

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 starting at 7.00pm.**

**96. Those present:** Jean Peacock (Chair), Peter Foster, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, Andy Coakes, Paul Walters, Val Hughes, Margaret Williams. Elaine Hedley

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley, Northern Echo, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

**97.** The Chair welcomed Mr Ron Hogg, Durham Crime and Police Commissioner.

**98. PACT Meeting**

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

PC Foley provided the following crime figures for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Burglaries	Nil
Burglaries Other	Nil
Violence	Nil
Thefts	Nil
Motor Vehicle theft	One – from Skipbridge Garage
Theft from vehicles	One – from an unlocked vehicle
Criminal Damage	Two – at Avon Road and Blackwell Golf Club
Antisocial Behaviour	Seven - three at Rockcliffe Hall

Mr Paul Emerson from the Durham Police Traffic Department addressed the council regarding traffic volumes and speeding.

Following from the Traffic Reports submitted by HPC, the police have carried out their own survey, for a one month period.

Mr Emerson explained that the police regard the breakdown of speed data as

Criminal behaviour	15%
Exemplary driving	15%
Normal behaviour	70%

He explained that it is most important to implement ‘credible’ speed limits; speed limits that drivers acknowledge as reasonable. Drivers will tend to ignore limits that they find them not credible, for example a 30mph limit where there are no buildings.

The survey carried out by the Police showed that

- 30% of the traffic through The Green was non-compliant,
- 52% of the traffic passing the Academy was recorded as between 35mph and 55mph,

- there was a high percentage of non-compliant drivers coming into Hurworth Place from Darlington on the A167 – 45% exceeded 45mph. 9000 vehicle movements per day were recorded on this stretch, based on data collected between 5th and 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The surveys, which covered both Hurworth and Neasham showed that 86 percent of the offenders are residents.

During the month 8 speeding tickets had been issued and 72 warning letters sent.

### **Recommendations**

1. SpeedWatch, using residents to monitor vehicle speeds. This can be done in conjunction with a policeman, or without.
2. That the council should consider introducing 40mph limits where the current 30mph limits are located, and move the 30mph limits to the start of the built-up area. This makes them more credible, and slows the traffic down as it comes into the housing area. This has proved very successful in other rural areas. The 30mph signs should be enhanced to create a village gateway. This would create a buffer zone and be deemed credible.
3. A 20mph limit could be implemented at the schools, using flashing lights during school start and end periods. Parking outside and around the schools should be encouraged as it provides a natural traffic calming.
4. Using the police for traffic enforcement with police cars present is only short-term effective, as drivers tend to warn other drivers, and the traffic slows temporarily.
5. Engineered traffic calming can be effective, but would spoil the rural environment and is likely to be both very expensive and non-acceptable to residents.

Members of the public emphasised the so they could make an eyes-on survey. **The Clerk will make the arrangements.**

A representative of Priory Hurworth House School addressed the meeting and informed them that the school playing field above Manorfield have been made secure, the fence repaired and that the horses which had been reported as grazing there, should now be excluded.

Other residents had reported that five stray horses had been seen on Neasham Road and Roundhill Road.

The PACT Meeting closed at 8:10pm.

The Chair opened the Parish Council Meeting and Invited Commissioner Ron Hogg to address the meeting.

### **99. Commissioner Ron Hogg.**

Ron Hogg started by declaring his total support to the remarks and recommendations made by Paul Emerson.

Mt Hogg then enlightened the meeting about the funding reductions applied to the Police and more specifically to the Durham Police force.

In the period from 2010, the Durham budget has been reduced by £20 million. Further reduc-

tions are forthcoming, and these are based on 'bar density'. This area is deemed to have very few bars, and hence the amounts allocated are minimal. Ron Hogg is fighting this misconception. A further five percent cut in their budget is forecast for all police forces. – this will equate to a 25% reduction between now and 2020. This will result in a reduction in the police manpower bringing forecast levels to 1000 policemen and 780 PCSO's.

Manpower assignments are based on need, which is decided by three elements:-

- **Treat**
- **Risk**
- **Harm**

These dictate that the URBAN areas require more manpower and presence than RURAL areas.

The Commissioner was pleased to inform the meeting the Durham Constabulary has been awarded the Best force in the UK, with a Victim Satisfaction level of 94%.

Although various government statistics show that crime has decreased in the country, several categories are omitted, and the actual overall picture is a six percent increase.

Val Hughes raised her concerns about cybercrime and asked what the policy is in Durham. The Commissioner said that a Regional Cyber Unit is in place. He acknowledges that cybercrime is intensifying and is up nine percent in the country.

The Commissioner made the following offers of participation and help:-

1. He supports the speed limit changes outlined by Paul Emerson and will assist in making these changes if agreed by HPC.
2. He will personally monitor the traffic at Croft during one night with residents and Andy Coakes
3. He will support the application for a 20mph speed limit at the schools.
4. He will look into delays in response to cybercrime reports, and send more information.

The Chair thanked Ron Hogg and Paul Emerson for their presentations and discussion.

## **The Chair, Jean Peacock opened the Parish Council Meeting at 8:15pm**

### **100. Apologies for Absence**

Chris Pratt (Holiday); Tony Winnett, (Sick)

### **101. Declarations of Interest**

Jean Peacock	HCA
Val Hughes	HCA and EPICH and allotments
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH

### **102. Minutes of the PC Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

The Minutes having been previously circulated were adopted,  
Proposed by Wilma Campbell  
Seconded by Val Hughes

### **103 Matters Arising**

A meeting has been held with Ken Major of DBC Highways dept. which resulted in the following progress:-

- a. The speed monitor post for Croft will be installed soon. All details have now been supplied, and we await DBC.
- b. DBC has informed HPC that the budget for dropped kerbs in the borough is very small, and we may not get these this year.
- c. The signage on Neasham Road will be reinstated, and the bushes cut back to make the road signs visible.
- d. A meeting has been arranged with the Primary School to discuss the MUGA and other topics.
- e. The Clerk has obtained three quotations for the cost of printing 2000 newsletters, quarterly. The council decided to appoint ADDO Printing Ltd of Newton Aycliffe to do the printing as from this date.
- f. Proposed by Paul Walters, seconded by Andy Coakes. = unanimous.
- g. Fence problem at Sycamore Close. It was agreed that **Cllr Tostevin will resolve a solution with the resident.**
- h. The council agreed that it should purchase a new PC and software, following recent problems incurred. The cost approved is £379 for the PC and the cost of Microsoft Office of £100. **Clerk to purchase**

#### 104. Public Participation

Cllr Tostevin stated that the meeting could not be followed by the public due to acoustics. It was decided that the table set up will now be in the shape of a horse shoe, and that the Ward Councillors will sit at the council table.

The Clerk advised the council that he had applied for a grant to install an induction sound system in the Hadwin Lounge, and it is intended to install this as soon as possible.

Peter Foster suggested name plates for all councillors; this was agreed and Andy Coakes undertook to provide these.

#### 105. Accounts for Payment as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

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

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>31st Oct 2015</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
T. Needham - EPICH	102632	Capital expenditure	354.99
David Parker	102633	Open Spaces work	396.00
Bob Iles	102634	October salary	356.55
P. D. Allan	102635	October salary	516.88
Inland revenue	102636	PAYE	170.40
MT Print	102637	Newsletters	561.00
WEL Medical	102638	Defibrillator	1658.10
DBC	102639	Grit for bins	101.54
Prestige	102640	Tree work	900.00
B Green environmental Services	102641	Open spaces and allotment work	180.00
P. D. Allan	102642	Admin expenses and wreath	154.26

TalkTalk	DD	Comms	25.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
<b>Total outlay</b>			<b>5379.52</b>

Two additional cheques were ratified by the council:-

Cost of the purchase of Christmas lights £287.89, as approved and a further invoice for tree work £1620.

## 106. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council. The Report was accepted by the council.

## 107. Matters of Interest

a. The Clerk reported that he and Tony Winnett had made a presentation to the Award Panel at CDLAC, County Hall, Durham.

- The Foundation Level has already been confirmed
- Quality Level is now confirmed
- Gold Award will be awarded subject to the submission of Business Plan and the Councillor and Staff Development Plan.

The Chairman of the Panel would like to make the Award at a PC Meeting, and arrangements will be made.

b. The Chair reminded the members that it will be **Remembrance Day** on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November, Councillors were encouraged to attend. The Chair will lay a wreath.

c. Paul Walters tabled the suggestion that the council should install notice boards at the entrances to the village advertising Community Events. These should accommodate large posters, which could be read from passing motorists. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Walters would propose this at the Finance Meeting.

d. A letter was received from Cllr Edwards requesting a donation for the xxxxxxxxxx, which was receiving help from Mr XXXXXXXXXX. The council made a Section 137 award of £100.

e. The Chair informed the meeting that an event is being organised at Hurworth Grange to perform the Opening of the Bagshaw Gallery on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. This event will also include a presentation to Mr Jimmy Manning who has recently retired as Manager of the HGSC, and a special 'thank you' to all the community volunteers who deliver newsletters and help at the community events.

The cost will be circa £500, of which the Council agreed to contribute £300.

## 108. Project Reports

- Neighbourhood Information centre. Andrew Robinson and Jean Peacock had attended the CDALC seminar on Neighbourhood Planning. This has been helpful. More details on the project will be discussed at the Finance Meeting.
- b. Circular walk to accommodate disabled transport, etc.**

Andy Coakes reported that Malcolm Thompson has been very busy and therefore has not yet talked to the landowners.

It has been agreed that Andy Coakes and Malcolm Thompson will arrange a meeting with Mr Walton.

A budget is being prepared in time for the Finance Meeting and it is understood that a grant may be obtainable from the Tees Valley Heritage Trust.

- c. The Defib unit has now arrived and the cabinet will follow in two weeks. It has been decided that this unit will be located on the speed monitor post on The Green. Action Item -**Michelle Edwards to make the arrangements.**
- d. Jean Peacock reported that the disability entrance to Hurworth Grange has been discussed by the working Group, and an estimate of £3500 has been received. Jean requested that the council take this on as a project, and this was agreed unanimously. Three quotations will now be sought.
- e. Jean Peacock reported that a meeting has been arranged to discuss changes to the Hurworth Grange main entrance. More details will be available at the Finance Meeting.
- f.

#### **109. Highways report**

Margaret Williams reported - We have had a lot of publicity in the press, Hurworth Chronicle and on the local radio in the last month regarding the speeding issues which we have been analysing and documenting since July. As a result there has been a police presence in the village on several occasions with a number motorists being stopped for speeding offences and given warnings or reported for traffic offences related to speeding. Excuses given for exceeding 40 mph in the 30 mph limit in the village have ranged from the usual 'I was late for work', 'I didn't know that the speed limit was 30 mph' to 'I was taking my friend to have her teeth whitened!' There have been other speed detection devices set up in various parts of the village in addition to those of HPC. This information is now being analysed and strategies are being considered as to the best way to best deal with this issue- such as traffic calming enforcement, community speed watch and/or education.

The data from our speed monitors giving our most recent findings ( which follow closely the data from other months) are summarised here:-

Dates Covered 1st to 31 st October 2015

Site of monitor - Hurworth Road near Hurworth Comprehensive School - direction from Hurworth Place towards the Spar Shop

10,741 vehicles 40 mph and above with 390 vehicles exceeded 50 mph

51.7 % of all motorists exceeded the 34.7 mph set on the monitor

Max speed 65.0 mph on 3 occasions- 2/10/2015 at 19.25, 8/10/2015 at 5.00 ,19/10/2015 at 23.00

Site of monitor- Roundhill Road -- out of village past Primary School

7,619 vehicles 40 mph and above with 321 exceeding 50 mph

46.0% of all vehicles exceeded the 34.6 mph set on the monitor

Max speed 70 mph on 2 occasions - 1/10/2015 at 23.00 and 4/10/2015 at 00.00

Site of monitor - Steel Bridge by Otter and Fish towards the Green

1,915 vehicles 40 mph or above with 49 exceeding 50 mph

32.0% of all vehicles exceeded the 33.4 mph set on the monitor

Max speed 65 mph on 7/10/2015 at 16.50

The data appears to highlight yet again that the biggest problems with speeding seem to be on Hurworth Road near the Comprehensive School and on Roundhill Road past the Primary School

There have been additional monitoring devices on Croft Road towards The Comet with a view to having a more permanent speed monitor if findings warrant one.

I understand that traffic wardens have been in evidence near the Primary School crossing point and in the double yellow line areas near the Spar shop recently, but I have not yet received any feedback/results from this exercise.

Jean Peacock and Margaret Williams met with Ken Major from DBC

- regarding old signage which need replacing on the Bank at Hurworth Place

- repainting of white road markings on Neasham Rd and better signage/ cutting of hedges round existing signs

- dropped curbs on entrances to Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive. These are being considered at the moment

The clerk has been in touch with Traffic Wardens Dept at DBC. They have been making visits and now that we have shown concern, they will schedule more visits soon. They are one rural warden short at present, due to sickness.

### **110 Open Spaces report**

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

Councillor Tostevin has talked to the people at Sycamore Close and the subject of the broken fence has gone quiet. I think we should offer to repair the broken piece of fence only.

I still need to confirm if the holly bush at Linden Grove has been cut back.

The growth around the road signs at the entrance to Hurworth from Neasham has been cut back.

We still have one bench in the village to re-varnish - it needs scraping first.

The ivy has been trimmed at Appletree Close.

David Parker has submitted his quarterly bill, covering work at Westfield Drive, work on the monument and planting new plants at the monument total cost is £396.00 to 31st October.

Martin Harrison should have repaired the EPICH bench by now.

I understand that the hogweed has been sprayed again, but I will confirm as the bill has not been received yet.

### **110 a. EPICH Report**

Since our last meeting eight sacks, each containing 12kg of daffodils have been planted at the three entrances into Hurworth- Neasham Road, Roundhill Road and Croft Road.

Many thanks to HPC for purchasing the strimmer, and safety accessories totalling £354.99. They have already been put to good use around the village.

### **111. Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported as follows:-

The area from Hurworth Grange entrance to the parking area has been cut back and the pathways cleared. The trees and shrubs had intruded along the internal roadway and a stringent cut back and raising of the canopy was required. This work has been completed. The council approved the invoice from Prestige for £1620 for this work.

The holly bushes and elderberry bushes have been removed near Linden Court, as requested by residents.

A tree at the start of Grange Avenue, near Oxford Garage has been removed due to its ill health and potential risk to traffic and residents.

### **112. Allotment Report**

Michelle Edwards reported as follows:-

The Annual General Meeting of the Allotment Committee is scheduled for Friday. 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The water has been turned off at both sites, and a skip was delivered to Strait Lane allotments on 30<sup>th</sup> October- this was quickly filled.

Two allotments are looking untidy, and this will be investigated.

### **113. Paths and Leisure**

Val Hughes reported as follows:-



Three Parish walks are being planned over the Christmas period, on 22nd December, 27<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. More details will be distributed later.

## **114 Planning**

Jean Peacock reports as follows:-

There have been four new applications in October, viz:-

- 1 Lych Gate
- Hurworth Cricket Club
- 16 Westfield Drive
- Ashfield Farm

The details having been circulated to all councillors, and no objections having been raised, the council agree a 'No comment' on all these applications.

## **115. Newsletter**

Elaine Hedley thanked Tony Winnett for publishing the October newsletter, as Elaine had been unwell.

Elaine will be taking on the Editor role starting from now.

## **116. Association Reports**

Peter Foster had nothing to report.

Jean Peacock reported:-

- She and Andy Robinson attended the CDALC Neighbourhood Planning seminar.
- She and the Parish Clerk had attended the CDALC AGM in Durham County Hall
- She had attended the recent CPRE meeting with Tony Winnett.

## **117. Any Other Business (None Financial)**

a. The Contingency Plan. In the absence of Tony Winnett, the Clerk informed the meeting that three volunteers have come forward to join the Contingency Working Group. They all appear to have excellent attributes and are most welcome.

b. Due to the late finish of the recent PC Meetings, it was agreed to start the PACT Meetings at 6:30pm in future.

The meeting ended at 10:40pm



## **87. Highways**

Margaret Williams said that she had covered most points in the PACT Meeting, but added:-

The road signs from the Comet Inn to Oxford Garage are almost unreadable and require replacing. **Action Clerk**

There are problems reading the signs coming into the village from Neasham, as the trees have overgrown. **Action Clerk.**

## **88. Open Spaces Cllr Wilma Campbell reported**

- **Sycamore Close/Manor Field**

A resident in Sycamore Close has concerns about a broken fence which is opposite his property and adjacent to a strip of land that he owns. He feels the broken fence is a possible hazard to members of the public and also creates a cut through from the Manor Field across his land. He has confirmed that the fence is not on the Deeds to the property.

Councillor Tostevin and I visited the site and inspected the whole of the fenced area. I would recommend that the fence be repaired where needed as to remove it altogether would also mean clearing away areas of shrubs and ivy which have grown up around it.

Upon inspection of the fence it was also noted that the area immediately over the fence under the trees has been used by some residents as a dumping area for grass cuttings and dead pot plants. This is not acceptable and needs to be addressed.

### **Tees View/ Corner of Linden Grove.**

Elderly residents living on this corner are concerned about a holly bush growing on an area of land next to their bungalow. Upon inspection, it has been established that the holly bush is not only encroaching over and blocking out light to their side path but in addition it is so tall the branches are almost touching telephone wires and two TV aerials. The land does not belong to DBC. Again I would recommend that the holly bush be topped and trimmed back to a manageable size.

### **Hedges between Hurworth and Neasham**

These hedges need to be trimmed back as they are impeding pedestrians and motorists.

Additionally, Cllr Campbell reported that EPICH has planter 3000 bulbs, in Strait Lane grass area, the Comet area and in the Grange. They will be planting 1500 daffodil bulbs at the entrances to the village.

Cllr Campbell asked if the council will purchase a commercial level strimmer, which could be used by HPC, the Grange staff and EPICH for work on hedges, etc. The cost quotation is £419, which included the helmet and protective goggles. Tony Winnett tabled the motion to purchase this equipment and Jean

Peacock Seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## **89. Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported:-

- a. During September six old trunks had been ground out; the heaps of residue need to be left where the tree used to be, as it will sink into the ground and fill the cavity caused by the grinding out.
- b. The silver birch which was ordered from DBC will not be delivered as the facility has closed down. The tree, which is for Goblins Wood will be ordered elsewhere.
- c. The trees along the road into The Grange need pruning. Two large vehicles coming to the Country Fair could not get past due to the low tree canopy and overgrown state. These trees will be pruned this month.
- d. Several street lights along Croft and Hurworth Roads are now obscured by trees, and these need pruning. DBC should be asked to attend to these.

## **90. Allotments**

Michelle Edwards reported:-

- She will be carrying out an inspection next week.
- One additional person has joined the waiting List at Strait Lane.
- The water will be turned off on 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- The AGM for the Allotment Committee will be held in November.

## **91. Paths and Rights of Way – Val Hughes**

Nothing to report.

## **92. Planning – Jean Peacock**

There has only been one application in September. This was for a change of use at 1 Snipe Lane. The council agreed not to comment on this.

## **93. Newsletter**

Tony informed the meeting that this will be going to print in the next few days. It will be ready for distribution in mid-October.

Features in this edition include the Country Fair, Speeding in the villages, the Contingency Plan and all the normal coverage.

It is Tony's intention to pass the production of the next newsletter to Elaine Hedley, but has handled this edition due to Cllr Hedley's ill health. He wishes her a speedy recovery.

## **94. Association Reports**

**Peter Foster – nothing to report**

**Jean Peacock- nothing to report**

Tony Winnett attended the Airport Consultative Committee meeting and was impressed by the new Business Development Director, Mr David Grant. Mr Grant had outlined plans to market the concept of aero engineering and to build up an Aero Centre in the Airport location.

**95. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)**

Michelle Edwards had received a request to cut back the ivy at the entrance to Appletree Close. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

The Clerk will be on holiday from 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October. The Chair has a key to the Parish Office.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm