

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 5th Jan 2012 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

324. Those attending:-

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes,
Tony Needham, Jeff Kemp; John Howard, Ian Holme. Chris Pratt,

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

Lauren Pyrah, Northern Echo.

The Chairman announced that the council have received an official
resignation from the PC from Gill Hepplewhite. This will be discussed further
under AOB.

325. Apologies for absence:-

Norma Kyle.

326. Declarations of Interest:-

Personal interest declarations from Ian Holme, Jean Peacock, Val Hughes and
Ken Pattison for agenda item 9b. – Hurworth Community Association.

327. Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd November 2011.

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

328 Matters Arising

1. Salt bins – On today's agenda.
2. Meeting with David Coates, Planning Dept Manager DBC.
Meeting arranged
3. Planning application objections have been registered.
4. Clerk still needs to obtain the latest Electoral Roll.
5. The Chairman has obtained two Ordnance Survey maps of the
parish, and these have been handed to Jeff Kemp and Tony
Needham.

329. Public Participation

A resident raised concerns over the cancellation of the number 12 bus service, connecting Hurworth with Darlington.

The number 12 bus service no longer runs after 6:00pm on Sundays, and this is causing distress. This matter will be discussed later in the agenda under 'Correspondence'.

330. Accounts for Payment

Sue Webster	November salary	£449.03
Nothumbrian Water	Strait Lane allotments	£8.97
DBC.	5 Salt bins	£1346.11
H.C.A.	Photocopying	£59.00P.
P. Allan	December expenses	£93.99
DD. Barclays bank	Charges	£4.60
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£12.10
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.40

Cheques signed during December, already approved:-

Kensington Windows	Fletcher Hall new windows, grant related	£6100.00
Cumbrian Clocks	All Saints Church	£150.00

331. Financial report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 31st December 2011. The report was accepted by the council.

a. Emergency Procedure

The Chairman referred to the necessity of invoking an emergency procedure, to take a decision to purchase an additional five salt bins. An E Mail virtual meeting was held, and all councillors were asked to vote on the decision. Nine votes were received, all in favour, and the bins have been ordered.

The meeting agreed that in 'special circumstances' this procedure would be acceptable with the proviso that any councillors who did not respond by e-mail would be contacted by other means in order to ensure all councillors had a vote to avoid a situation where less than half the councillors voted in favour. Whether or not this procedure should be invoked is at the discretion of the Chair and Clerk. This procedure is to be added to the HPC Standard Procedure Manual.

Action Clerk

- b. It was recorded that DBC will be responsible for refilling the HPC salt bins, but it will be up to residents to bring to their attention the requirement.
- c. The date for the next Finance Committee Meeting will be 18th January 2012, starting at 7:00pm. Councillors were requested to try and ensure that all projects they were involved in should have an estimate available for the meeting.

332. Request for Awards

- a. Hurworth Scout Group. Letter requesting £500 to replace tents. Council agreed to award them £250.
- b. Hurworth Community Association – letter requesting £2,000. It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until the Finance Committee meeting on 18th January 2012.
- c. Friends of Rockliffe Court. Letter requesting £300. Council awarded £150, dependent upon the property owners matching this donation.
- d. Village Hall – Letter requesting £2,000 to fund a Diamond Jubilee community gathering. It was agreed to defer discussion on this item until the Finance Committee meeting on 18th January 2012.

333 . Allotment Report – Val Hughes

The new rules and revised Tenancy Agreement are now instigated, and several allotment holders have already signed their new agreements and paid their dues. No objections have been raised.

Val Hughes stressed that the PC have a responsibility to allotment holders, and stated that access through the ‘haulage way’ was almost impassable for vehicles; this extends some 150 yards.

After discussion, it was agreed that when the ground is firm, it should be rolled. **Action: Val Hughes to monitor.**

Most of the 2011 Waiting List for allotments at Strait Lane has been satisfied, with 8 changes of tenancy taking place.

334. Correspondence and Matters of Interest

- a. Letter from NALC referring to new policies for small and medium sized councils.
The chair recommended that we could benefit from attending the meeting which is scheduled for February. Jeff Kemp volunteered to attend. **Action Clerk/Jeff Kemp**
- b. Training course for vulnerable youths. We have now received more details of this course, which Jill Russell has offered to attend. It appears that the content centres on sexually affected youths, and is probably not appropriate or of value to the PC. Chair and Clerk to discuss with Jill Russell, and make decision.
- c. Quotation for a window seat cover for the Parish Office, total £150 was received. The PC rejected this cost; and Jean Peacock agreed to make a suitable cover. **Action Jean Peacock**
- d. Letter received from Mr Ian White regarding the changes to the bus services. This is compatible with the complaint raised in Public Participation. Joe Kelley agreed to look deeply into this, and make

suitable overtures to DBC regarding further subsidies for the service. He reported that he was already building a complaints dossier, and would take on this project. **Action Joe Kelley.**

It appears that Scarlet Band have been receiving DBC subsidies whereas Arriva have not.

It was suggested that Joe Kelley should try to reach a compromise, where the service is reduced and even a minibus used, but not cancelled completely.

Action Clerk to write to David Lyonette and Bill Dixon at DBC stating our concern, and seeking a compromise.

335 . PACT Report

There was no meeting held in December.

336. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- a. The locations of the new 5 salt bins have been agreed with DBC. They have not yet arrived, but will be coming very shortly. Whilst Darlington Borough Council has agreed to re-fill the salt bins, they can only do when they advised that this is required. Residents are therefore requested to check the salt levels during bad weather and let the Parish Clerk know when they need to be filled. The Clerk will then arrange for them to be filled as necessary
- b. Peter Foster raised yet another problem with the traffic island near the Otter and Fish. The island is badly lit, and is regularly damaged by traffic. **Action Joe Kelley** agreed to discuss this at DBC and find a resolution.
- c. Following Peter Foster's query about the resurfacing outside the Spar shop, Tony Needham confirmed that DBC have agreed to do the work, when they are next in the area.

337. Trees

John Howard stated there was nothing to report.

338. Planning Applications

Jeff Kemp had reported, as follows:-

- a. He had attended a meeting with David Coates, Head of the Planning Department at DBC, along with Gill Hepplewhite and the Clerk. This had been very helpful, and had given us a clearer understanding of the value and content of complaints, and the impact they can have in the decision making. David Coates agreed to come to an HPC meeting and make a presentation, so all councillors can participate in the dialogue.

Action Clerk has arranged this for the meeting on 1st March, at 6:30pm, as a closed meeting prior to the full meeting. The clerk had already been requested by the chair to arrange a separate meeting with David Coates because the chair will miss the March presentation. Cllr Kemp was also invited to this meeting to clarify his understanding of some of the development along Snipe Lane. Attendees Clerk/Chair/Cllr Kemp.

- b. Jeff Kemp reported that following the meeting at the Town Hall, he and the Clerk had prepared a second letter of complaint regarding the gypsy development on Snipe Lane, based on our deep concern about the impact of new gypsy traffic coming and going from the site onto the A66 main trunk road. It is understood that the Highways Agency are also concerned about the risk this causes. Cllr Kemp asked the council to retrospectively confirm the submission of this second letter, which needed to be presented urgently due to the application closing date. The meeting voted and agreed the retrospective approval.
- c. This month, there were only three applications. Two required a 'no comment' response. The third was application for a further development to the gypsy site on Snipe Lane. Cllr Kemp had visited the site, and recommended that the PC lodge an objection to this application. The council agreed that the Clerk should raise another objection, based on the same reasons as the last submission. **Action Clerk.**

339. Any other Business

- a. Resignation of Gill Hepplewhite. It was agreed that the Clerk contact DBC to obtain details of the procedure the PC must follow to fill this vacancy. **Action Clerk**

It was agreed that Gill's resignation will be reported in this month's newsletter.

A letter of appreciation will be prepared and sent to Gill Hepplewhite.

- b. Ian Holme recommended that the parish should fly the flag at half-mast in tribute to John King, who was killed in action last week. All agreed. **Action Clerk to make arrangements with the Flagmaster.**
- c. Ian Holme related to the council that Hurworth School was also being adversely affected by cuts in the school bus services. The number of buses will be reduced, and free transport would be denied to many out of village students. The school will suffer, and he urged further discussion and an Action Plan. It was reed that Ian Holme and the Clerk will compose a suitable letter to support the collage.
These changes will be felt in 2013, when subsidised transport will cease; the worst hit will be students from Middleton Saint George and Firth Moor.

The Head of Hurworth School has sent a letter to parents, and it was agreed that a copy should be included in the Parish Newsletter this month. **Action Ken Pattison (Editor)**

- d. Jeff Kemp expressed his concern about the youths at the Youth Club, located at All Saints Church. Although the new fence is in place, it is easy for youths to climb over, and therefore there is an inherent risk of them falling into the river. He suggested that the youth club could be moved to the building outside the Primary School. John Howard informed the meeting that this building is due to be knocked down, and will not become available. It was also pointed out that the Youth Club is entirely All Saints responsibility, having been started by them, run by a leader, Martin Stand, who is part of a Christian leadership group in Darlington, and supported by church volunteers. Also the fence referred to is brand new and supplied mainly by DBC, partly by HPC, and was placed there for H & S reasons.
- e. Peter Foster stated that he had some suggestions for reducing the administration expenses, such as purchasing a PC photocopier. It was agreed that he will discuss his suggestions with the clerk.
- f. Peter Foster asked the meeting to put an item on the next meeting agenda – ‘Flood Risk’. **Clerk to include.**

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday 2nd February 2012 at 7:00pm