

Hurworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-
Tees, on Thursday 4th December 2014 starting at 7.00pm.**

Those present: Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Val Hughes, Tony Winnett, Margaret Williams, Norma Kyle, Chris Pratt, Ian Holme, Maureen Powles, Michelle Edwards

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

110. Apologies for Absence

John Howard (Business), Cllr Martin Swainston (DBC Meeting)

94. The Chairman, Tony Winnett opened the meeting by welcoming all the attenders, and making reference to the new the new regulations for filming or recording of the meeting.

111. PACT Meeting

The PACT Meeting was chaired by Ian Holme

John Angus gave the Police Report for the period from 6th November 2014 to 4th December 2014.

There were 3 crimes during this period:-

Burglaries	None
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Burglaries other	Three
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1. Garage in Sanderson Road
2. Vehicle theft (Attempted theft of box trailer)
3. Vehicle other (Woodlands Way – spare wheel)

Damage	One incident in The Chase
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Violent crimes	None
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Antisocial behaviour	Two
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1. Children playing in the Primary School car park at night
2. Report received from Sanderson Road, which turned out to be an abortive call (again).

SpeedWatch	John Angus reported that he was now in touch with David Alban, and that the speed monitor data will start to be transferred this month.
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Several radar checks performed, no prosecutions this month.

Chris Pratt asked about the police incident in Snipe Lane. John Angus explained that this involved people from Humberside, who were duly arrested.

The DBC traffic warden had been seen on the Spar Corner, although there are still cases of vehicles parking on the double yellow lines.

The police had held a 'carousel' at Hurworth Grange, which was attended by 13 residents. It was an excellent event, but sadly poorly attended because of a lack of advertising and publicity.

112. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

Val Hughes – HCA

113. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster and Seconded by Chris Pratt.

114. Matters Arising,

- a. Peter Burton sent his apologies that he could not attend this evening due to illness. He had worked with Martin Swainston to agree and gain permission to site a bench seat in remembrance of his father. The site on the railway bridge was deemed to be a risk hazard for children, and hence rejected. They had approached DBC to get permission to site the seat on the grass land opposite the Comet Inn and Croft Newsagents. DBC had informed them that this land does not belong to DBC, although they do cut the grass. HPC had spent a considerable time with the Land Registry and DBC to establish ownership of this strip of land, and it appears now that DBC have clarified their position.

This being the case, HPC have a duty of care for this area, and therefore have the power to grant permission to Mr Burton to erect the seat.

The council agreed to grant Mr Burton permission forthwith. **Action Clerk.**

115. Public Participation

The Chair welcomed Avril Rennard from Darlington Borough Council

Mrs Rennard addressed the meeting to inform everybody that she has taken over as the person in charge of Housing for the Hurworth Parish, and that all queries involving housing should be routed through her.

116. Council Resignations

The Chairman formally announced that Ken Pattison, Jeff Kemp and Tony Needham have resigned from the council as at 18th November. These resignations had been timed to avoid any possibility of incurring cost on a bye-election.

The Chairman praised the considerable work that all three of these councillors have done for Hurworth and the diligence they had demonstrated throughout their periods on the council. They were all exemplary councillors and have made substantial contributions to the community.

The council applauded their contribution.

The various options available to the council had been discussed at the Finance Meeting held on 26th November, and it was decided that three people should be co-opted onto the council for the period of five and half months leading upto the General election.

Two applications have been received and both candidates have been interviewed by the Chairman and another Cllr Margaret Williams. Both have accepted their invitation to join the parish council.

Michelle Edwards and Maureen Powles were formally invited to take their place on the council, by signing the Acceptance register and filling in their Declarations of Interests. The full council ratified this action.

Mrs Wilma Campbell has also shown an interest in joining the council, and has been interviewed by the Chairman and Cllr Hughes. Mrs Campbell is on holiday in Spain at this time, but the council agreed to invite her to join Hurworth Parish Council, and she will be asked to sign the Acceptance Register later this month, when she returns from holiday.

Action Clerk

117. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was formally approved.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nattress	102500	Flowers (HS)	25.00
A.C.Metals	102501	Skip hire for Strait Lane allotments	216.00
David Parker	102502	Open spaces work; Westfield Drive & Memorial	75.00
Fosters	102503	Tree work, 3 invoices as per PC agreement	1620.00
Tony Winnett	102504	Travelling Expenses	17.08
CDALC	102505	Training course	54.00
Tony Winnett	102506	Travelling Expenses	20.74
Viking	102507	Files	35.99
P.D.Allan	102508	November salary	502.64
Bob Iles	102509	November salary	244.50
Inland revenue	102510	PAYE November	176.80
P.D.Allan	102511	Admin expenses per Claim form	56.03
HCA	102512	Photocopying Finance Meeting	22.00
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	12.69
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
Total			3083.07

Three invoices have been received from Fosters dated December, which are for work previously agreed by the council, this includes the Tree survey for the rest of the parish. Peter Foster will address this subject in his report. The council agreed that these invoices will be paid forthwith. **Action Clerk** (they will appear on the December Schedule at the next meeting).

118. Financial report

1. The Financial Report for the six months to 30th November 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.
2. The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on 26th November have been circulated to all existing councillors as at that date. The Clerk gave a precis of the content of the folder which was presented at the Finance Meeting, and interpreted the significant figures.

The Chairman asked the full council to adopt the recommendations made at the Finance Meeting, and this was concluded unanimously.

It was agreed that the Clerk will provide the new councillors with a copy of the Finance Meeting hand out; and a narrative of the decisions, and forward forecasts should be circulated to all councillors. **Action Clerk**

The Precept for the year 2015-16 was reviewed as follows:-

- The amount budgeted in 2014 for Legal expenses to resolve Freedom of Information difficulties, amounting to £3,500 had not been required and therefore must be credited back.
- It must be assumed that DBC will not be reimbursing HPC for the Litter Picker wages from next year onwards. The council had agreed that this service should continue, and therefore a cost of £3,800 is required to pay for this service.
- DBC has informed HPC that we will have to meet approximately half the costs for the election in May 2015. Their estimate is £2400.

Hence the additional costs which need to be absorbed are as follows:-

$$\text{£3800} + \text{£2400} - \text{£3500} = \text{£2700}$$

The council have sufficient funds to absorb part of this, so it was agreed that an increase in the Precept of 2.5 percent, which will raise approx. £1020, should be put forward to DBC. **The full council agreed this unanimously.**

119. Matters of Interest and Correspondence

a. Quality Parish Council status

NALC has now completed their redrafting of the terms and conditions of attaining QPC status. There are three classes, and the council agreed that we should apply for the highest level which is Gold.

The cost will be Registration in December of £50, and a further £150 with the completed application. **Action Clerk**

120. Planning Applications

Jean Peacock reported:-

There were four new applications in November. These have been reviewed by Margaret Williams and Jean Peacock, and they recommend 'No Comment' on all of them.

There has been a significant move forward on the Croft House development. It appears that the builders have now conformed to 14 of the application conditions, and will wish to move forward.

There are still objections from a few residents of Hurworth Place, mainly regarding preserving the building of Croft House, however nobody appears to have come forward with an offer to buy it.

121. Highways Report

There was no formal Highways Report.

- Jean Peacock reported that the road in Belgrave Terrace has been repaired and also the pavements.

Tony Winnett reported progress with some of the pathways:-

- Malcolm Thompson (DBC Countryside) has informed us that the Agreement for the permissive RoW around Middlesbrough F.C. field has been signed by all parties. Some work to construct steps and improve the walkway will start very soon.
- The new stile has not yet been installed on Pathway One. However, the owner, who has been away, promises that this work along with removing the barbed wire will be completed this month.

- Work on the Darlington to Hurworth has been delayed due to DBC waiting for permission to run the pathway under the A66 underpass.

122. Tree Report

- Peter Foster reported that all the trees which had been identified in the Hurworth Grange tree Survey have now been attended to.
- The tree on Roundhill road which had been deemed as a danger to traffic, has been trimmed back.
- The tree which was overgrown with ivy has been attended to, and the ivy removed.
- The Tree Survey for the remainder of the villages has now been completed and was handed to the Clerk. The clerk will send copies to all councillors.

Action Clerk.

Most of the trees inspected are reported to be in good condition, although one or two should have some attention.

All the new small trees which have been planted during the year have taken well and are in good health.

Margaret Williams asked if there is a map of the trees in the Grange. Peter Foster and the Clerk will try to find one, and provide it. The trees are numbered already.

Ian Holme thanked Peter Foster for all the work he has done to bring the trees up to such a high standard. It is a good job done, and will stand the parish in a sound position for the coming years.

123. Allotment Report

Margaret Williams reported on the Allotment AGM which was held on 19th November. In addition to the Allotment Committee, thirteen other plot holders had attended.

The Grange allotments are all taken, and there is one vacant plot at Strait Lane. This vacancy has just occurred. The committee decided not to allocate this plot until the year end, when the final Waiting List can be examined, and also there may be further plots become vacant.

There are currently 8 names on the Strait Lane Waiting List and 5 on the Grange Waiting List.

A debate about allotment allocations and the number of plots one person should be allowed to have. The following decisions were made, and subject to HPC approval, these will be incorporated into the Allotment Rules.

- a. The maximum number of plots one person can have should be four plots. This motion carried, by 8 votes in favour, 2 against with 2 abstentions.
- b. It was agreed that 'one person' should mean one 'household', incorporating husband and wife or partner.
- c. It was agreed that if a person is offered an allotment but turns it down because he would prefer to wait until a later date, then that person should go to the end of the Waiting List.
- d. When a referendum type vote is taken, the rule shall be one person – one vote, rather than a person with three allotments having three votes.

The Allotment representatives had reported that all the allotments were in very good condition, and have been well looked after all year.

It is recommended that the allotment rent remains at £15 per annum for 2015.

It was suggested that surplus produce should be collected and given to needy people rather than be wasted. Mary Honeyman offered to collect the surplus and take it to the Food Bank in Darlington, on a regular basis.

The allotments holders elected the following representatives for the following year:

Tony Sayers – Hurworth Grange allotment

Graham Wylie

George Lawman

Brian Cooper for Strait Lane allotments

The council accepted the Allotment AGM Report and formally agreed to adopt the decisions made at their meeting.

The Chairman thanked Margaret for her report and the work she has done with the allotments.

The meeting appointed Michelle Edwards and Wilma Campbell as the two representatives for the Council for 2015.

124. **Association Reports**

1. Peter Foster reported that he had attended the CDALC meeting at Durham County Hall.

The principal discussion had been about police monitoring areas with double yellow lines. It appeared that other councils were not aware that the police had no direct jurisdiction over the lined areas, and hence cannot prosecute offenders.

Also CDALC are putting forward a candidate for the NALC Committee – Steve Ragg was elected as the candidate.

2. Jean Peacock reported that she, together with Tony Winnett, had attended the Darlington Association of Parish Councils. They both found the meeting interesting and useful. Topics discussed included:-
 - The boundary changes and possibility of two elections. Even more interesting was the presence of Catherine Whitehead (Head of DBC Legal Dept.), who had hinted that the cost of a second election may be met by DBC and not the parish councils, as initially dictated.
 - The scope of the DBC budget reductions
 - The hogweed problems
 - DAPC is very short of money. The council agreed to make a donation of £150 to the association. **Action Clerk**

3. Tony Winnett reported that he and the Clerk had attended the CDALC AGM in Durham.

The main topic was that in 2016 Durham County Council will no longer be providing Steve Ragg as a free Secretary to CDALC. Thereafter CDALC will have to fund the cost of an employee. Steve Ragg has been offered this job, and will transfer his employment when the time comes. The cost of the annual subscription to CDALC will be increased, and this has been taken into consideration in our budgets.

4. **LEADER Project**

Tony Winnett reported that the Tees Valley & Vale of Mowbray group have been successful in getting their application accepted. There is now

some funding available, approx. £1.2 million for the area. Hurworth Village Hall has made an application, but needs to provide match funding to qualify.

125. Roles and Responsibilities for 2014-15 following the co-option of new councillors. The council agreed the following:-

Highways & Traffic Management – Margaret Williams
Planning – Jean Peacock
Footpaths & Environment – Val Hughes and Wilma Campbell
Allotments – Michelle Edwards and Wilma Campbell
Flooding issues and Contingency Planning – Maureen Powles
Village Hall representative – Val Hughes
Darlington Assoc of Parish Councils – Jean Peacock
Small and Medium Council Committee – Tony Winnett

Following the recommendation at the Finance Meeting, Ken Pattison had been asked if he will continue to assist, acting as a consultant to HPC, with the Flooding issues in the villages until the final resolution has been accomplished. Mr Pattison has agreed to do this, and work in conjunction with the appointed Council representative.

126. Any Other Business – non financial

Next Meeting will be Thursday, 8th January 2015.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm