

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 3rd April 2014 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Margaret Williams, Ken Pattison. Norma Kyle, Chris Pratt, Tony Needham.

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Martin Swainston, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

171. Apologies for Absence

Val Hughes (Holiday), Jeff Kemp (Sickness), Ian Holme (Personal), John Howard (Business)

172. PACT Meeting

John Angus made the following report:-

Police Report:-

There have been 5 crimes in the March period, viz:

4 Burglaries

- Emerson Road – shed
- Grange Avenue – shed
- Hurworth Road –shed
- Manor Road – garage

Motor vehicles – none

Theft from motor vehicles – one attempt but interrupted

Criminal Damage – none

Violent Crime – none

Anti-Social Behaviour – one – Blackwell Grange Golf Club – bike on golf course

Speeding

- Speedwatch – 56 vehicles passed, none were speeding
- New hand held speed check devices – 31 checked, 5 were speeding, one of which has been fined

Visual Audit – Inspected Grange Estate, and recorded that there are a lot of pot holes in the road. This has been reported to DBC.

Farm Watch 5 suspicious events noted, no charges.

A letter has been received from a resident, who is a member of the Neighbourhood Watch, at Church View Flats, reporting suspicious behaviour within the grounds, and also commenting on the thefts from Emerson Road. John Angus has visited the resident.

PC Foley gave a short talk on the new hand held speeding device, and advised that there will be regular checks made in the parish, and formal charges will be made for offenders.

The PACT priorities are Speeding and Parking within the parish.

173. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

174. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Ken Pattison Seconded by Jean Peacock.

175. Matters Arising,

- a. Bank Bond – the bond has now been completed and the funds have been transferred to Santander for one year.
- b. Sue Williams from Hurworth Place offered the council the use of ten jackets, with ‘Flood Alert’ lettering on the backs. The council were pleased to accept this offer, and will not need to purchase any jackets.

176. Public Participation

None

177. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of payments with details had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. The council agreed the schedule and the cheques were approved and signed.

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>Mar-14</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
J. Kemp	102406	Trav Exs	45.75
CDALC	102407	Training Fol and Data Protection	135.00
Bob Iles	102408	Litter picket clothing	44.99
Fosters Trees	102409	tree work	485.00
NDC Security systems	102410	Camera installed at Grange allotments	474.00
P.D .Allan	102411	Salary March	564.24
Bob Iles	102412	Salary March	244.50
Inland Revenue	102413	PAYE	115.20
Hurworth Country Fair 2014	102414	Annual Fair	500.00
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	£18.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	£13.07
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	£4.60
BT Comms	DD	Communications	£68.40
K. Pattison	102415	Travelling Expenses	£65.88
P.D. Allan	102416	Admin expenses	£22.14
Northumbrian Water	102407	Northumbrian Water	£9.67
Total			2811.04

The following two invoices were accepted by the council for immediate payment, as at 31st March 2014.

Fosters – supplying and planting ten new trees, as previously agreed by the council £670.00. The trees have been planted as follows:-

3 on the Green

3 in Friars Pardon

2 in the Grange

2 in Globlin’s Wood

All are direct replacements for trees which have been removed.

MT Print – March 2014 Newsletter £561.00

178. Financial Report

1. The Financial Report for the 12 months to 31st March 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

Please see addendum with Report details

179. Year End Planning

- a. The Internal Auditor will be collecting the books of account, etc on 17th April.
- b. BDO have sent the formal audit papers, and they will do their audit on 7th June. Various notices will be displayed on the notice boards inviting residents to inspect the books and accounts.
- c. The next meeting is the AGM and Annual Assembly. The Clerk distributed lists and requested that suggestions and proposals for Chair, Vice Chair and the Responsibility offices be filled in by councillors and returned to the office before the end of April.

180. Matters of Interest

- a. A letter has been received from a resident of Westfield Drive, commending the work done on the hedgerow, but reporting that there are instances of fly tipping by residents of Mowbray Drive, putting garden waste over their fences. This includes two heavy concrete slabs. **Action Clerk** to write to all residents in this location drawing their attention to the problem, and requesting they correct the situation.
- b. Durham Brass Band Association has requested a donation. The council declined as it is not Hurworth Parish oriented.
- c. A letter has been received from the Hurworth Friendship Group thanking the council for their donation.
- d. A letter has been received from a resident of Church View drawing attention to the parking congestion outside the Church View houses, and their concern about drivers having to mount the pavement to get their vehicles out. The council expressed their sympathy, and will draw the attention of the police to see if anything can be done to ease the problem. A notice on the grass area did not seem beneficial, as there is no easy solution.
- e. The Hurworth scouts have requested permission to use the Green for their annual Strawberry Fair. This was granted.
- f. A letter has been received from the Model Engineers expressing considerable concern about the oak tree which is near the model railway circuit within the Grange. **The Clerk** will draft a letter explaining the current situation.
- g. The Chair gave a report about the course attended by three councillors and the Clerk. The course covered the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act, in some detail. The course was most instructive, and a meeting was arranged with the Course Trainer at Durham County Hall, to discuss the specific problems which have **faced** HPC. Based on the advice received, the council will respond to the outstanding FoI requests and report back to the ICO.
- h. A letter **has** been received from the Darlington Neighbourhood Watch detailing the work they are doing in the Darlington Borough. There are 32 Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in Hurworth and 114 members. The letter requests an award, as they do not receive funding from any government source, and the Police have had to cut back on their contributions. The council awarded an award of £200, proposed by Tony Winnett and Seconded by Peter Foster, passed unanimously.
- i. The Clerk reported that he and Ken Pattison have reviewed and drafted a revised Lease for the HCA. The details will now be passed to Stephen Allison at DBC for review and probable final drafting. The council agreed to the legal costs which will be incurred.

181. Planning report

Jeff Kemp was unfortunately unwell, and could not attend the meeting. Therefore there was no official report. Cllr Kemp has requested a postponement on two new applications in order for the Council to properly inspect them.

The two latest applications are:-

1. Hurworth Comprehensive School – erection of single storey extension to front elevation
2. Green Lane Farm- Change of use to six log cabins on Neasham Road, Hurworth Moor.

It was noted that the application to build a new house behind the main building at 7 Croft Road has been rejected.

182. Highways Report

Tony Needham reported:-

1. Mr Andrew Casey of DBC has issued a consultation document in respect of new parking restrictions in Hurworth. This includes the introduction of double yellow lines in several locations, viz:-
 - At the corners and lead in roads at the Spar corner.
 - Outside the Comprehensive School
 - Opposite Oxford Garage at Hurworth Place.

The council has a variety of views and comments on these changes, and it was agreed that the council will compose a letter to DBC outlining their views and suggested modifications to the proposed plan. **Action Tony Needham.**

2. StreetScene has promised to install the new litter bin at the Spar shop.
3. StreetScene has been asked to clear up the pathway around the Strait Lane allotments.
Action Clerk to follow up.
4. DBC has arranged through Hurworth [Grange](#), to have their lunch break there once a week, so they can stay in the location.
5. The 'white lady' traffic island on Roundhill Road has again been damaged.
6. The traffic island near Croft News has also been damaged.
7. A survey of the potholes in the parish has highlighted the poor state of the roads.

183. Speed Control Units

Ken Pattison was pleased to report that the three units are now operational. The fourth post still requires the connection clamps and electrical fittings, and Cllr Pattison is following this through. Some small extra cost may be incurred, but the project will still be under budget. **Action Ken Pattison.**

The trees on Croft Road need pruning to allow for the height of the units; Peter Foster will be arranging this very soon. **Action Peter Foster.**

Many favourable comments had been received since the units became operational.

It was further pointed out that the units could provide a large amount of information regarding traffic flow which would be fed to the police to assist them in the timing of the use of their new punitive hand held speed guns. It was felt that the combination of the two would provide the optimum combination to reduce speeding in the village.

184 Flood Action Report

It has been discovered by a resident that the tarmac placed on Glebe Lane, and thought to be one of the causes of the flooding at West End, had been required by DBC in order to facilitate a planning request. An eight page complaint was submitted to DBC regarding this as DBC have perpetually stated they have no responsibility for the lane. A meeting was held with the residents, parish councillors Needham and Pattison and borough councillor Joe Kelley. It was decided to await the response to the complaint, with a number of other discreet actions being identified. A time limit of two weeks was put in place to review matters.

185. Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported:-

1. Ten new trees have been planted in the areas agreed, to replace trees which have been removed.
2. The dangerous tree at Hurworth Grange, opposite the school has been removed.
3. The trees at LychGate have now been pruned back, and this project is complete.
4. Cllr Foster reported that a large laurel tree is partly damaged and is overhanging the playground in the Grange. This needs urgent attention. A quotation has been submitted for £570, and the council confirmed their acceptance to proceed with the work.
5. Some other work is needed where the branches of the oak tree were damaged when the beach tree fell down.
6. Peter Foster has planted some rodedendrum plants in the Grange, on a voluntary basis.

Cllr Foster was asked to leave the meeting, while a proposal was tabled by Cllr Pattison. Cllr Pattison proposed that the council should select a 'preferred service provider for tree work. This would speed up the response to issuing work orders and help the council to gain a commensurately lower rate. He also proposed that the HPC Procedures be modified to allow the Clerk, with the agreement of the Chairman to authorise work orders to the value of £1000, in respect of emergency tree work. For the moment this is in position temporarily but may be confirmed if proved useful. Quotations will still be sought from time to time, to ensure that the council is getting fair prices for the work undertaken.

Jean Peacock Seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

In view of the service given by Foster's Trees and the difficulty in achieving prompt responses from other arborists it was decided to invite Guy Foster of Foster's Trees for a discussion with the Chairman and the Clerk to investigate such a possibility.

Cllr Foster re-joined the meeting and was informed of the change in the procedure.

186. Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that an Allotment Committee Meeting had been held on 19th March 2014.

1. Allotment Occupancy and waiting List

- At Strait Lane, several plots have been released, and there was a Waiting List of nine at the year end. However, as plots were allocated, several people on the Waiting list changed their minds and decided to defer taking a plot. The result is that every new applicant as at 1st January 2014 has been given a plot, also all those who had requested an additional plot. Two new applications have been received since 1st January, and there is one plot presently available.
- All allotments rents for 2014 have been paid.
- The committee reported that the water has been turned on at both sites. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council will pay the costs of water for 2014.
- After discussion, the committee decided it was not necessary for a skip to be placed at Strait Lane. It was agreed that the majority of the 'refuse' should be converted into compost and used as fertiliser. A skip will be required in October, at the end of the season.
- It was reported that the pathway at the Lych Gate end has been improved with the spreading of bark, as agreed at the last meeting.
The inside paths require attention, and after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will arrange for two loads of bark will be delivered to Strait Lane (preferably on a Friday or Saturday). The committee members agreed to make arrangements for the bark to be distributed to improve the quality of the internal paths. **Action Peter Foster**
The external paths need attention. These are the responsibility of DBC, and the Clerk will contact StreetScene to arrange for them to tidy the area and to repair the pathways as needed. **Action Clerk.**
- The grass cutting at Strait Lane allotments was discussed, an allotment holder volunteered to cut the grass regularly. HPC will pay the cost of the petrol.

- The HPC shed has been damaged during the bad weather. This may need replacement with a wooden shed.

It was reported that the plots were currently in good order, and that work had started on many of the allotments. There were no 'complaints' to the assessed.

2. Allotment Requirements

- a. It was agreed that notices should be placed on the Allotment Notice Boards notifying all allotment holders of forthcoming meetings, and also display the Minutes of the meetings. **Action Clerk.**
The notice boards will require modifications to provide a covered, dry space to display these notices. **Margaret Williams** will investigate and arrangements will be made.
- b. Tony Sayers requested that a new litter bin is needed at the Grange allotments. Ground based, heavy unit is required, as the previous unit was destroyed by youths using the skateboard area. **Action Clerk**

3. Plans for the Future

Margaret Williams explained that the Parish Council had taken a decision not to proceed with the proposed development of an additional number of plots on the Priory School field which is situated above the Manorfield estate.

4. Allotment Association update

George Lawman updated the meeting with the progress made towards forming a Hurworth Allotment Association. Several Hurworth plot holders have become members of the National Association, and new plot holders will be approached, to outline the benefits. The committee decided that there is no benefit in the HPC being members of the National Association, and Margaret Williams agreed that the council annual subscription of £55 can be cancelled. **Action Clerk.**

- A new dog litter bin is required at Strait Lane, Lych Gate end, as the old one has been removed. **Action Clerk**
- The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, 2nd July at 7:15pm at the same venue.

187. Green area at Strait Lane.

The meeting discussed the dialogue from the last meeting when a resident of Strait Lane expressed concerns over the perceived DBC initiative to place tree logs on the grass area to prevent parking. The council expressed their sympathy for the position these residents find themselves in, but there is nothing it can do, as the land is owned and controlled by DBC.

The council was also reminded that in a previous meeting it had been decided that HPC did not wish to lose green areas of the village in order to encourage parking, particularly at a gateway to the village. Nevertheless there was a degree of sympathy for what superficially appears to be an insolvable problem.

188. Association Reports

Nothing to report.

189. Any Other Business (Non-financial)

Jean Peacock reported that a sign advertising the hire of a bouncy castle had been attached to a telegraph post. This is contrary to the law and is classed as 'Fly Posting', and the notice must be removed. Cllr Peacock said she will arrange it.

Jean Peacock has also received a complaint about a resident's neighbour keeping chickens in their garden. The council viewed this as a personal matter, and not a council function.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm