

# Hurworth Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

**Those present:** Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Tony Winnett, Margaret Williams, Wilma Campbell, Maureen Powles, Val Hughes, Ian Holme, Michelle Edwards

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Martin Swainston and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) Lorraine Tostevin, Lynn Holme, Les Baker.

### 165. Apologies for Absence

John Howard (Business), Norma Kyle (Business), Chris Pratt (Sickness)

**Not present:** Press.

### 166. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA  
Jean Peacock – HCA  
Val Hughes - HCA & EPICH  
Wilma Campbell - EPICH

167. The Chair welcomed the councillors and members of the public, and introduced Ian Holme to Chair the PACT Meeting.

### 168. PACT Meeting

PCSO John Angus, presented the police report for February.

**Crimes** –Four in total.

Burglary – Nil

Burglary Other – Nil

Theft – Nil

Theft of motor vehicles – Nil

Theft from motor vehicles - Sanderson Road and Railway Terrace.

Criminal damage – One – Eamont Drive, Skerne Park

Vehicle damage – 1 The Lanes

Anti-Social Behaviour – 16 –One at Blackwell Golf Course, two at Hurworth School and 13 at Skerne Park and The Lanes.

PCSO John Angus stated that the Skerne Park figures are usually not incorporated into the Hurworth statistics.

Looking at these figures, the council expressed concern as to the possible outcome of the proposed Darlington to Hurworth cycle path. Perhaps greater thought should be made of the possible detrimental effect this could have in Hurworth Parish.

### Speed Checks

No Speedwatch in February as the radar gun was being recalibrated.

The speed monitor data is now being sent to Police Officer Emerson, and will be routed to David Young at Police Head Quarters, who will distribute the statistics.

- Ian Holme closed the PACT Meeting, and made the following statement:-

Ian announced that this would be his last PC Meeting, as he will not be seeking re-election. He said that it has been a most rewarding and pleasant experience, and that he had enjoyed working with the councillors for the past eight years. His business commitments are such that he would not be able to make a full commitment to the council in

the next few years, so prefers to make way for another person. He expressed his appreciation of the work done and contribution made by the Parish Clerk.

Tony Winnett, on behalf of the whole council, thanked Ian for his contribution and stressed that he will be missed, in particular for the wisdom and sensible counselling he had brought to the council during the years he had served with us.

#### **169. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster and Seconded by Margaret Williams.

#### **170. Matters Arising,**

##### **a. Salt bins.**

Two new salt bins have been delivered and installed; one at Appletree Close and one next to All Saints Church.

##### **b. White lines**

DBC has been requested to repaint the white lines opposite the Spar, to prevent vehicles taking the wrong entrance into Blind Lane. Also to repaint the lines on Neasham Road from Skipbridge to Neasham.

The residents of Church Row do not want the parking lines outside their houses, so this has been **cancelled**.

##### **c. Council Quality Status**

All the papers along with the formal application have been handed in to CDALC for accreditation; it is expected that we will receive notice before 30<sup>th</sup> April.

##### **d. Priory School Meeting**

Cllr Joe Kelley reported that DBC had carried out a speed check on Westfield Drive and that the results, applying the 85 percent rule, had shown that there is not a speeding problem in the street. The culprits, as recorded, are mostly parents taking their children to the Primary School, and apparently leaving home too late. Based upon this, it is most unlikely that DBC or the Police will recommend a 20mph speed limit. The only way to progress this will be to request Police Commissioner Ron Hogg to make the recommendation. The residents still think that the Priory School pupils should be delivered and collected to the front of the school. The School and authorities say that this is unwise, as the pupils need to be in a restricted zone when coming to and leaving the premises.

They also believe that more of the staff could park at the front of the building; this will be followed up. The residents reconfirmed that they do not wish to consider any other form of traffic calming; this has never been considered by the council.

Val Hughes suggested that a 30mph limit should be enforced on Roundhill Road opposite the Primary School entrance.

Jean Peacock suggested that Ron Hogg be approached to address the council with an invitation to the Westfield Drive residents to attend. The council agreed that this is a good initiative and it should be done at the Annual Assembly.

#### **171. Public Participation**

There were no speakers from the public.

#### **172. Accounts Payable**

The schedule of payments to 328<sup>th</sup> February 2015, having been previously distributed to the councillors, was approved.

##### **Payment of Accounts**

**28th February**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Hurworth Village Hall	102532	Section 137 support for outdoor concert	2000.00
Hurworth Country Fair	102533	Section 137 support for Country Fair	2000.00
Fosters	102534	Tree work - Goblins Wood	418.50

Eden Landscapes	102535	Open spaces - fence repairs	40.00
Bob Iles	102536	Salary	265.30
P.D.Allan	102537	Salary	523.44
Inland Revenue	102538	PAYE	147.00
Eden Landscapes	102539	Open spaces - hire of bobcat and labour	225.00
Colchester Camera Repairs	102540	Speed camera data collection expenses	244.44
P.D.Allan	102541	Mileage for February	136.20
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	12.06
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
<b>Total</b>			<b>6016.54</b>
<b>Added at the meeting:</b>			
MT Print	102542	Newsletter	<u>639.60</u>
Tony Winnett	102543	Travelling expenses	9.76
Peter Foster	102544	Travelling expenses	<u>32.90</u>
EPICH	102545	Project as agreed at this meeting	<u>2500.00</u>
<b>Final Total</b>			<b>9198.80</b>

### 173. Financial Report

The Financial Report to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015, having been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting, was formally accepted. Please see the addendum to the Minutes.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that 31<sup>st</sup> March is the financial year end, and if any councillor has any expenses or other items to claim, it should be before the month end.

The council agreed to re-appoint Gordon Fletcher as the Internal Auditor; Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Wilma Campbell. The external auditor will be BDO.

The council agreed that the £6,000 in the 2014-15 budget should be ring-fenced as a Reserve for future flooding contingencies, Proposed by Val Hughes and Seconded by Tony Winnett – unanimous.

### 174. Matters of Interest

#### a. Tees River Trust Meeting;-

The Chairman made the following statement:-

#### **Tees River Trust Meeting 26 February 2015.**

Meeting held at The Grange attended by interested parties with land abutting the River Tees.

Our intention to provide funds for treatment of Hogweed and look for match funding has been found to be unnecessary.

The section of the Tees from Croft Bridge to Rockliffe will be attended to by the Thornaby Angling Club.

The section of the Tees from Rockliffe to Blind Lane will be attended to by Rockliffe.

The section of the Tees from Wrighton Bridge to Newbus Grange will be attended to by Mark Hannaford.

The section of the Tees from Newbus Grange to Neasham will be attended to by Neasham Parish Council

The areas within our Parish that will require our attention are:-

- a) Section before Croft Bridge opposite the Comet Hotel.
- b) Section from Blind Lane to Wrighton Bridge.

From guidance estimates from TRT we consider that the work involved for our section will entail two days of spraying twice this year.

Estimated cost £400 for labour and chemicals for the Spring spray and the same for the Autumn spray. We have a qualified, suitable contractor within the Parish capable of handling this work.

At this point Maureen Powles was asked to leave the meeting as she has a financial interest in this project.

The meeting agreed that £1000 be allocated to pay for the work which HPC has committed to do to address the hogweed problem. This amount replaces the £2000 previously allocated on a match funding basis.

The work required has been evaluated by TRT as spraying the agreed area of the river bank in the Spring and again in the late Autumn. The work estimated is two days for each session, plus the cost of the chemicals. This equates to slightly less than £500, twice for this year and probably further years.

After debate, the council agreed that two quotations should be obtained, from persons or companies qualified to handle this work. TRT will confirm the qualifications.

#### **b. Grange Avenue fence**

Jean Peacock reported that the fence which partitions Grange Avenue had been damaged again. We have made repairs in February, but it is damaged again. This is not an HPC responsibility, and Jean has informed the resident that they are advised to construct a private 6 foot fence; a quotation has been obtained for £240, which would need to be funded by the Grange Avenue residents.

### **175. Election Report**

The clerk reported that he has attended a course in Guisborough, to receive instruction regarding the elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1015.

The timetable of events is as follows:-

16 <sup>th</sup> March	Nomination packs will be available from the Town Hall; there will also be packs available from the Parish Office on 17 <sup>th</sup> March
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Earliest date for submission of nomination forms. However candidates can request their forms are checked at the Town Hall – ask for Linda Todd's department. Nomination forms <b>must be delivered by hand</b> to the Town Hall between 10:00am and 4:00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for nominations is 4:00pm on 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for withdrawal of nominations.
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Display of candidates on Parish notice boards and web site.
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for receiving applications to be on the Electoral Roll for this election
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Deadline for postal proxy applications
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Polling Day from 7:00am until 10:00pm
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Vote count in the Sports Hall at the Dolphin Centre.

Please request any additional information from the Town Hall.

The Clerk will be collecting 15 Nomination forms from the Town Hall, and these will be available for the Parish Office.

The Clerk has been strongly advised not to give or advice or guidance in the completion or submission of candidate's nomination forms, and should advise candidates to deal directly with Linda Todd, Electorate Department at DBC Town Hall.

#### **b. Public Meeting – Annual Assembly**

The Chairman made the following statement:-

As a Parish Council we are legally required to conduct an Annual Assembly.

The need this year for the General & Parish Council Elections complicates this requirement.

There are some options that we need to consider:-

1. To arrange such an Assembly between 9 March and 27 March 2015.  
*This period does not give much time to allow adequate notice to the village and a poor turnout would be likely.*
2. To arrange such an Assembly between 27 March and 7 May 2015.  
*This is a critical period pre-election and any political comments are not allowed. This could restrict any report from our Ward Councillors.*
3. To arrange such an Assembly after 7 May 2015.  
*This would enable adequate notice for the village and avoid any restriction (if any) on political reports.*

The Annual Assembly would also enable the Parish to put forward some presentations covering:-

- a) Review of the current Parish Plan and consideration of a Neighbourhood Plan for 2015-2020.
- b) Need for New Councillors. (there is likely to be a fresh election in 2016).
- c) Parish Contingency Plan.
- d) Planning Review.

After a discussion, the council all agreed that the Annual Assembly should be held after the new council are in place, and hence scheduled for late May or early June 2015.

## **176 Planning Applications**

Jean Peacock reported as follows:-

There were three new applications in February 2015, viz:-

- a. 3 Croft Road, application to install new gates.
- b. 36 The Wayside – conversion of garage to habitable use.
- c. 35 The Green – alterations to roof area

The council agreed that there should be ‘no comment’ to all three.

## **177. Highways**

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

- The speed monitors will be turned around next week.
- The damage done to the amenities grass at Friars Pardon will be rectified by DBC.
- Potholes which are less than 42 mm deep will not be repaired by DBC.
- The bollard which has been badly damaged at the bottom of Manorfield will be replaced by DBC within a few days. We need to ascertain whether the trees that have been cut down are in the Conservation Area.
- The DBC litter pickers have been tidying up Roundhill Road & Neasdham Road. However the work is not yet complete. The farmer may need to be asked to remove the plastic covering which has entangled in the hedgerow.
- There is still a large pool on Neasham Road near Eurojag. Joe Kelley offered to address this problem.
- The work at Belgrave Terrace has been completed. However the work at Baxby Terrace will not be done immediately, but it is promised for this year.

- There are five street lights out near the Otter and Fish. Work has been carried out on the road in this area, and it is likely that a strip of lights has been disconnected.

## **178. Facebook.**

In the absence of Norma Kyle, there was no report.

## **179. Paths and Rights of Way.**

Val Hughes reported as follows:-

There is considerable interest in walking the pathways, but we need more Walker Leaders. Peter Foster agreed to join the team as a leader.

Val pointed out that there should be at least one person on the walk who has a First Aid certificate; this may make it difficult.

It was agreed that all interested councillors should meet in the Parish Office on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> march at 1:00pm To drawn up a plan and a Walk Calendar.

Ian Holme reported that there is another outbreak of dog mess in several locations in the parish, and in particular around the Spar corner and Primary School areas.

Joe Kelley stated that there is a web link, whereby people can report occurrences of dog mess offenders.

It was suggested that HPC contact the Environmental Officer to visit Hurworth. **Action Clerk.**

## **180. EPICH**

**Wilma Campbell gave the following report:-**

The money given to EPICH last summer from the PC has been used to purchase Promotional materials eg. Banners, flyers, high Vis jackets and a portable notice board to be used for display purposes at Fairs etc.

Lavender plants and replacement hedging for Jean's garden and bulbs for planting around Hurworth/ Croft areas.

In reference to "Beautifying the Parish" which has been discussed at previous PC meetings, EPICH are now able to give a more detailed plan of action for the area behind the Scout Hut at the Grange.

This plan has been developed after many discussions, taking into account advice given by twitchers and gardeners who have an interest in encouraging flora and fauna. We hope to complete this project within the next three months.

The project involves:

The area behind the Scout Hut will have a defined line established in the brambles to confine the new growth and they will be maintained/kept within this area. These dense brambles provide nesting sites and cover for wildlife.

Some of the less attractive rubble will be cleared and flowers planted such as bluebells, crocus, daffodils and snowdrops behind the scout hut field and the wooded area. This will be allowed to naturalise and when we see how it looks over the period of the year, we will consider if a bench is appropriate.

The north facing wall will be given coverage, probably of ivy along with other climbers. Details of types of plants on sheet.

We would like to buy mature plants to give a more visual and wildlife friendly immediate impact.

A feeding station/bird hide will be erected on the west facing wall opposite the orchard approximately in the area of the attached plan. This will be a fully enclosed fence type with viewing points at different heights and a door at one end with a lock.

A bench to be placed in a convenient area for public use.

We would also like to provide outdoor signs, placed at specific areas, to inform and educate the local community of types and variety of wildlife found in and around the Grange.

Approx cost:

Hiring of machinery to define the line and clear rubble behind Scout Hut,

Including labour £300

Climbing plants and bulbs £400

Construction of bird hide £300

Purchase of bird feeders/seed containers/lock etc for hide	£160
Fat balls and seeds per annum	£400
Purchase and installation of vandal proof bench	£600
<b>Total without signage</b>	<b>£2160</b>

(Details of signage still being finalised)

This plan is in line with the **figure of £2500** which was previously agreed in principle by the PC. EPICH now hope the monies can be released so that the project can proceed.

The Chairman thanked Wilma for her excellent detailed report, and asked the council to approve the expenditure under 'Projects'. A motion was tabled by Ian Holme and Seconded by Peter Foster for the allocation of £2,500 for this project to go forward. The motion was passed unanimously. Ian Holme requested that the scope of the work is agreed by the HCA Management Committee, before starting the project.

### **181. Tree report**

Peter Foster reported that there was nothing to report this month, as no work was required. It should be noted that the Chairman and Clerk had a meeting with Davis Coates, Head of DBC Planning Department, to discuss the application for a blanket planning application to cover all the trees in Hurworth Parish. This will be ongoing, based on the advice received.

### **182. Allotments**

Michelle Edwards reported that all the rents for 2015 have now been collected. Four plots at Strait Lane have been re-allocated in order of Waiting List priority. There are five people on the Waiting List for Strait Lane, and five for the Grange allotments.

### **183. Association Reports**

Peter Foster informed the meeting that he had attended the CDALC Meeting in Durham. The main topic had been traffic, and several councils had erected notices, and all but one had been stolen. Peter drew attention to the Regional Conference to be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March in Durham. Councillors have been circulated with the information. Michelle Edwards has been enrolled, and Peter Foster stated that he also will attend.

### **184. Any Other Business (None financial).**

There was no other business raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:22pm.

