area with the winter conditions imminent. This project will be postponed until April 2012, but in the meantime “HiP” o liaise with HCA (Keith Sandick) and agree spec, usage and price.

305 AOB

Gill Hepplewhite reported that she had attended the following meetings during October:-

1. Durham Tees Valley Airport Association
2. A Wind Farm meeting in Aycliffe area.
3. The DCALC annual General Meeting in Durham.
It was announced that two more parish councils, in the Durham area, have been awarded Quality status.

Meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

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

