

Hurworth Parish Council

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

Those present: Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Ken Pattison., Tony Needham. Val Hughes, John Howard, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle. Tony Winnett, Ian Holme, Jeff Kemp, Margaret Williams

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

56. Apologies for Absence

Martin Swainston (Business)

57. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

Val Hughes – HCA

58. The Chairman, Tony Winnett made the following opening statement

New legislation came into force on 6th August this year that necessitates changes to our procedures at Parish Council meetings, PACT meetings, committee and sub committee meetings.

The main change is that persons can now record the Parish meetings and can use recording equipment for that purpose.

Whilst the regulations allow filming there is an expectation that any reporting will focus on the proceedings of the meetings and those who participate in it (probably councillors, members of the public who are permitted to speak during the meeting, the Clerk and those invited by councillors to speak at the meeting, and officers) rather than those simply attending the meeting.

If any members of the public object to being filmed, recorded, or photographed, will they please indicate and move to the area designated as being for persons wishing to attend the meeting but remain anonymous.

I am directed to remind those wishing to film, record, photograph or otherwise report on the proceedings of meetings about restrictions which apply in respect of a vulnerable adult or child.

I am also directed to remind everybody in attendance and who will be participating that subject to the fact that a verbal commentary cannot be made at the meeting, and that subject to my previous comments regarding vulnerable adults and children, they may be filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise reported about.

59. PACT Meeting

Nobody from the police force attended the meeting, and therefore there was no PACT Meeting.

John Angus had apologised for absence as he is on holiday, and PC Foley has been assigned to the major crimes squad.

60. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd July 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster, Seconded by Jean Peacock,

61. Matters Arising,

All the Action Items from the last meeting have been fulfilled, and will be reported on within this meeting. It was agreed that the council did not want the speaker from Groundwork North East to address the next meeting, as it is apparent that they have no funds at this time.

62. Public Participation

There was a large gathering of residents at the meeting.

1. Val Nichols addressed the meeting, supported by Susan Hutchinson, outlining their objections to the two planning applications in Friars Pardon.

The objections to no. 63 Friars Pardon include:-

- a. Increased flooding risks
- b. Traffic congestion
- c. The scale of the building in relationship to surrounding properties.
- d. The angle of the design layout could cause access problems to their neighbours.
- e. Concerns over safety, particularly to children in the immediate area.

Ian Holme recommended that the council should draw the attention of DBC to these points and challenge the engineering design.

2. Eileen Miller addressed the meeting, regarding objections to no.22 Friars Pardon.

This application has been submitted twice before, and the plans appear to be the same as the original application in 2009, which was rejected. All the same objections apply.

:-

- a. Increased flooding risks
- b. The tree report with emphasis on the closeness to existing trees with TPO's.
- c. The size of the house is not in keeping with other houses in the street.
- d. The proposed building is too large for the small site.
- e. The planned building will overlook the neighbours and ruin their outlook, while devaluing their property.

The Chair expressed that the council are sympathetic to the comments raised, and the applications will be considered later in the meeting.

3. John Hedley and John Lawrie representing residents of Westfield Drive addressed the meeting, raising the subject of traffic passing through the street. The volume of traffic has risen considerably, mainly due to the presence of the Primary School, Priory Hurworth House School and Little Acorns Nursery. Westfield Drive is the only road which leads to these premises.

This subject had been raised by the council in the latest Parish Chronicle newsletter, and seven residents had registered their observations.

Mr Lawrie said that they had carried out a survey of residents' views and also discussed the subject with Ward Councillor Kelley.

The Chairman asked what is it that the residents want the council to do. He went on to tell the gathering that the HPC had already taken the following actions:-

- a. Arranged with Priory HH School that they will reinstate 24 parking places at the front of the school and teachers and staff will park there, thus reducing traffic in Westfield Drive.
- b. Councillor Pattison and the Clerk have held a meeting with Ron Hogg, Head of the Durham Constabulary, to discuss this problem, and possible solutions. A 20mph zone has been discussed. Ron Hogg has agreed that he and a senior traffic officer will visit the site and make recommendations.
- c. Councillor Margaret Williams has carried out a traffic survey at peak time, and compiled the figures for the council.
- d. At another meeting with Priory HH School, the Chair has reached agreement that the school will write to all the taxi services who transport students to their school requesting they keep to the speed limits and be courteous to all residents; this was in direct response to one of the observations registered with the council.
- e. The council were considering using radar guns to impose speed limits in the parish and specifically to enforce control in Westfield Drive. This has been discussed with Ron Hogg.

The Chair again asked the residents what it is they want the council to do, and questioned the role of the Ward Councillor in this subject. Mr Lawrie said that their 'committee' intend to talk to Priory HH School. He also said that they wish to liaise with Joe Kelley.

Tony Needham, who initiated this campaign, questioned the role of Joe Kelley in the campaign, and expressed concern that, as has happened in other issues, he may not act in accordance with the HPC strategy, hence bringing an element of confusion, and weakening the case.

The Chairman expressed his agreement with Tony Needham, and asked whether the residents would prefer to work with their Ward Councillor, and hence the HPC will withdraw from the campaign.

Norma Kyle said that the residents have the right to involve all sources, and not be limited. The Chair agreed in principle, and again asked the residents what it is they want from this meeting.

The subject was closed without an explanation of the residents' demands or recommendations.

4. Lindsey Probert registered a complaint about the state of the area at **Eden Close**. It is a mess and there is evidence of fly tipping. Another resident in this area has complained about a broken tree and a tree which has been partially cut down and abandoned.

The Clerk said that he was aware of the complaints and they were to be addressed imminently.

Tony Needham recommended that the work be given to B Green and that it should start immediately.

The Clerk asked B Green to provide a quotation, as he had already requested a quotation from another provider.

Tony Needham said that part of the problem is on pathway 12, and that he will talk to Malcolm Thompson at DBC to assist.

63. 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>31st August 2014</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D. Parker	102463	Gardening work	395.00
B. Green Environ Services	102464	Work on Open Spaces - 3 sites	480.00
Cumbria Clock Co	102465	Annual maint of church clock	150.00
NPower	102466	Christmas tree lighting	79.27
P .D.Allan	102467	Admin expenses	50.07
Bob Iles	102468	August salary	244.50
P.D.Allan	102469	August salary	502.40
Inland Revenue	102470	PAYE	176.60
B. Green Environ. Services	102471	Allotment grass cutting	40.00
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	13.05
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.60
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
Total			2154.09

64. Financial Report

The Financial Report for August 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

The Report is attached as an addendum to these Minutes.

65. Matters of Interest and Correspondence.

- Lease with HCA The lease has been signed by all parties and is now in existence for the next seven years.
- The Chairman reported on the progress of the LEADER project. However, at this stage it is being dominated by DBC and other large councils, and there appears little hope of any financial benefit to Hurworth.

- c. HCA has accepted the gift of the exercise equipment and have taken over the responsibility thereof. One unit requires work on the re-housing in the ground, and HCA will accept the cost of this.
- d. The Clerk reported that the council has renewed the Group Council insurance policy through DBC.
- e. The Westfield Drive topic was discussed fully within Public Participation.
- f. The Chair outlined the proposed changes in the parish boundaries. They mainly concern the A66 boundary and Hurworth will lose 120 houses in Skerne Park. Chris Pratt who represents Blackwell ward agreed that this is a sensible division as Skerne Park can be viewed as part of the Darlington Township.
Joe Kelley was invited to comment as it would affect his Ward catchment area. He agreed that the proposed division was logical.
The Clerk pointed out that DBC has stated that there may be a need to hold two elections. The first in May 2015, with a one-year tenure, followed by another in May 2016 with a three-year tenure. DBC has also intimated that the parish council will have to pay for the second election. **The council asked the Clerk to lodge a formal objection to this suggested election cost falling onto the parish, and that HPC would prefer the A66 to be the parish boundary.**
- g. The yellow lines have been installed opposite the Comprehensive School. It is accepted that this is only the first phase, and that the lines around the Spar corner and the new bollards are not yet fully installed. **Action Clerk** to write to DBC urging a quick action to complete to recommended final solution, and to resubmit our specification.

66. Planning Report –

Jean Peacock and Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

- a. 22 Friars Pardon. The major discussion had taken place during the Public Participation, and the highlights were reiterated by Jean Peacock. The council agreed to make a formal objection to this application, based on the original objects to the 2009 application, which caused it to be rejected.
- b. 63 Friars Pardon. This had been debated during the Public Participation session. The council agreed to lodge their concerns about the application, outlining the points which had been noted

67. Procedures

Ken Pattison reported:-

- a. A number of HPC Procedures have been updated to encompass new legislation and HPC requirements. These have all been distributed to the councillors for their perusal. The council were asked to approve these, proposed by Ken Pattison and Seconded by Ian Holme. This was passed unanimously.
- b. NALC has issued a revised set of Standing Orders part of which are mandatory for parish councils.
- c. The Clerk has already distributed these to all councillors, and highlighted specific changes. The main change is the law for recording and filming meetings. This had been explained to the meeting in the Chairman's opening address. Tony Needham proposed the acceptance and adoption of the revised NALC Standing Orders, seconded by Ian Holme. The resolution was passed unanimously.

68. Allotment Report – Margaret Williams

Nothing to report.

Next Allotment Committee Meeting will be held on 10th September at Hurworth Grange.

69. New Projects

- a. Val Hughes proposed purchasing and installing a new unit of Exercise equipment. She has selected and gathered details of the unit, which will cost £2600 plus VAT.

Although it will be more convenient to select the unit from the same supplier as the other units, three quotations must be obtained. A discussion ensued on the practicality of purchasing from a different supplier rather than standardising with the established supplier, with whom the council is satisfied.

A vote was taken, which resulted in

Stick to one supplier 5 votes

Against 3 votes

Abstentions 4 votes

As there was no outright majority, **Val Hughes undertook to get additional quotations and report back at the October meeting.**

Clerk to ask HCA if they will undertake responsibility of this additional unit.

- b. Ken Pattison, having distributed the outline of his idea, detailed a new project to beautify the parish, by undertaking landscaping of selected areas.

The areas are open to discussion, but the general principle was accepted. Areas mentioned were Goblins Wood, Eden Close wood and Lychgate.

Jeff Kemp raised the cost of future maintenance, which must be taken into consideration.

This project was agreed by the council, in principle, and Ken Pattison agreed to discuss possibilities and ideas with Rob George of DBC.

- c. Radar guns and police cost participation.

Ken Pattison, having circulated the suggestion to all councillors, put forward the following idea.

The speed monitor on Croft Rd has shown that on average over 400 cars per day exceed the speed limit.

Unfortunately, due to manpower and money shortages, the police cannot utilise the speed guns recently

introduced by Ron Hogg (Durham Police Commissioner). In fact in the months to date when the guns

were available, only one speeding conviction has occurred in Hurworth. Consequently a meeting was

held by the Clerk and Ken Pattison with Ron Hogg to explore the possibility of HPC assisting

financially with both these problems i.e. purchase/hire of gun and police time, such that

punitive penalties could be introduced to reduce the speeding problems in Hurworth. Ron Hogg was

enthusiastic about the idea and agreed to investigate the principle with his people and report back. He

also said that the use of trained special constables could considerably reduce any costs.

He also felt it could be very advantageous if a 20mph speed limit was introduced on Westfield Drive.

After considerable discussion and the expression of councillor's views, the formal resolution was

defeated and HPC declined the initiative.

70. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that he had inspected the tree in Goblin's Wood, and stated that the tree was overgrown and causing an obstruction. This could be dangerous to traffic. It was agreed that although the tree has TPO attachment, it must be trimmed back. **Action: Clerk to engage Guy Foster to do this work.**

The survey of the trees in Hurworth Grange is still in progress.

71. Hogweed Report.

A meeting has taken place with Ben Lamb and John Musham, of Tees River Trust (TRT) with Margaret Williams, Tony Needham, Ken Pattison and the Clerk.

The threat of hogweed spreading is of great concern, and many areas throughout the country are suffering.

The River Tees is badly affected, but TRT have made inroads into the problem higher up the river to the source. Funding is a problem, and resources are scarce. It will take 15 years to rid the Tees of hogweed, and it needs to be addressed now.

At the TRT meeting several suggestions were made, some which involved volunteers. These were eventually rejected partly because a person would need to be certified after a training course costing £500.

The preferred solution to combat the hogweed would be to engage a qualified contractor. The task would be in the region of 3 sessions each of 4 days to handle the Hurworth section of the river. The cost would be circa £4000. The suggestion put forward by Ken Pattison is that the Clerk tries to find companies or people who will contribute, and HPC match fund to a total of £2000, per year.

A formal resolution was tabled by Ken Pattison, Seconded by Tony Winnett that the council should embark on this initiative, and, for the time being, commit £2000 per annum to the scheme. If matched funding could not be found then the matter would be revisited.

TRT also stressed the need to consider our downstream neighbours. It was suggested that the Darlington Association of Parish Councils may be the most appropriate platform for this discussion.

72. Highways.

- a. Tony Needham reported that the new yellow lines have been done, and emphasised that the council must press for the full installation, to help the problems around the Spar corner.
- b. Footpath 8, leading to the Primary School has been resurfaced by DBC.
- c. Age Concern wish to store snow packs in the parish. Sue Williams has agreed to accommodate one pack at the Croft toilet block, and the Grange will be asked to provide storage for the other 4 packs.
- d. Complaints have been received about the state of Eden Close wooded area. Tony Needham suggested that a contract is given to B Green to do the tidy up immediately. The Clerk will obtain a price for the work and issue an instruction within a week after consideration of other quotes.

73. Association Reports

- a. Peter Foster has attended the **CDALC meeting**; most of the discussion revolved about the proposed boundary changes.
- b. Jean Peacock and the Chair had attended the **Darlington Association of Parish Councils**. Catherine Whiehead was at the meeting to explain about the new “Community Governance Review” The part that affects Hurworth Parish is the proposal that in 2015 there will be an election for one year and thereafter in 2016 a further election for three years in 2016(for which the DBC will pay for). They are going to put this to the DBC on the 25th September - then they are going to consult the Parishes. They say they are going to hold public meetings in the areas where affected by the changes. On the existing map we are shown still with a small area (The Pastures near to Skerne Park).
The meeting also discussed a proposal for war memorial to be created in Middleton St George. It was agreed that **the Clerk will suggest that this association arranges** for John Musham of TRT to address their next meeting, and outline the plans to combat hogweed. **Action Clerk.**

74. . Flood Report

There are indications that a possible solution is being discussed between NW and Bellburn Trust to obviate the problem of water flowing from the Glebe. This is regarded as very encouraging. However, the water flow on Glebe Lane affecting the West End residents is no further forward as the DBC Complaints Manager has thrown out the residents requests for the rectification of the problems they consider are DBC responsibility. The matter is now in the hands of the residents as they decide a course of action.

75. Any Other Business – non financial

- a. Margaret Williams reported that many of the ‘No Parking’ notices on the Green are either broken or lost. **Action Clerk to replace.**
- b. Val Hughes reported that the seat on the Green required work. The base appears to have sunk, and it is now too high to sit on in comfort. **Clerk to arrange repair.**
- c. Ian Holme expressed his concern at the length of the PC Meetings, and that this could lead to poor decision making. What can be done to improve the format?

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:03pm