

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 2nd July starting at 7.00pm.

Those present Jean Peacock (Chair), Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, Andy Coakes, Andrew Robinson, Chris Pratt, Elaine Hedley, Paul Walters, Val Hughes

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

- 38. Apologies for Absence**
Margaret Williams. (Holiday)

39. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett	-	HCA
Jean Peacock	-	HCA
Val Hughes	-	HCA
Wilma Campbell	-	HCA & EPICH

- 40.** . The Chair introduced Mr Glenn Caley, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Community Services Sept., Darlington Borough Council.

Mr Caley addressed the meeting outlining his role in assisting local councils to monitor and try to improve anti-social problems. He emphasised that Hurworth did not have a major problem, but nevertheless the incidents which do occur can usually be traced to a lack of facilities and a need to provide some activities in which younger people can become involved. Such funding could be used to purchase a MUGA or improve the skateboard facility.

He stated that funding is available to assist councils in providing amenities and that he will arrange for the Funding adviser to get in touch to discuss this subject.

- 41. PACT Meeting** –Paul Walters took the Chair, and introduced a Darlington Constable standing in for PCSO Angus to present the Crime Report for June 2015. PCSO Angus is on two months training courses.

1. Police Report

Crimes	None
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Theft and Theft Other	None
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Vehicle theft –	None
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Theft from vehicles -	None
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Incidents	A wallet was reported lost or stolen at Rockliffe Hall
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Antisocial behaviour -	9
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All involved minor incidents of youthful activities at the Primary School premises in the evenings, Hurworth Grange and Blackwell Golf Club There was

also an incident at Croft House, where youths have caused disturbance. The property does not appear to be secure at present, and the **Clerk will notify Broadacres.**

SpeedWatch; 10 motorists were cautioned above speeds over the 30mph limit.

2. Speed Monitor Report

We are pleased to inform you that a new volunteer has taken over the collection of data from the monitors and has put in place applications which provide detailed analysis and Summary Reports from each unit. The monitors have been reset as from June 2015, and the data will be collected regularly to provide monthly reports.

The council purchased a new laptop for this purpose and this will be used specifically for the speed data collection and processing.

A description of the new reports was presented and each councillor and the police were given a copy for them to study.

The council has sent a letter of thanks to David Alban, who has been doing this work up to date, and his efforts are appreciated.

3. PACT Priorities: Traffic speed and Parking

42. Chair's address

A Training Day was held at Sadberge. There were five Hurworth members who attended it and was a great day. We were separated and the Chair went off to join other Chairmen, I found it very helpful talking to others and it gave everyone an insight into the workings of other Councils, it made me realise what good support we have from our Clerk. The four council members Elaine Hedley, Andrew Robinson, Andy Coakes and Paul Walters attended a separate meeting which they found very helpful and were given plenty of literature to help them in their duties.

43. The Minutes for the PC Meeting held on 4th June 2015 were adopted, Proposed by Michelle Edwards, seconded by Andy Coakes.

44. The draft Minutes for the Annual Assembly having been circulated to all councillors, were accepted by the council. Proposed by Paul Walters and Seconded by Val Hughes.

45. Matters Arising

1. Primary School 20mph limit
2. Speed monitor positioning at Croft News area.
3. Tree trimming at the 30mph limit at Croft House

A meeting has been arranged for Monday 6th July at Hurworth Place with Mr Emerson from the Police and a senior member of the Highways Department of DBC. These subjects will be discussed.

Additionally, PCSO Angus has been given the contact details for Broadacres, to request that they trim the tree.

46. Public Participation

Mr Hedley advised that he wished to speak regarding the suggestion of a new playground. The Chair deferred this until the subject is discussed later in the Agenda.

47. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment in June 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council.

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>30th June 15</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
B Green	102585	Allotment grass cutting	60.00
DBC Insurance	102586	Group insurance	168.65
M. Harrison	102587	Speed monitor moving	60.00
MT Print	102588	Newsletters	533.00
Bob Iles	102589	June Salary	286.70
P.D Allan	102590	June Salary	516.68
Inland Revenue	102591	PAYE	153.00
John Hedley	102592	Laptop for speed data collection	359.97
P.D Allan	102593	Admin expenses	57.08
TalkTalk	DD		13.01
Barclays Bank	DD		4.60
Total outlay			2212.69

48. Financial Report

1. The Financial report to 30th June 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council. The Report was accepted by the council.
2. Based upon advice given by the QPC panel, a motion was tabled by Tony Winnett, and Seconded by Michelle Edwards, that the Finance Committee should be re-designated as a **Working Group**. This was passed unanimously.

49. Highways Report

In the absence of Margaret Williams, the Chair read the Highways Report.

We have had two meetings with the representative from Swarco together with John Hedley. The monitors have been labelled, the UPS back up batteries have been installed to protect the data in the event of a power cut.

They have also been recalibrated and put back up on the posts at Roundhill Road. The Green and Croft Road. John Hedley has agreed to gather the data for us on a regular basis and analyse it and we should be able to give a report at the PC meeting on 2nd July. (This report has been given to the police for their perusal).

The laptop offered by Peter Allan did not hold its charge long enough to get data from the monitors--so the council has purchased a new one so the data can be collected immediately

A letter has been sent to David Alban to thank him for his previous work with the data from the monitors.

Andy Coakes reported that the site at Croft House is not secure, and youths have been seen in the premises. This is potentially dangerous situation where an accident may occur. **Action Clerk to inform Broadacres.**

The Chair reported that a resident has informed her that there is no dropped kerb at the end of Westfield Drive, near Roundhill Road, making almost impossible for disabled persons to cross the road. Jean Peacock has visited the site and also found that there is no dropped kerb at Mowbray Drive and Greenfield Close. **Action Clerk to request DBC to look into this and ask for suitable kerbs.**

A site meeting has been arranged for Monday, 6th July with DBC and Mr Emerson from the Police HQ, to discuss placing a speed monitor at Hurworth Place. Jean Peacock, Andy Coakes and John Hedley will attend this meeting.

Peter Foster reported that the road conditions on Neasham Road are unacceptable, and are waiting for an accident to happen. The traffic 'slow' signs on the road have been painted over, the gullies are overgrown and the road signs are obscured by the foliage. **Action Clerk to arrange a meeting with DBC Highways**

The Chair asked Cllr Kelley what can be done about speeding on two roads Neasham Road and Roundhill Road. Cllr Kelley replied by asking, "what do you propose?" to which there was some parish councillors asking for signs or making the road into a 40MPH zone. To which Cllr Kelley said the roads are classed as 60MPH and therefore without some special provision nothing can be done to change that

Paul Walters expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Roundhill Road and particularly the dangers of the entrance to Neasham Road. Warning signs are required before another accident occurs. He suggested a 40 mph speed limit on Roundhill Road. Val Hughes asked for this matter to be put on the September agenda.

50. Review of the Finance Committee Report

Tony Winnett informed the meeting that the panel evaluating our application for the Gold Award, suggested that the Finance Committee should be re-designated as a Finance Working Group, this would allow for closed meetings, which may be required when confidential matters are being discussed. Working Groups do not have the power to make any decisions, but can put forward their recommendations to the full council.

Tony Winnett put this motion to the meeting, Seconded by Chris Pratt, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The following projects and items of expenditure were discussed>-

1. Andy Robinson outlined a proposal to establish a Neighbourhood Information Centre. This would embrace several of our neighbouring villages and establish an office with volunteer staff to provide information about the many excellent facilities and amenities within our immediate vicinity.
The project will encompass businesses, community facilities, events and highlights of the area.
This is a huge project, and it received good support from the councillors.

It was agreed that Andy will make a formal presentation at the next PC Meeting in September.

2. Andy Coakes reported the progress on the Disability Circular Walkway. Meeting have taken place with Malcolm Thompson DBC Countryside, and the route has been surveyed.
The initial cost estimate is £50,000, so this will require grant support.
Action Andy Coakes to put together a detailed report, with cost estimates and suppliers.
3. At the request of Elaine Hedley, 3 additional litter bins have been requested from DBC.
4. A letter requesting financial support has been received by the Friends of Rockcliffe Court. The council agreed on an award of £300.
5. Andy Coakes proposed that a new speed monitor be purchased and erected near Croft House. After a debate, Andy Robinson proposed, and Paul Walters Seconded a motion to arrange for another speed monitor post be erected, and the existing monitors moved from time to time. Votes for the motion 10, against 1. The likely cost will be £800.
6. A proposal from a resident suggested that the monument opposite the Spar shop should be converted back to a water trough. This suggestion was rejected, both for safety reasons and the ongoing cost of water.
7. Tony Winnett proposed and Peter Foster Seconded that a sum of £1000 be set aside for the Contingency Plan. This was agreed by all. This should be used for the purchase of coats and mobile communications.
8. Andy Robinson proposed and Val Hughes Seconded the suggestion that brochures detailing the various walks in the parish should be produced. All agreed, and an amount of £500 was allocated.
9. It was reconfirmed that the council purchase lights for the Christmas tree. £300 was allocated.
10. EPICH submitted a letter requesting a further £2000 for future projects in the village. This was agreed, subject to details of a specific project.
11. Peter Foster requested that a sum of £1000 be allocated to entertain the crew of HMS Hurworth, if they visit in the coming year. All agreed.
12. Andy Coakes requested that a fence be erected on the council grass area next to the Comet Inn. This was rejected.
13. Peter Foster asked the meeting to consider constructing a second playground, possibly on part of the Manorfield, which had previously been recommended by DBC playground specialists, or perhaps request Priory School about using their playing field, which is currently not used.
John Hedley was allowed to speak at this juncture, and stated the case against a playground being built on Manorfield, his points being disturbance of the residents and concern over the young people from Priory Hurworth House School. When a similar suggestion had been discussed six years ago, the residents of Westfield drive had presented a petition to block the DBC recommendation. John Hedley quoted statistics from the Parish Plan, 2010, which illustrated that only a very small percentage of residents who responded to the questionnaire, had asked for a second playground.
The Clerk suggested that the parish plan recommended that the Primary School or Hurworth Academy, both of which have MUGA and play facilities, should be approached, again, about using their facilities during out of school hours. **A sub**

committee was formed comprising Paul Walters, Elaine Hedley, Jean Peacock and Wilma Campbell, to investigate the possibilities.

14. A letter was presented by the Primary School PTA requesting an award to help pay for books and bookcases for the library. Peter Foster proposed, and Michelle Edwards Seconded a motion to award £300. This was agreed.
15. A suggestion was considered to change the lamp-posts at Croft Bridge to Victorian style. This was rejected.

51. Matters of Interest

- a. 1. The enquiry regarding tree roots disturbing a house on the Grange Estate, is now being handled by Zurich Insurance Co. No insurance claim has actually been made.
- b. A Meeting with QA Panel was held at Durham County Hall on 24th June 2015. Report by Tony Winnett.

Tony Winnett and Peter Allan attended...

Reviewed observations made by Panel on the Foundation and Quality specifications.

We were able to reach agreement that our submissions were acceptable, subject to our making recommended additions to our Parish website.

The changes are now being made.

We also consider that the specification for the Gold quality standard can be achieved

.52. Planning Report

Jean Peacock made the following report:-

1. **Extension to the rear of 29 Church Row** – No comment
2. **Pathway access to 22 Friars Pardon** – No comment
3. **15/00532/FUL** – 3 The Wayside, Hurworth – No comment
4. **15/00562/FUL** - 24 Roundhill Road, Hurworth – No comment
5. **15/00476/FUL** - 38 Manor Road, Hurworth - No Comment
6. **15/00571/FUL** - Skipbridge, Burma Road, Hurworth The council strongly objects to this development, as it has been rejected in various forms several times over a period of years, dating back to 2009. All of the original objects still appear to stand, and we specifically draw your attention to the following inaccuracies in this latest application:-
 - There is no main sewer to the intended site.
 - The application states there are hedges and trees on site, this is not accurate but there are many hedges and trees surrounding this green area, which belong to farm land owners
 - Access to the proposed site is very limited, and not ideal for additional traffic movement. The access road is also poorly maintained.

- There is no mains gas supply, and heating in this remote location may be difficult.

7. Revised application to 20 Friars Pardon – there are queries about the tree conditions in the original application. Margaret Williams has concerns that the conditions may not have been adhered to. The Clerk has already sent an enquiry to the Planning Dept.

53. Paths, Rights of Way and Parish Walks

Nothing to report, but the parish walks are being well supported.

54. Tree Report

Peter Foster had nothing to report.

However, the cherry tree next to the Comet Inn for which the council has received a letter requesting attention, as it is overhanging residents' property was discussed. Mr Foster has inspected the tree and it is interweaved with a large ash tree. Also the roots are potentially a hazard for the neighbouring houses. The tree is also not in very good health. Reluctantly, after inspection and consideration of all options, Peter Foster recommends that this tree should be felled. The council having heard the facts and discussed any options agreed that the tree must be felled. **Action Peter Foster to make the arrangements.**

55. Allotment Report

Michelle Edwards made the following report. An Allotment Committee Meeting was held in June, with all the committee attending. Mr Graham Wylie was elected Chairman for the year.

All the allotments are taken, but one plot holder at Strait Lane has had to surrender the plot, as he has left the parish. This plot will be allocated to the next qualified person on the Waiting List.

The grass path around the allotments at Strait Lane have been cut by DBC and the hedge slightly trimmed. However, after the nesting season this hedge requires cutting back to allow free passage of walkers.

All the plots at both Strait Lane and Hurworth Grange are in good condition and are yielding good crops this year.

There has been some fly tipping near the allotments at Strait Lane, which StreetScene will not remove. The committee agreed that the PC should attend to this. **Action Clerk.**

It was reported that the 'Hurworth Allotment Association now has 17 paid up members, and they are an active group.

A request to keep hens on the allotments was rejected.

The PC will continue to pay the water bill this year, and a skip will be required at the end of September.

56. Association Reports

The Chair made the following reports:-

DALC (Darlington Association of Parish Councils)

Brian Jones resigned from Chairman and Derek Dodswell (Neasham) was elected as Chair and Alan Macnab (Whessoe) was elected as Vice Chair.

Community Governance Review Update some areas are not affected by it but our area seems to be involved, Low Dinsdale might go out of existence and are having a meeting Tuesday 15th June to decide their future, (a member from Neasham was going to attend) a suggestion was that Low Dinsdale might join Neasham, they do not want to lose their identity.

The main topic was the development in the Whessoe area with approx. 300 to 400 House development with no school and health facilities.

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

Meeting Tuesday 16th June at the Dolphin Centre

The main topic was planning and how it affects this area, there were three people from the Whessoe Ward, in which an hour was taken up with the proposition for the possibility of 470 houses with no inclusion for schools or medical facilities.

The other topic was solar panels which is taking over from wind turbines. It was decided to show concern of them taking over green fields and it affecting agriculture.

Apparently DBC are considering another plan for the need for housing in the area.

Wilma Campbell attended the **Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway Conference**,

and reported as follows:-

16th and 17th June 2015

National Railway Museum Shildon

This conference was held to bring together interested parties, including local government, to work together towards improved conservation and access of the line, with the possibility in mind of submitting a joint bid for World Heritage Site status in time for the bicentenary celebrations of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025.

As well as preserving the line for the future the Friends of SDR hope to stimulate economic regeneration through heritage tourism and create a walking and cycling route along the line itself.

The wide range of speakers contributing to the conference included organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Beamish Museum, Historic England and the NRM.

Full details of the papers given can be found on the conference website at www.sdr1825.co.uk

57. Any Other Business (None financial)

A complaint has been received from a resident about StreetScene leaving grass all over the road and pathways after they have cut the grass around The Green. The resident offered to tidy up the area for £30 per month. This was rejected as it may set a bad precedent. However, StreetScene should be asked to use the blower to leave the streets in tidier order.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.

