

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 5th February 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle. Tony Winnett, Margaret Williams, Wilma Campbell, Maureen Powles.

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

146. Apologies for Absence

John Howard (Personal), Val Hughes (Personal) , Ian Holme (Business), Michelle Edwards.(Personal)

Not present: Martin Swainston (Business), Press.

147. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

148 The Chairman, Tony Winnett, made the following comments as he opened the meeting, welcoming the councillors and members of the public. He made reference to the amount of work which has been done towards submitting the application to NALC for the LCA Gold, which the council hopes to attain before 30th April. He thanked the Clerk for the effort he is making to achieve this.

149. PACT Meeting

PCSO John Angus, who was accompanied by PC Foley and PCSO Simon Callum, made his report.

Crimes – three in total.

Burglary – Nil

Burglary Other – 2

Theft – Nil

Theft from motor vehicles - 1 (The Wayside, from unlocked car)

Theft of motor vehicles – Nil

Criminal damage – Nil

Anti-Social Behaviour – 2

Speed Checks

6th January – The Chase - no offenders

9th January – Roundhill Road – no offenders

14th January – Hurworth Road – No offenders

23rd January – Roundhill Road – 2 warnings

28th January – The Chase – 1 warning

The Police speed monitoring van has been active in Hurworth, and a report of traffic activity in Hurworth is due to be discussed in a radio programme on Star Radio.

It was agreed that the data from the speed monitors will be sent by David Alban to Paul Emerson at Police Head Quarters. The data has been retrieved this week, and the monitors will be moved or turned around next week.

There has been a complaint that cars are going the wrong way round the island turning into Blind Lane; we will request that the white lines are repainted as they are too faint.

We will also request white lines to depict car parking places on the stretch from the Emerson Arms to the church.

The white lines on Neasham Road have been covered by chippings, and we will request that this road has new lines implemented.

The Special Constable has started work, his name is Nick Tompkins, and is already very busy.

Speed checks have been carried out in Westfield Drive, and it is noted that the taxis to Priory H.H. School are adhering to the speed limits, whereas several parents going to the Primary School have been exceeding the speed limit, arriving late and rushing.

At the recent Police Conference held in Durham, Ron Hogg, Head of the Police in Durham, stated that he is supportive of the 20mph limit in school areas.

PCSO Callum suggested that some villages have erected scarecrows dressed as policemen, and this has deterred drivers from speeding. Maureen Powles supported this suggestion, and has agreed to take on the project. **Action Maureen Powles.**

150. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Chris Pratt.

151. Matters Arising,

- a. The lights for the Christmas tree. Dr Bagshaw fully supports purchasing new lights, but advised that we wait until DBC erect the new lamp post, which should have the power outlet which feeds the tree.

All other actions have been concluded.

152. Public Participation

A resident requested the support of the council in making an objection to the Variation Planning Application for 22 Friars Pardon.

The original application has been approved, and the variation requested is to reduce the size of the house and allow the construction of a garage. The height of the house will be slightly taller, which will allow the windows to be relocated so that they do not look out into the adjacent properties.

There was considerable discussion, but the Council believe that the variation, which requests a smaller footprint is more acceptable than the original application.

It was pointed out that if the Variation Application is rejected, then the larger house application will go ahead, and this may be the lesser preferred option.

153. Accounts Payable

The schedule of payments to 31st January 2015, having been previously distributed to the councillors, was approved.

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>31st January 2015</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Northumbrian Water	102524	Allotment water	31.06
Bob Iles	102525	Salary Jan 15	306.90
P.D Allan	102526	Salary Jan 15	709.24
Eden Landscapes	102527	Allotment and Open spaces work	172.00
Tony Winnett	102528	Travelling expenses	9.76
Fresh Air Fitness	102529	Exercise equipment	2825.28
P.D. Allan	102530	Admin expenses - mileage	18.30
Tony Winnett	102531	Travelling expenses	38.43
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	12.06

Total **4127.63**

A letter has been received from Hurworth Village Hall for them to organise an outdoor concert, following the success of Last year's event. The amount of £2000, is already in the budget, so this was agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the amount of £2000, also in the budget, should be paid to the Hurworth Country Fair for the 2015 event to be held on 19th September.

There is an invoice from Fosters for the felling of dangerous tree at Goblins Wood, as agreed at the last meeting. The cheque for £418, was added to the schedule.

154. Financial Report

The Financial Report to 31st January 2015, having been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting, was formally accepted. Please see the addendum to the Minutes.

155. Matters of Interest

- a. The meeting with Priory Hurworth House School was postponed.
- b. The Chairman and Michelle Edwards attended the Crime Commissioner Consultation Event in Durham on 30th January.
 Ron Hogg held this consultation process to establish approval for existing and proposed priorities, plus an increase in the Police precept that would keep 10 policemen in work. Approval was given by those attending.
 .Ron Hogg stated that he was very much in favour of 20 mph speed limits to areas adjacent to schools. Where new 20 mph areas are designated he promised that there would be a police presence/monitoring to ensure that new limits were adhered to.
 Tony Winnett mentioned that information from our speed monitors was being passed to our local PCSO for analysis and that the feedback was slow. Cllr B Jones from Middleton St George kindly suggested that we send our data direct to the Traffic Managers Office. He to give us contact details. This will relieve PCSO Angus of the responsibility. The contact details for Paul Emerson have now been received.
- c. The First Aid training course has been postponed until 2016, as the certificates from the last course have a three year validity.
- d. Michelle Edwards has requested, on behalf of a resident, that a grit bin be located at Appletree Close, as the icy conditions are dangerous for the elderly people living in this area. After a lengthy discussion, including concerns about setting a precedent. It was agreed to purchase a bin. Also as there is money in the budget for this purpose, other bins can be purchased, if appropriate requests are received. **Action Clerk**
- e. Cllr Joe Kelley addressed the meeting, outlining the changes being made to the Ward and Parish boundaries. The changes affect the Blackwell area, where part of Skerne Park may be moved out of the parish. It appears that at the 2015 Election in May, **councillors may only be elected for one year**; this will be followed by another election in 2016, after the consultation on the changes is finalised. The final Consultation meeting will be held on 31st March 2016
 It was agreed that the Boundary Consultancy document will be sent to all councillors. **Action Clerk**
- f. **Hogweed.** John Musham of the Tees River Trust has convened a meeting at Hurworth Grange on 27th February to discuss the actions proposed to combat hogweed on the River Tees, and in the various riverside locations. It was agreed that Maureen Powles, Wilma Campbell and Peter Foster will attend this meeting.

156. Planning Applications.

Jean Peacock reported as follows:-

- a. There are two applications for permission to build on Snipe Lane; both are Gypsy sites, and the council agreed to make a 'No response'
- b. The application for the variation order at 22 Friars Pardon had been discussed in the Public Participation. The council agreed to make 'No Comment' on this application, as the smaller foot-print design would be preferable.

157. Highways.

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

- a. The data from the speed monitors has been retrieved, and next week the monitors will be moved to their new positions.
- b. The pathways in Belgrave Terrace are currently being relayed.
- c. There has been flooding outside the Eurojag site on Neasham Road. DBC has been informed.
- d. The mini bobby signs which have appeared on the main road near the Academy were put up by PCSO Angus, as part of the school's initiative to make parents aware of better parking requirements.
- e. The two black boxes on Roundhill Road are part of a traffic survey, which is being undertaken.
- f. The area outside Croft House is very dirty, mainly caused by compacted dead leaves. **Action: Clerk to contact Streetscene.**
- g. The light between the surgery and the main road has been out for several days. Margaret has asked the Pharmacy to repair it, please.

158. Local Council Award Scheme (LCA)

The Chairman reported that most of the work to complete this application for the LCA Gold Award has now been completed. The Chairman and Clerk have had a meeting with Steve Ragg at CDALC, to ensure that the documents have been compiled correctly. It appears Hurworth PC will be the first to be accredited in this region.

The Chairman tabled the following resolutions:-

- 1. The council confirms, by resolution, that Hurworth Paris Council meets all the requirements for the Foundation Award, and that it also publishes on its website.**
- 2. The council confirms, by resolution, that the council fully meets all of the criteria set out in the Awards Check List Application for the Quality Award.**
- 3. The council confirms that it meets all of the requirements for the Foundation and Quality Awards and also publishes on its website.**
- 4. The council confirms, by resolution, that it has prepared statements to be presented to the accreditation panel showing that it meets all of the criteria and requirements, as stipulated in the Application Form and guideline documentation.**

Each resolution was read out to the council, and a vote taken. In every case the resolution was carried unanimously.

The application, with the Supporting documents should be ready for submission by 12th February.

159. Facebook

Norma Kyle informed the meeting that she has set up a Facebook entity called 'Hurworth Events', which is currently held on the HPC computer. The site has already attracted many 'friends', and there are around 100 messages which have been received.

Norma will visit the office next Tuesday to review the messages and redirect them to her own computer, so she can manage the site.

The Facebook site is intended to provide a Calendar of Events for the whole parish, with its various organisations. The Chairman thanked Norma for her work in setting up this facility.

160. Paths and Rights of Way.

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

Since our last meeting I have walked footpaths 9,11 and 12. All seem to be well used and in good order. I have a query about a missing gate on Footpath 12, just before the bridge to cross railway track. There seem to be posts and a hinge to support a gate but there isn't one. Should there be one?

Val Hughes continues to organise escorted walks around Hurworth Footpaths for later on in the year. Malcolm Thompson from DBC Countryside has furnished us with four maps showing the definitive paths in the parish. There is a considerable interest from people in joining the walking groups, and further details will be given in the forthcoming Parish Chronicle.

161. Tree report

Peter Foster reported that the tree which was leaning badly in Goblins Wood has now been felled; there was a delay caused by the bad weather. A replacement tree will be planted in the Spring. All other trees are in good condition at this time.

162. Allotments

The Clerk reported that only five rent payments are outstanding, and that he had sent reminders out.

163. Association Reports

Peter Foster informed the meeting that there have been no recent meetings. The meeting decided that no representative would be attending the next Small and Medium Councils Committee meeting.

164. Any Other Business (None financial).

Several new Procedures have been scripted, and require acceptance by the council. These will be sent to all councillors, and the item will be placed on the next Agenda.

There was no other business raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:37pm.

