

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 3rd September 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present Jean Peacock (Chair), Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, Andy Coakes, Chris Pratt, Paul Walters, Val Hughes, Margaret Williams.

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

58. Apologies for Absence

Andrew Robinson. (Holiday)
Absent Elaine Hedley (unwell)

- **PACT Meeting**

Paul Walters (Chair) welcomed the attendees and asked PC Foley, the Rural Officer, to present the Police Report for July and August.

PC Foley provided the following crime figures for the period to 31st August 2015.

Burglaries	Nil
Burglaries Other	Nil
Thefts	3 – two at Blackwell Golf Club, one in Woodlands Way.
Motor Vehicle theft	One – scooter in Hurworth Place
Theft from vehicles	Nil
Criminal Damage	2 – one at Blackwell Golf Club, one at Rockcliffe Hall
Antisocial Behaviour	– 15 incidents, mostly at Blackwell Golf Club.
Environmental	2 incidents in Hurworth and 4 at The Lanes.

A PCSO has been assigned to investigate incidents at The Lanes and Blackwell Golf Club, where new anti-social problems have re-occurred.

Margaret Williams gave a comprehensive traffic report, composed from the speed monitors, for July and August. The statistics are both staggering and raise concern.

The figures were discussed at length, and it was agreed that the following actions should be taken:-

The statistics will be sent to Paul Emerson at Police Headquarters

The figures will be sent to Andy Casey, DBC Highways

Margaret Williams will raise the statistics with Ron Hogg during his visit to the Hurworth Country Fair.

For the sake of the record of the first detailed traffic report, the following statistics were compiled for August 2015.

Traffic analysis summary for AUGUST 2015

Site of monitor- Hurworth Road towards Hurworth Place= opposite Hurworth School

Period 1/8/ to 31/8/2015 - total count 75,445 number of vehicles exceeding 35 mph = 36,849 this is 48.9% of all vehicles

688 vehicles between 50 and 70 mph

Critical times 7.00-9.00 and 16.00-18.00

Site of monitor - Roundhill Road into village towards Spar shop

Period 1/8 - 31/8/2015 - total count 52,096 number of vehicles exceeding 35 mph = 16,386 this is 31.5% of all vehicles

59 vehicles between 50 and 70 mph

Critical times 7.00-9.00 and 16.00-18.00

Site of monitor - The Green from Bay Horse into village towards Spar shop

Period 1/8 -31/8/2015 - total count 39,341 number of vehicles exceeding 35 mph = 11,339 this is 28.6% of all vehicles

80 vehicles between 50-70 mph

Critical times 7.00 -9.00 and 16.00 - 18.00

OVERALL summary for the months of JULY and AUGUST 2015

Site of monitor - Hurworth Road towards Hurworth Place 47 % of all vehicles exceed 35 mph max speed recorded 100 mph

Site of monitor - Roundhill Road into village towards Spar shop 30.7% of all vehicles exceed 35 mph max speed recorded 70 mph

Site of monitor - The Green from Bay Horse towards Spar shop 28% of all vehicles exceed 35 mph max speed recorded 65 mph

Having analysed the data for the last 2 months I will now arrange for the monitors to be moved as follows:-

Hurworth Rd monitor to be turned round to record traffic from Hurworth Place towards Hurworth

Roundhill Rd monitor turned to record traffic travelling out of village

The Green monitor moved to Otter and Fish to record traffic entering village from Neasham

PC Foley agreed to perform speed checks at Croft Bridge, and to arrange for a Police camera van to visit Hurworth. The traffic volume is being affected by the A66 – A1 diversion. He also undertook to involve the Richmond police as both areas are affected.

The Chair raised the question the legal status of white lines. PC Foley explained that the circumstances are different for providing access into a driveway, or out of a driveway. Where vehicles need access from a driveway to the road then the area must be kept clear. Where access may be required to get onto a driveway, this is less essential, and more a matter of courtesy.

White lines are authorised by DBC, and to have them removed would be through DBC Highways Dept.

Margaret Williams reported further abuse of the double yellow lines at the Spar shop, and a request was made for the traffic warden or Special Constable to visit the area and give tickets where drivers ignore the traffic regulations.

- **The Chair welcomed the councillors and guests.**

The Chair said how excellent the evening at Rockcliffe Hall had been, and that six councillors and the Clerk had attended. The event was to open the new outdoor-indoor spa, and it is truly a five star facility. A letter of thanks has been sent to Rockcliffe Hall.

- **The Chair introduced Derek Dodwell of Neasham Parish Council.**

Mr Dodwell thanked the meeting for allowing him to address the meeting, and went on to say that he is Chairman of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils. He thanked the council for their continued support and raised the following points of interest:-

1. The final consultations on the Governance changes which affect the neighbouring parishes will reach a conclusion in November. This may result in Hurworth not requiring another election in May 2016. Neasham has more significant changes in their boundaries and will therefore need a second election
2. Darlington BC are working on a draft 'Parish Charter', which when finalised, it is hoped all the parish councils will adopt. This will provide better clarity of objectivity and lead to greater openness and fairness in local council treatment.

- **Minutes of the PC Meeting dated 2nd July 2015**

The Minutes having been previously circulated were adopted,
Proposed by Paul Walters
Seconded by Chris Pratt

- **Matters Arising**

- a. There is progress with the speed monitor post for the Croft area, near Linden Drive. DBC Highways Dept have inspected the site, carried out a survey, and are now discussing the technical issues with SWARCO. Jean Peacock and our speed monitor technical assistant met with Ken Major of DBC and Paul Emmerson of the Police on Monday 6th July to discuss a power post on Croft Road. The

police are going to place a Radar Box to check the speed of traffic then after approximately 28 days we should have some feedback from it. It was decided a good position for the post would be at the end of Linden Drive near Croft Road.

- a. DBC have inspected the five locations which were identified for dropped kerbs. The cost would be £6900, out of the DBC budget of £20000, so it is unlikely this will go forward. We suggested the low cost slopes, but DBC have rejected these as they are now considered unsightly, and also block drainage. We have now reduced our request to two kerbs, one at Westfield Drive and the other at Mowbray drive.
- b. Cllr Tostevin stated that complaints have been received from Hurworth residents, about the low cost tarmac kerbs being unsightly, and therefore they are not being considered.
- c. DBC has assigned person to look at the road signage on Neasham Road, and to make a traffic survey, prior to meeting with HPC to discuss what actions can be taken to reduce risk and traffic speed.
- d. The Working Group addressing the MUGA and overtures to the schools has not yet met, but now that the school holidays are over, they will get together.
- e. Paul Walters reported that he has made a survey of the electricity requirements for the Christmas tree lights, and got a quotation for warm white lights. The council requested that he should also consider coloured lights. A decision will be made at the next meeting.
- f. Paul Walter has obtained a comparative quotation for the printing of the quarterly newsletter. Approximately £100 can be saved each quarter if we change our supplier.

• **Public Participation**

- a. Mr David Humble addressed the meeting outlining a suggestion that small businesses in the parish could benefit from high speed broadband. He had attended a seminar in Darlington where a group of small business people had agreed to pool resources to pay for a high speed connection. This idea appears practical and may create significant interest in Hurworth Parish. Schools and some other organisation would also qualify for the shared resource.
The meeting agreed that an appropriate article is put in the next Parish Chronicle, and that Mr Humble meets with Tony Winnett and the Clerk to further explore this suggestion. **Action Clerk**
- b. Mrs Linda Hall observed that she thinks the speed monitors need to be re-calibrated, as they signal speeding when the car is travelling at under 30mph. Margaret Williams informed the meeting that this can occur if another vehicle is exceeding the limited and is as far as 50 meters from the monitor. Mrs Hall also referred to the parking problems currently being encountered at the Clervaux Café. The PC is trying to broker a solution to resolve these upsets.

- c. A resident registered her concern about the increase in traffic and the size of some of the vehicles crossing Croft Bridge. This is being caused by the A66 – A1 diversion, and will hopefully be short-term.
- d. A resident registered her complaint about the new house construction at 20 Friars Pardon. Her complaints were noted, and she was informed that a letter containing her concerns has already been sent to the Head of Planning at DBC. The construction is not in accordance with the specification granted. Cllr Kelley offered to look further into this.

- **Accounts for Payment**

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

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>31st August</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>2015</u> <u>Amount</u>
HGSC	102610	Parish Walks BBQ	200.00
Woodberry Ltd	102611	Seat for Hurworth Grange	582.00
MT Print	102612	Newsletters	130.80
Zurich Management Services	102613	Subscription	114.00
B Green	102614	Cutting hedges to clear road signs	40.00
Tracey McGeough	102615	Allotment bond refund	30.00
Bob Iles	102616	Salary	286.37
P. D. Allan	102617	Salary	516.48
Inland Revenue	102618	PAYE	153.20
B Green	102619	Allotment grass cutting	60.00
Fosters	102620	Tree work	1165.50
P. D. Allan	102621	Admin. expenses	32.25
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	14.64
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	25.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
Total outlay			3355.04

65. Financial Report

1. The Financial report to 31st August 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council. The Report was accepted by the council.

The audit having been completed, notices have been displayed on all the parish notice boards for 30 days inviting residents to inspect the accounts. Nobody requested sight of the accounts.

A copy of the Financial Report is annexed to the Minutes, and displayed on the web site.

66. Highways

Margaret Williams said that she had covered the points in her report during the PACT Meeting.

67. Matters of Interest

a. QPC. Tony Winnett reported that although HPC has addressed all the points raised at the meeting with the Award Panel in June, there has been no progress at CDALC.

A letter has been sent to CDALC and also a conversation with Steve Ragg to urge progress.

Tony stated that he and the Clerk are getting exasperated, and several councillors displayed unrest that the process was taking so long. Some other small councils within Durham appear to have been receiving priority attention.

b. Insurance Matters

b. Insurance Margaret Williams and Jean Peacock went to Shotton Hall at Peterlee to attend a Local Council Advisory Service meeting which had been arranged by Zurich Insurance Group. It was based on Accident and Claims Review, Risk Assessment, Business Continuity Planning and Defect Identification & Prioritisation. They were shown a few examples of Accidents that had happened and we had to work out the results as we saw them and then given the answer as to whether we were correct and it made us very aware of Hazards and risks that could happen in the work place. We also saw the Zurich Representative and asked about cover for the tree and we were assured that we were well covered by up to £5,000,000

The meeting proved very interesting and highlighted the need for a diligent Risk Assessment, and close reviews of the council's insurance cover. It was noted that Hurworth had been excluded from 'personal accident' cover in the DBC Group policy. This has now been corrected at no extra cost.

HCP has now become a member of the Zurich Management services group, and paid a one-year subscription.

c.. A delightful letter has been received from Hurworth Village Hall expressing their thanks for the council's support with their outdoor concert – 'Music for All'. Over 600 people attended and it was very successful. They plan to stage another next year.

68. Planning

Jean Peacock made the following report:-

There have not been many new applications during the holiday period, and those which have been made appear to not be contentious.

- 4 Grange Avenue alterations have been passed.
- 20 Friars Pardon is contentious, as the builder is not conforming to the planning specification granted. The bricks are not 'in keeping' with the other properties, and the positioning of the garage has been changed. A letter of objection has been submitted by HPC.
- 35 Woodlands Way this has now been passed.

Tony Winnett raised his serious concerns about the attitude of the DBC Planning Dept, and their treatment of our Ward Councillor Joe Kelley. The application for a brick building at Skipbridge has been passed; the objections were not fully considered and the panel rushed into a decision, despite the fact that this application has been rejected five times in the past.

Cllr Joe Kelley said that part of the reason for this type of decision making is due to the lack of a Core strategy at DBC. This is now being worked on, and hopefully a more equitable decision making process will emerge.

69. Projects

a. Circular walk for disabled persons project.

Andy Coakes presented a well-defined detailed report setting out the pathways, the requirements and the costing for this project.

Tony Winnett questioned whether there is a demand for this pathway, and after discussion, it was concluded that the demand is there and that once the pathway is in existence, it will be well-used.

A grant of circa £50,000 will be required, and this will require further work, including:-

- Land owner permission for each stretch of land which is incorporated.
- Identification of 'who will benefit', to provide the justification.

A grant application could then be compiled, and a source of funds identified.

b. Purchase of a Defib machine.

The council all agreed that this would be an excellent addition to the parish's welfare, and a proposal was tabled by Michelle Edwards, Seconded by Tony Winnett, which was passed unanimously. An amount of £2000 is allocated to this project. The unit will be installed in a cabinet at Hurworth Grange, the final location is to be decided. Michelle Edwards has taken on this project.

70. Parish Walks

Val Hughes reported that the series of walks has been very successful, and a mixture of Hurworth parishioners and people from Darlington have participated. The final walk, which was followed by a BBQ at Hurworth grange attracted 50 people, and was an excellent community evening.

It is suggested that a Christmas walk should be arranged; Peter Foster offered to lead it.

It was suggested that brochures outlining the walks and their severity levels should be produced. The meeting was in agreement and this will receive further attention. HPC will find out what leaflets DBC has, and build on these.

It was thought that Andrew Robinson may wish to embrace this within his Community Unification project.

Peter Foster recommended that the council establish a Register and record all walks undertaken, with dates and number of walkers. This will help to protect the defined Right of Way areas and pathways.

71. Hurworth Contingency Plan

Tony Winnett reported that the Contingency Working Group have had two meetings. It was decided that a request for residents to become involved in the plan be published on the website and in the newsletter. The website now contains such an article.

When the newsletter is published the article will be on the frontpage.

The County Contingency officer is investigating the provision and costs of tabards and mobile phones. The Parish Clerk is approaching the Rockcliffe Surgery to request their input to the plan.

72. Trees

Peter Foster reported as follows:-

- a. Manorfield. A willow tree has been felled following anxious reports from residents that it appeared unsafe. After inspection, it was agreed it must be removed. No replacement tree is required, as there are six others in the same area.
- b. The cherry tree near the Comet Inn has been felled, in accordance with the decision of the council two months ago.
- c. The Christmas tree has been inspected and is in excellent health. It appears that it has had some attention and is now thriving.
- d. Some trimming has been performed, and all the trees are now in good health.

73. Allotment report

Michelle Edwards gave the following report:-

Three allotments have been vacated, two of which were taken back as the allotment holders have left the parish.

All three have been re-assigned.

There is still a waiting List at both Strait Lane and Hurworth Grange, but the Strait Lane list has reduced and the waiting time has decreased accordingly.

A willow tree is causing a problem at plot 1b; the roots are interfering with the well and needs to be attended to. **Action Clerk.**

74. Open Spaces

Wilma Campbell gave the following report:-

- The rubbish has been cleared and the hedge cut back on the public Right of Way around Strait Lane allotments.

- Road signs:

The hedges going in and out of Neasham have been cut back to reveal signs.

Broad acres are attending to cutting back the foliage at entrance to Croft.

- Grass and hedges:

Grass along Westfield Drive should be cut this week; rain has delayed this happening earlier.

Hedge between Avon Road and Oxford garage has been cut back sideways and now needs to be topped. This has been arranged to happen within the next few weeks.

There have been no more complaints about grass cuttings being left by DBC.

- **Parking:**

There have been complaints about residents parking on green area at Briars Close.

The Parish Clerk has sent out a letter to residents regarding this. Only one negative response.

The grass area at bottom of Strait Lane has been damaged due to residents parking half on and off the road. Do we need to revisit this ongoing problem to try to find a solution. **Action Item.**

- **Benches:**

All benches except one have been re-varnished. The bench outside the Bay Horse needs the seating boards replaced.

- **Hog Weed:**

First round of spraying has been completed; second time of spraying is in 6 weeks' time.

Andy Coakes suggested that the farmer should be approached with a view to HPC purchasing a piece of land opposite the Otter and Fish green area, to be converted into a parking area. No decision was taken.

Val Hughes said that the balsam weed is now rampant in the river near Blind Lane and the Golf course.

75. Newsletter

Tony Winnett reported that the next newsletter will go out in early October, soon after the Country Fair.

The latest speed statistics will be included in the newsletter.

76. Association Reports

- a. Peter Foster reported that the CDALC meetings have been covered by data circulated by the Clerk.
- b. CPRE Meeting

Jean Peacock attended two meetings of the CPRE on the 21st July and 25th August – the main discussions were on planning developments at Blackwell, Berrymead and a new road at the Airport

c. Durham Tees Valley Airport

Tony Winnett reported on the meeting attended for the Airport–

The plans were discussed in detail and CPRE will keep an eye on the planning as it progresses. DTVA have submitted a Planning Application for the construction of a 1.8km link road between Northside and Southside, erection of 2.8m high security fencing and associated infrastructure, and improvements and alterations to the existing highway.

Due to the terrain Planning Applications are submitted to both Darlington and Stockton Borough Councils. DBC Reference is 15/00677, Stockton is 15/1625.FUL.

The road is part of the Airport Master Plan and has grant funding approval for construction. It is not connected with any of the Airport plans for housing development although there have been objectors trying to link it with the future housing plans. The construction of the link road will assist the development of industrial units and will create employment. Hurworth residents can benefit from this.

Action Item. HPC to write to the two Borough Planning Depts advising of our approval and support to the airport application which will benefit the airport expansion plans and can provide more job opportunities for Hurworth residents.

77. Any Other Business (None financial)

Andy Coakes requested that a rubbish bin be located at the end of Linden Drive. A lot of litter is left in this area, by visitors to the riverbank. **Action Clerk.**

The meeting ended at 9:40pm