

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th April 2013 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending

Ken Pattison (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes,
Tony Winnett, John Howard, Chris Pratt, Tony Needham

Also present, Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Andy Walker (Northern
Echo reporter).

221 Apologies for absence:-

Norma Kyle (Unwell). Ian Holme (Work) Jill Russell was absent.

222. Declarations of Interest:-

Tony Winnett, (personal interest in (Hurworth Community Association).

223. Minutes of the Meeting dated 7th March 2013,

The minutes of the Meeting, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and
signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Chris
Pratt, and seconded by Tony Winnett.

224. Matters Arising

- a. Eurojag. Tony Winnett report that he had visited Eurojag; the plan to move
has broken down, and the company is again looking for alternative
premises outside Darlington. They were very helpful, and did explain that
because of the lack of space, the transporters cannot enter their premises.
This had also been discussed at the PACT Meeting. They pointed out that
not all of the damage to the roadside verges was caused by their staff or
vehicles, as part was inflicted by Northern Electric when they were king
there..
- b. A letter has been sent to Garden House Farm, and to DBC about the
damage to the verges opposite the farm entrance. No reply has been
received. Tony Needham offered to talk further with DBC.
- c. Malcolm Thompson was not available to attend this meeting, and another
date will be arranged. **Action Clerk.**

225. Chairman's Address

- a. The Chairman announced that John Howard has stood down from his
assignment with Trees and with the Allotments. The meeting assigned the
Trees to Peter Foster, and Jean Peacock offered to take the post on the
Allotment Committee.
- b. The Annual Assembly will be held on 2nd May starting at 7:00pm.
Notices will be displayed inviting the public. This will be followed by the
Annual Meeting.
- c. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair should be sent to the Clerk, before
30th April, having obtained the consent of the councillor being nominated.
In the event of more than one candidate, there will be a hidden ballot.
- d. Gordon Fletcher was re-appointed as the Internal Auditor, proposed by
Chris Pratt and Seconded by Tony Winnett. All approved.

- e. BDO were re-appointed as the council's external auditors. Proposed by Jeff Kemp and Seconded by Jean Peacock.
- f. The Chair reported that the work to replace the water pipes in Hurworth Grange has been completed, with minimal disturbance, and an outside pipe will now be replaced from the building to the main street water supply. The project is within budget.

226. Public Participation

There were no topics raised by the public.

227. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment having already been circulated to all councillors, was approved for payment, viz:

Payment of Accounts			Mar-13
Name	Cheque No	Details	Amount
Outdoor Ambitions	102279	First Aid Course & Photocopying	480.00
Sue Webster	102153	March salary	422.50
P.D Allan	102154	March salary	561.24
Inland Revenue	102155	PAYE	57.20
Northumbrian Water	102156	Allotment water	17.16
HCA	102157	First Aid Course & Photocopying	154.20
HCA	102158	Grange allotments water 8 months	64.00
P.D Allan	102159	General expenses - 2 months	103.51
Skipbridge Signs	102280	Allotment signs	60.00
Hurworth Country Fair	102282	Country Fair 2012	500.00
H.C.A.	102283	Grange pipes project	360.00
Craig Layfield	102284	Grange pipes project	4984.71
H.C.A.	102285	Grange pipes project	280.00
Hurworth Methodist Church	102286	PACT Meeting rent	30.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk	DD	Comms	12.43

228. Financial Reports

The Financial Report, having been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, was accepted, with no questions.

229. Matters of Interest

a. First Aid Course. Tony Winnett reported that the course had been a great success. He praised Jill Russell for making the arrangements. It was attended by 11 persons, one was unable to attend, at the last minute. Tony said that we should consider holding another course in the future.

b. Priory Hurworth House School. Jeff Kemp reported that he attended the meeting with Joe Kelley and the Clerk. Report is added as an addendum to these Minutes. Two students have been removed from the school, to a more appropriate facility, and this had eased recent problems. All students are assessed prior to entry, and re-assessed during their attendance at the school. Occasionally uncontrollable, or young persons with particularly difficult problems are re-assigned to more appropriate facilities. The school accepted that they encounter problems from time to time, but they have established

procedures to handle these situations, and they are continuing to make the premises more secure.

It has been agreed that similar meetings will be arranged every term, and that there will be a free exchange of views.

The school has had some notable achievements, and Jeff reported that he was satisfied that the staff were working hard to contain difficulties and to fully co-operate with the residents and the council.

Joe Kelley added that there are now 21 students attending the school and there would be a further 9, to complete their compliment of thirty.

It was suggested that the council should write to all residents in the immediate area of the school, giving a brief update of this meeting. **Action Clerk and Jeff Kemp.**

- c. The Chair reported that we have received a formal complaint regarding Data Protection, and have been advised that we will be receiving a formal complaint regarding FoI. Both are being addressed, and the council is confident, based on advice received, that we will be cleared on both issues.
- d. Hurworth Scouts have requested permission to hold their annual Strawberry Fair on the Village Green. This was immediately approved. **Clerk to respond.**
- e. Hurworth Primary School had sent a letter inviting councillors to attend their school fete in March. This letter, due to communication issues, did not get circulated to all councillors, and hence the response was minimal. It was agreed that the **Clerk will send a letter** of apology.

230. Flood Problems

Ken Pattison reported as follows:-

There has been a little progress, but the major work requires finance. Bill Westland is looking for funding within DBC.

Tony Needham has had a discussion with David Cuthbertson of Rockliffe Estate who recommended Bill Addison who might help. KP, TN and BA walked the flood problem area, and having studied the problems, concurred that N. Water are applying the correct remedy.

The flooding at Blind Lane appears to be caused by three drainage pipes converging at a manhole near the monument, and these run into a single nine inch pipe, which clearly cannot cope.

A possible course of action is to try to identify where the land drains are in the Glebe, as recommended by BA, and to clear them of any blockages, and then try and find where they go to. This would be based on an assessment of land belonging to both Benfield and HPC. Could take about a day, approx. cost £400.

There is a serious question of who is liable for the cost of drainage work which may be required. It could be the landowners, DBC, N. Water or HPC. Ken warned that HPC may be called upon to make a contribution to the long term solution.

David Davies' problems have been resolved by NW.

Bill Westland has looked at the problem with the rats, and believes this was a temporary situation. Benfield have installed a soakaway ditch.

We are still waiting for a feedback from DBC regarding putting a camera down the drain at Blind Lane, near Mr Eyles' property, and using dye to trace the water flow.

Ken stressed that he feels that HPC has a responsibility to the residents in finding and implementing a long term solution to the flooding risks.

231 Playground

Val Hughes has been investigating suitable equipment to be installed in the Grange playground. Footprint is important, as there is limited space. We have

arranged for the tree stump to be ground down to make room for a new amenity.

It was agreed that Val has carte blanche, within the £4000 budget, to proceed with the selection and installation of the new equipment.

232 Land

Ken Pattison reported as follows:-

- a. The custodianship of the Village Green has been put on notice on the DBC web site and should be clear by May.
- b. The land at Friars Pardon has been concluded.
- c. Grange Estate. The contracts are ready for exchange. A Restrictive Covenant has been agreed, and HPC will pay a peppercorn price to acquire this land from Shepherds.
- d. Stephen Allison, DBC, is actioning as our lawyer on all these cases.
- e. Coronation Corner. HPC sold this land to Northumbrian Water, only retaining a small strip, as a ransom strip. The toilet block belongs to DBC. We will continue to explore the possibilities of developing the triangular section near the river. **Action KP to confirm status.**

233 PACT

Ian Holme chaired the PACT Meeting and reported as follows:-

Police And Communities Together : Hurworth

Date:28/3/13

Location:Hurworth Methodist Church

AGENDA

1: Attendees: Sgt Louise Guest

PC Kevin Salter (Traffic)

PC Paul Foley

Chair: Ian Holme

11 members of the public

Apologies: PCSO John Angus (holiday)

2: Police Report:

- 1 Burglary (jewellery from Hurworth Moor Farm)
- 2 Burglary other, shed thefts, 2 cycles stolen, 1 person detained
- 1 Criminal damage , garage door on Linden drive
- 2 Thefts, 1 brass sprinkler connectors
 - 1 car gear knob (Evans Halshaw)
- 2 Asbo, 1 Elmfield rd; youths annoying dog through fence
- 1 rowdy school children

3: Speedwatch: PCSO J Angus to look at re-commencement with the imminent arrival of spring!

A resident requested that the area around the Comet Public House be targeted due to concerns of the number of speeding vehicles in the vicinity.

4: Open Discussion: A resident raised concern for the safety of children using push-scooters on pavements where they may come into conflict with vehicles emerging unsighted from driveways.

The police, now aware of the concern, can raise it during their regular meetings with children at the village schools.

The Police updated the meeting on their highly successful Action Day at the secondary school.

Following their intervention, 9 drivers faced the Police and the children and were made to account for their irresponsible parking. The Police reported an excellent relationship with the school and were very complimentary about the way the children engaged on the day.

The scheme is to become self-reporting, with their contact being PCSO John Angus.

The possibility of rolling this scheme out to include the Primary School was discussed and the Police will follow up.

It was reported that DBC are now actively considering 20mph zones in the vicinity of the schools. However, the yellow lining previously discussed remains some time away, with white lining in the meantime now apparently unlikely. The reasons for this were unclear, therefore the Parish Council will follow up, given the support of the Police on this important safety issue.

5: PACT Priorities: Traffic/parking issues remain the priorities

6: Next Meeting: 6.30pm on the 25/4/13 at Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

234 Strait Lane parking issues

Norma Kyle was due to report on her discussions with the residents, and make suggestions on how the council should proceed. However as Norma was not present there was nothing to report.

We have received a letter from Lynn Wylie, who has had her car damaged, while parked opposite her house, in this area.

235. Monument on the Green

Tony Winnett proposed putting up a monument on the Village Green, to mark the spot where 1500 residents were laid to rest during the plague in 1665.

Tony showed pictures of three possible stones, with appropriate wording, and has obtained competitive pricing.

It was agreed that the project should go ahead, based on a quotation for £630.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Tony will prepare an article for the newsletter, describing the proposed project, and inviting comment from residents. **Action Clerk and TW. Also Clerk to send Letter of Intent to the chosen supplier.**

236. Restoration of the Victorian Pond in Hurworth Grange grounds

Ken Pattison informed the meeting that FOTC were considering re-creating the Victorian pond in Natre Reserve. We requested agreement in principle that HPC would apply for a grant of circa £10000 – £20000, if they decided to pursue this project.

The meeting agreed – all in favour.

237. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- A new 30mph sign has been erected on Roundhill Road.
- A new concrete bollard has been erected at the Spar corner.
- The Secondary School has initiated a student panel to reprimand parents who illegally park. The school is also pursuing a request for a 20mph limit.
- DBC state that the zig zag signs are not effective, and will not be re-painting them. We are currently 25th on their list for signage work.

- The signs have not been re-placed on Neasham Road near Skipbridge. **TN to follow up.**
- DBC has rejected our request for a brown sign to highlight the Grange. We are pressing our case. **Clerk is pursuing.**
- Tony has obtained three quotations for the work to be done on the internal roads on the Village Green. He has decided upon the most suitable contractor, and the meeting urged him to place the order and get the work done. **Action Clerk and TN.**

238. All Saints Church Youth Club

Val Hughes reported that we have received a letter from the Youth Leader requesting we postpone this discussion for one month. It will be raised again later.

239. Speed Monitoring

- We are chasing Andy Casey at DBC to get the posts installed. His department has been held up due to the landslip disaster at Carberry.
- We have received a letter from a resident suggesting that the monitors should be placed in an alternative position on Roundhill Road, so that traffic in both directions can be monitored. This suggestion has merit, and after discussion, it was decided that rather than install a second post, or purchase another monitor, the monitor could be turned around from time to time. The supplier has confirmed that this is entirely feasible. We will thank the resident for his suggestion.
- Neasham Council still had an interest in obtaining a speed unit. They should contact KP if they want to join our deal. **Clerk to follow up.**

240. Allotments

It was decided the Allotment Committee should comprise 2 representatives of the council, one representative from the Grange allotments, and two representatives from Strait Lane allotments. The Clerk should attend. Alternate chairing of the meeting by the two HPC reps, these being Norma Kyle and Jean Peacock. The Clerk to co-ordinate quarterly meetings with the allotment representatives. The role of the council is as a listener, and suggestions will be referred to the HCP formally.

It was confirmed that the allotment holders will elect their own representatives. **Clerk to inform all allotment holders.**

There has been a request for an earth toilet at Strait Lane. The meeting requires full details of the requirement, with specific information regarding upkeep and maintenance. HPC are sympathetic to this request, which will cost circa £500, but need to ensure that the allotment holders will manage the facility. We also need to know where it will be sited.

241. Trees

There has been a complaint from two residents on the Green about the perceived intention of the HPC to plant fruit trees on the Green and in front of their houses. This occurred from a misunderstanding at visit by John Howard to the resident. HPC has not passed any plan to plant trees on the Green other than infill replacements. Any other planting would only take place after appropriate discussion.

Cllr Howard stated that he had not spent any of his budget, and that his efforts to pursue a proactive tree policy had been continuously impeded by other councillors interfering and blocking his ideas. He has resigned from the Tree responsibility due to frustration. At this point Cllr Howard left the meeting.

Peter Foster submitted a quotation to grind down 26 tree stumps. This was accepted. Also he agreed to arrange for required maintenance on the Green and Friars Pardon to be carried out immediately.

242. Planning Applications

Insert report

- Newbus Grange Caravan Park. Jeff Kemp pointed out that the caravans were now applying to remain on site for the full 12 months, and would in effect, become residents. He questioned whether the caravan owners will now be asked to pay rates, like all other residents. This is a matter for DBC, but the point will need to be clarified. The same applies to the ECO Park.
- There is an application for three new gypsy caravan to stand on a Roundhill Road property. We had been lead to believe that this would not happen, as the owner did not wish to develop the site. The council have grave concern about the bad entrance situation; a woman was knocked down and killed very near this entrance.

243. Newsletter

Tony Winnett said that all new articles must reach him within seven days, as he needs to co-ordinate distribution with HCA.

He is expecting articles about Priory School, Hurworth Country Fair and a feature article on an elderly lady resident. Other articles will be welcomed.

244. Association Reports

Peter Foster has had an operation for a hip replacement, and had been unable to attend the DALC meeting.

The Airport meeting was postponed.

245. Any Other Business

- a. It was agreed that Tony Winnett will continue to be the council representative on CPRE.

The meeting ended at 9:50 pm.