

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 2nd October 2014 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Tony Needham. Val Hughes, Tony Winnett, Ian Holme, Jeff Kemp, Margaret Williams

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Alexa (Northern Echo), and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

76. Apologies for Absence

Martin Swainston (Business), Ken Pattison (Business association), Chris Pratt (Family commitment in USA), Norma Kyle (Unavoidable delay through business).

77. The Chairman, Tony Winnett reiterated the new regulations for the lay out of the room to enable filming or recording of the meeting.

78 PACT Meeting

The PACT Meeting was chaired by Ian Holme.

John Angus apologised that nobody from the police attended the September meeting, when he was on holiday.

Crime Reports from the three months, July to 30th September 2014.

There were 6 crimes during this period:-

Burglaries	None
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Burglaries other	Four
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Items were stolen from Hurworth Grange, with related crimes involving motor vehicles. The offender had been identified and is now back in custody, having escaped from prison in July.

Vehicle theft	None
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Vehicle other	Two (Sat- navs stolen; diesel syphoned from vehicle at Comet Inn)
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Violent crimes	None
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Antisocial behaviour	Two (One on the Green and one in Emerson Road)
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SpeedWatch	<p>Several checks were carried out during this period, including a number of sessions on Westfield Drive. Three drivers were clocked at speeds over 30mph on Westfield Drive. It was established that all three were going to the Primary School.</p> <p>It was also noted that there were instances of illegal parking around the corner area opposite the Priory School. There are no lines at this point, but the congestion could cause problems.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the parish, three speeding tickets have been given. Radar surveillance will continue every week, often daily, in support of the village speed monitors.</p>
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Joe Kelley reported that he had held a meeting with Priory School, and that they are considering routing some of the drop-off traffic via the front entrance. This is

difficult as there is no secure passage way from the front car park to the actual school premises at the rear.

Teachers and staff are now using the front car park, which will reduce the traffic flow on Westfield Drive.

PC Paul Foley will be returning to the parish on 7th October.

The new double yellow lines are in effect, but are also being abused. Several councillors are drawing attention to offenders. **Action Clerk to contact the Traffic Warden Dept. to arrange for periodical checks and penalising offenders.**

PACT Priorities: - Traffic control and parking issues.

79. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

Val Hughes – HCA

80. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster, Seconded by Jeff Kemp,

81. Matters Arising,

All the Action Items from the last meeting have been fulfilled, and will be reported on within this meeting.

Ken Pattison requested that the following comment be recorded under this heading:-

There is no progress on moving speed monitors as we are waiting for Foster's to trim back the trees on Croft Rd, then we can tackle re-siting all at once. Martin Harrison has been lined up for 5 weeks and we have postponed two agreed dates for the action due to the above. **Action: Peter Foster to address and expedite this work please.**

82. Public Participation

The Chair welcomed Lorraine Tostevin, who intends standing as the Conservative candidate for Hurworth Ward at the next election.

There were no items raised by the public.

83 Accounts for Payment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bob Iles	102472	Sept Salary	244.50
Inland Revenue	102473	PAYE	176.60
P. D. Allan	102474	Sept Salary	502.84
Eden Landscapes	102475	Open spaces work	120.00
DBC Legal	102476	HCA new lease	250.00
B. Green	102477	Allotment exs	40.00
Eden Landscapes	102478	Open spaces - Eden Close	70.00
Skipbridge Signs	102479	Signage	97.00
Northumbrian Water	102480	Allotment exs	103.06
Peter Foster	102481	Travelling exs	36.60
Peter Allan	102482	Admin expenses	39.98
Guy Foster	102483	Tree work 2 sites	521.00
Talk Talk			15.47
Talk Talk			18.60
Bank charges			2.30
Total			2237.95

83. Financial Report

The Financial Report for the six months to 30th September 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

The Report is attached as an addendum to these Minutes.

84. Matters of Interest and Correspondence

There were no items raised by the Chair.

Joe Kelley clarified the position with regard to changes in Ward boundaries. It is only intended to have two elections if the parish council feel that the changes have impacted their province. It thought this is unlikely in the case of Hurworth as the only section affected is Blackwell, and the council appear satisfied that the proposed change is sensible and acceptable; particularly if the A66 is used as the boundary line.

85. Allotment Report – Margaret Williams

An Allotment Committee Meeting was held on 10th September, which was well attended by both the committee and several allotment tenants. The following items were discussed:-

- All plots are occupied, and there is a Waiting List at both Strait Lane and the Grange.
- Litter bins and dog litter bins are being requested from DBC for both sites
- A new notice board is being installed at Strait Lane.
- The water will be turned off at both sites on 31st October.
- A skip has been ordered for Strait Lane on the weekend of 31st October.
- Some allotment holders expressed the view that the Hurworth Country Fair should be brought forward as their crops were in decline by 20th September. August Bank Holiday weekend was suggested.
- It was recommended that the annual rent should remain at £15; the costs are within budget for the current year.

There has been a problem with the roadway into Strait Lane being blocked. It is thought that this may have been initiated because of dog owners using a neighbour's skip for dropping dog litter packages, rather than using the bin on Strait Lane. Ian Holme agreed to investigate this.

86. New Projects

- a. Val Hughes reported that she has obtained two more quotations for the exercise equipment. The quotation from Fresh Air Fitness is the most competitive and also the most suitable. The cost is £2540, delivered and installed. It was unanimously agreed that the **Clerk should now order the equipment and arrange installation.**
- b. Ken Pattison had sent a report as follows:- **Village beautification;** we are waiting for Rob George and Phil Roxby of DBC Countryside to come to Hurworth and discuss the project

87. Tree Report – Peter Foster

Peter Foster reported that all the outstanding work has been completed, apart from the Croft Road tree trimming. He confirmed this will be attended to within the next few days in consultation with Ken Pattison.

- Goblins Wood tree has been attended to; he urges that this area should remain a natural copse and should not have flowers planted within the area.
- The trees at 74 Woodlands Way have been removed. The residents have expressed their satisfaction
- The tree survey of Hurworth Grange has been completed and submitted to the Clerk.
- There are a lot of trees around the green which require suckers removing to enhance the look of the trees and to ensure their good health. The council requested Peter Foster to arrange for this work to be done.
- The tree on Roundhill Road is still a problem and a potential danger. It was agreed that HPC will cut it back to prevent any catastrophe.

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr Pattison had held a meeting with the Head of Planning and discussed the situation of TPO's in Hurworth and the problems surrounding responding to the tree upkeep and public safety.

It was agreed that HPC will submit a Planning Application to cover all the trees in the parish requesting permission to monitor and address the work required to keep all then trees in good condition and remove dangerous branches and trees if necessary. To get this agreed HPC require to have a current and continuously updated Tree Survey for the whole parish. At present we have a survey for the Green and also Hurworth Grange. The Clerk requested permission to have a survey made of all the remaining trees, and a quoted cost of circa £500. **The council agreed and this will now be actioned.**

88. Hogweed

Ken Pattison requested that the following comments be recorded:-

‘Following the last meeting, the next action is for the Clerk to approach interested parties for monetary support’.

The Chair reported that he and the Clerk have discussed this and made a provisional plan to approach three possible sources of funding. Peter Foster volunteered to approach the owners of Newbus Grange Leisure Park to discuss the proposition.

The Clerk reported that he has requested the Darlington Association of Parish Councils to place this on their next agenda, and also to invite John Musham to address their meeting. This has been agreed.

89. Highways Report – Tony Needham

Tony said that there was nothing to report on the highways.

However, he expressed serious concern about the state of Pathway 1. He has recently walked this pathway, which is a registered DBC Right of Way. The second stile has been removed and is now gated with barb wire attached, thereby preventing access. 24 loads of rubble have been dumped on the second field which two years ago was a fine example of a meadow, perhaps one of the most attractive in the northern area. It is now ruined.

DBC Countryside have been requested several times during the last two years to inspect and take action to preserve this pathway, to no avail. Action is now urgently required.

Actions to be taken:-

1. Peter Foster will ascertain who owns the land
2. The Northern Echo will visit the site on Monday, 6th October, weather permitting, with photographers and make a press release
3. The council's concern will, again, be reported to DBC with a strong request for action. Failing a response, this will be escalated to Bill Dixon and the Major.
4. Stile 2 should be replaced immediately
5. Overtures should be made to outside groups such as Rural England and the Ramblers Associations. Group walking groups must be encouraged.

Ian Holme requested that the fence bordering Manorfield should be repaired. **Action Clerk.**

90. Association Reports

Peter Foster and Jeff Kemp reported that there have been no meetings in this period.

91. Flood Report

Ken Pattison requested that the following comments be recorded:-

‘There has been some progress and this is a major achievement. NW have finally agreed to the only solution to hopefully solve the Glebe flooding problem.

Tony Needham and I said months ago that tapping off the surface water into NW drains was the only way to solve the problem and we have been fighting for that ever since. We were able to hint at this at the last PC meeting. Now it has been formally released.

This does not resolve the flooding in the Glebe back lane but it should help by minimising the flow. Whether or not this particular problem is still pursued is down to the residents off West End.

Tony and I have offered to meet them to discuss DBC's flat refusal to accept any responsibility. We are still waiting to hear from them'.

Joe Kelley comments that the solution will be tested when the next flood occurs, and he appeared unconvinced that this would satisfy all the residents. However he submitted no further suggestions.

92. Any Other Business – non financial

Val Hughes drew attention to the CDALC course schedules for 10th November; she and the Chairman are attending and urged other councillors to join them.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:33pm