

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February 2012 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

The Meeting was preceded by a

Presentation by Cllr Bill Dixon, Leader of DBC Council.

On the evening of Thursday, 2nd February, Hurworth Parish Council received a presentation from Cllr Bill Dixon, Leader of Darlington Borough Council, on the proposed DBC budgets.

This came about as a result of an invitation from HPC to ensure that the Parish Councillors are made fully aware of the implications of the budget proposals.

HPC Chairman, Cllr Ken Pattison, "We are very grateful to Cllr Dixon for making time to meet with Hurworth Parish Council. We feel it is extremely important that we improve communication between the Borough and Parish Councils, and this represents an important step along that path."

It is clear that the current proposals will have a significant impact upon the rural areas and this gave us the opportunity to express these concerns and perhaps develop proposals that will, at least in part, address these issues.

HPC Vice Chairman, Ian Holme, "specific concerns raised with Cllr Dixon included the changes to School Transport, both for secondary schools and the removal of subsidised travel for 16-19 yr olds attending the Sixth Form and Technical Colleges."

Considerable discussion also took place on the impact of the existing removal of evening bus services from the village and were able to relay to Cllr Dixon specific examples of where these changes have resulted significant hardship to a number of residents."

Ken Pattison, "the financial constraints that DBC find themselves in are now well understood. We trust that Cllr Dixon has taken on board our concerns and we look forward to improved communication and consultation, together with an on-going liason, both with DBC and hopefully other Parish Councils, particularly with regard to the bus services."

Cllr Dixon reported that DBC will be losing a total of 24.4% of their government funding. Currently they are processing circa £300 m on projects in the region.

The cuts will be phased in, upto 2015; cuts this year will amount to £10.8m, and rates in 2012-13 will be increased by 3.5%. The funding breakdown is Government contribution £39.3 and council tax £41.2m totalling £80.5m. The present trend is for the government share to reduce and the local taxation increase. He supports this concept, as it places more control at a local level.

By far the highest costs are Adult (£33m) and Child (£15m) Social Services, with environment next at £16m.

Cuts of £8.1m have already been identified, but a further £2.7m is still to be found.

Q&A

Cllr Dixon stated that he is receiving upto 20 calls a day about the Art Centre closure.

Val Hughes raised concern over the possible demise of the Lollypop Lady. DBC has no remit to provide this service, but it is hoped the service will continue.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dixon for his time in attending the meeting and sharing the information, stating that in particular it encouraged better consultation both with DBC and other parish councils, especially with regard to bus services, something that would most likely be addressed in the subsequent HPC council meeting.

340. Those attending:-

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

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

Lauren Pyrah, Northern Echo.

341. Apologies for absence:-

None

342. Adoption of new councillor

Notices had been displayed on the Council notice boards, and in the Community Centre from 11th January to 31st January advertising the vacancy which had arisen from Gill Hepplewhite's resignation. The same notice had been placed on the Council web site.

In accordance with the regulations, DBC has informed HPC that there were no requests for an election, and no applications for the vacancy. HPC had received only one application, Mr Tony Winnett,

Mr Tony Winnett is qualified to serve on the council, and was formally adopted as of this date. The Chair welcomed him to the council; Mr Winnett signed the Acceptance Register and Declaration of Interest documents.

343. Declarations of Interest:-

None

344. Minutes of the Meeting dated 5th January 2012

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

345 Matters Arising

None, certain items have been placed on the agenda.

346. Public Participation

A delegation had arrived at 6:00pm to deliver a petition requesting support for the re-instatement of the Grange Skateboard facility. The Chair informed them that the formal PC Meeting would start at 7:00pm, and that they could deliver the petition to the Parish Office.

There were no other members of the public.

347. Correspondence

The Chairman had reviewed the month's correspondence, and there was nothing which needed to be placed before the council. It was pointed out by Cllr Holme that anybody who doubted this could read the correspondence at their leisure.

348. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for Payment 5th January 2012

Sue Webster	Salary	£448.01
DBC	Bulbs for Village Green	£132.00
H.C.A.	Photocopying	£13.80
P. D. Allan	January exs	£38.23
Hurworth Commun. Assoc	Award	£2000.00
Hurworth Village Hall	Award	£1000.00
P.D Allan	January salary	£522.70
Johnson DIY	Repairs	£96.23
Friends of Rockliffe Court	Award	£150.00
Tony Needham	Shed erection costs	£60.00
P.D Allan	Purchase of shed – allotments	£239.90
MT Print	Newsletter	£489.00
DD. Barclays bank	Charges	£4.60
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£14.59
Direct Debit	Talk Talk	£17.40

All the accounts were accepted and the cheques signed by Cllrs Pattison and Holme.

349. Financial report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 31st January 2012. The report was accepted by the council.

350 Allotment report – Val Hughes

Most of the allotment holders have signed their new Tenancy Agreements and paid their annual rents. New tenants have also paid their £30 bond.

The new shed has been purchased and erected by Tony Needham at the Strait Lane allotments. Total cost £300.

The gate at Strait Lane has been inspected, and it was decided that a new gate is not required.

The cost of the fence at the Grange allotments has been quoted at £1600. This is in abeyance.

351. Allotment Association

A group of allotment holders have approached the council and wish to form an independent Allotment Association. They have identified a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and would like the council's agreement to forming the association.

The council agreed in principle with this request subject to the details being discussed at a later meeting. The Clerk is to convene a meeting on Monday 13th February at 7:00pm at the Emerson Arms. Draft documents for the formation process have been obtained and forwarded to the association representative, Mr George Lawman.

It was agreed that the council should have one representative on the Association, preferably a non-allotment holder, and Norma Kyle was elected to this position subject to her agreement. Other members could attend the initial meeting on an information basis if they so wished. **Action Clerk to convene and Chair the meeting.**

352 PACT Meeting – report by Jeff Kemp

Crime in general was down over the months Nov / Dec

Hurworth Parish

1-Car theft in Emmerson Road
4-Burglaries across the Parish
6-Trailer Chassis stolen from behind Skipbridge Garage
1-Cycle stolen from Rockcliff Park
1-ASBO eggs thrown at property

General

10-Exhaust Systems stolen from mobile homes at the airport.
Durham Police are recruiting eight full time officers and specials to help across the County in rural areas.

Next Meeting at the Grange 23 Feb at 6.30pm

353. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- a. The further five salt bins have been installed at their designated sites.
- b. One new dog bin has been purchased and installed. There was a complaint about the location, and Martin Swainston has arranged to move it accordingly.
- c. The repairs to the Hurworth Place notice board and Avon Road fence have been completed
- d. The kerbing at Church View will be started on Monday 6th February.
- e. There has been a meeting on site to discuss the internal road at the Grange. A further meeting, with DBC, on site is scheduled for 3rd February.

- f. Two complaints have been received from Mr Cain. The first is in regard to the additional caravans on the site at Burma Road. The DBC Planning inspector was asked to visit, and he found five mobile caravans, when only two are permitted. One was immediately moved, the other two will remain temporarily until Mr Smith's daughter gives birth, which is imminent. The second complaint refers to the damage and untidiness of Burma Road, being caused by Eurojag vehicles.
The Chair asked Cllr Winnett to investigate and report back. Cllr Martin Swainston advised that he was aware of the situation, and was already in discussion with Eurojag to resolve their parking and access problems. **Action Tony Winnett to report** on behalf of HPC.
- g. Cllr Joe Kelly reported that on following up Peter Foster's complaint about the damaged bollards at the island near the Otter and Fish, he had been told they had been inspected and were in good order.

354. Trees

John Howard reported that things were quiet, and there were no current problems.

John Howard stated that he was going to trim back some of the trees, which we have had earlier complaints, and also is planning to plant several trees on the Green. He asked Peter Foster to help him to select the types of tree that would be most acceptable.

The horse chestnut tree has been planted near the Bay Horse Inn, to commemorate the service which Alan Gibson rendered to the parish, during his many years on the council and in the community. A plaque will be installed presently. **Action Val Hughes.**

355. Flood Risk

- a. Peter Foster expressed his concern about the risk of children going down the path opposite the Otter and Fish, when the river is in flood and can be as high as the steps. He recalled a death some years ago near the same bridge. He recommended that a gate be put at the top of the steps, with a notice warning of the danger. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways dept. and request this be done. **Action Clerk.**
- b. Peter Foster reported that he had attended the meeting at Teesside Airport, and the following points were discussed:-
 - 1. It had been suggested that the RAF should move from Leeming airport to Teesside Airport. This had received a lot of opposition, particularly about possible loss of jobs.
 - 2. The airport is receiving complaints every month about aeroplane noise; however this is decreasing as less planes are using the airport.

356. Planning Applications

Jeff Kemp had reported that there had only been two applications in January:-

Application No 12/00027/FUL Glenlee 6 The Green Hurworth
Erection of a link to existing out buildings and conversion to
habitable property
No Comment

Application No 12/00027/FUL 4 Roundhill Close Hurworth
Erection of single storey extension to form a study at the back of property.
No Comment

He further reported that the HPC objections to the gypsy site at Snipe Lane, have apparently been supported by the view of the Highway Agency, who are concerned about the increase of traffic accessing and leaving the site onto the A66 trunk road.

357. Any other Business

1. A further discussion ensued over what actions HPC could take regarding the reduction in the **bus services**. It was clear that the reductions which have already taken place may be very difficult to reverse.

Ken Pattison suggested that HPC combine their efforts with Neasham, Low Dinsdale, Middleton St George and Sadberg, and try to develop a common strategy. Cllr Joe Kelley said that he is already in contact with them all, and would help to co-ordinate this. **Action Clerk and Joe Kelly to orchestrate.**

A sub committee was formed comprising Ian Holme, John Howard and Jeff Kemp, who will develop a draft strategy, meet with the other parish councils, and agree on the way forward. Others involved are JMP who are the consultants handling the study and recommendations, Mr Ellis of Ariva, and Cllr Brian Jones who is reviewing the situation.

2. **Dog litter.** The Parish litter picker has reported the further deterioration of the paths caused by dog litter and their owners not cleaning up after their animals. Tony Needham stated that DBC had recently carried out a campaign with their Dog Warden. It was agreed that they be asked to have another campaign, and urged the issue of fines to offenders. **Action Cllr Martin Swainston offered to arrange this.**

Ken Pattison suggested the council request DBC and the Primary School to make the pathway running alongside the school to become a 'no dog' zone. He suggested contact with each to try and arrange a mutual meeting with a view to notices by the school on their land (all the grassed areas) to ban dogs and generally tidy up to re-establish a garden atmosphere, and DBC to ban dogs on their footpath because of health risk to children. **Action; Clerk**

3. **Priory School.** The HPC has received complaints about youths having apparently 'escaped' from the school grounds, and had caused a nuisance in Westfield Drive. Neighbouring residents had reported their concern for the safety of themselves, their property, passing parents and small children, and reported the matter to the police, who had subsequently met them and visited the school.

Jeff Kemp declared a personal interest in this matter, and explained that his grandson works at this school.

Ken Pattison reported that he and Tony Needham had visited the school and discussed the problem with Mr John Anderson, the Head Master. Mr Anderson is going to investigate the two incidents and report back to Ken Pattison informing on the measures being taken to alleviate the situation.

The Clerk was asked to find out the content of the original Planning Application in respect to the profile of the intended students. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Swainston is aware of this situation and has arranged to meet the resident who has expressed their concern. He will update HPC in due course.

4. **Croft Club.** There is a further delay in the processing of the Appeal against the ruling in favour of the Right of Way. DBC have more work to do, and may request the applicant, which is HPC, to prepare a new **Statement of Case**.

The clerk requested that the council re-instate John Buxton as our consultant, with approval to attend meetings with DBC and protect our interests, and assist the Clerk with this matter. This would effectively reinstate Mr Buxton in this position, for the time being.

There were objections to this, and a motion was tabled by Peter Foster, seconded by Jill Russell, to reinstate Mr Buxton. The motion was carried by 8 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstentions. The Clerk to liaise with Mr Buxton and ensure that his activities and involvement are known and approved by the clerk.

5. Bonfire on the Green. John Howard asked whether the council could hold a bonfire on the Green at Guy Fawkes time. The meeting agreed he should look into the feasibility and report back so that the possibility could be placed in the next newsletter (May) to gauge public reaction. Action John Howard.
6. **Skateboard Rink.** Tony Needham asked what had happened to the residents who had brought a petition before the PC meeting. Apparently their petition is in support of making operational the skateboard rink, and also providing lighting for it.
Ken Pattison said that he had asked them to submit their petition to the Parish Clerk.
7. Cllr Martin Swainston advised the council that the road through Neasham would re-open on 9th February, with one way traffic lights.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday 1st March 2012 at 7:00pm; Ian Holme will be in the Chair as the Chairman will be in Australia.