

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Annual Assembly Meeting held on Thursday, 7th April 2011,
in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending:-

Chris Pratt (Chairman), Val Hughes, Gill Hepplewhite, Peter Foster,
Jean Peacock, Don Parr; Ken Pattison;

also in attendance :- Malcolm Dunstone: and Peter Allan – Clerk

One person attended from the public.

Apologies for absence:-

Ian Holme (will arrive late from business); Martin Swainson

Declarations of Interest:-

None

Minutes of the Meeting dated 9th March 2010

The minutes were agreed, and signed by the Chair after confirmation by the council.
Proposed by Ken Pattison and seconded by Gill Hepplewhite.

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

After four years the present council has come to the end of its regime.
It was a very active period with many things being addressed and actioned.
Perhaps two of the more significant events were the obtaining of a £10,000
Big Lottery Fund Grant for the initialisation of a Nature Reserve at the Grange,
and the introduction of the Parish Plan.

The Nature Reserve work was carried out by Friends of the Community
(FOTC) on behalf of the Parish Council, and during the course of this activity
a further grant of approximately £4,000 was obtained from Grassroots for the
development of a fruit orchard. Further details of this work are provided in the
FOTC article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

It is already one year since we launched the Parish Plan, and we have just
made an annual review, to see exactly what we have been able to achieve.

You will remember from the questionnaire, all residents of the parish were asked to give their views and even put forward their wish-lists. The good news is that, even despite government cuts, we have been able to make considerable progress in many of the topics.

The chairman went on to detail some of the council's specific achievements, and thanked Peter Allan for his assistance in obtaining grants.

The severe winter conditions made roads and pavements hazardous, with only the bus route roads receiving Borough Council attention. There are plans in hand for the parish council to purchase and position a number of salt bins at specified points; these will be in place before the next winter.

The council has installed a new web site covering many of parish life, and keeping the residents right up to date with the council's activities and forthcoming events.

He ended by thanking all the councillors for their support, and wished the new Council good wishes when they come together next month.

(A full transcript is filed with these Minutes)

Borough Councillor's Report

Malcolm Dunston gave a most enlightening report which was based on the activities and involvement of a Borough Council in one month. He gave details of each and every meeting and appearance which he had made in the month of February.

It was clear to all assembled that the job takes a huge amount of time and dedicated commitment. The only rest bite appeared to be the regular pit stops to take on liquid refreshment, from a wide range of waterholes throughout the borough. Malcolm's report is attached to the official minutes, but is too long to include in the Minutes document.

Malcolm ended his dissertation by announcing that he will not be standing in the forthcoming election, and therefore this is his last meeting with us. He suggested that a visit to a nearby watering hole may be a suitable way to bid us all farewell.

Val Hughes proposed a vote of thanks to Malcolm, for all the work he has done for Hurworth Parish. This was endorsed by all present.

Questionnaire

Ken Pattison and the Clerk had recently attended a course for Parish Councillors, and had taken part in a questionnaire. It was thought appropriate to use a copy of this questionnaire to gauge the councillors feelings about the progress the council had made in the last four years.

The three questions, which required a 1 to 5 rating were:-

1. How outward looking or responsive is your council?
2. How well equipped is your council for the job of leading your community?
3. How well equipped is your council at working in partnership with others?

At Cllr Gibson's suggestion, the responses will be delivered to the Clerks Office, when councillors have had time to reflect on the questions.

The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking all present, for their attendance.