

# Hurworth Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth – on-Tees, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 starting at 7.00pm.

**Those present:** Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Val Hughes, Tony Winnett, Margaret Williams, Chris Pratt, Maureen Powles, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, John Howard

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

### 127. Apologies for Absence

Norma Kyle (Business) Ian Holme (Business), Cllr Martin Swainston (Business)

**128** The Chairman welcomed all the attenders and wished them all a happy New Year. He welcomed Wilma Campbell to the council, as this was her first meeting.

### 129 PACT Meeting

PCSO John Angus was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no Pact meeting in January.

The February report will cover both months.

### 130. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett	HCA
Jean Peacock	HCA
Val Hughes	HCA
Wilma Campbell	EPICH

### 131. Minutes of the PC Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

The minutes were accepted by the council, Proposed by Margaret Williams and Seconded by Chris Pratt.

### 132 Matters Arising

- a. The formal Declarations of Interest for the three new Councillors have been completed and lodged with Darlington Borough Council.
- b. Westfield Drive. DBC representatives have visited the road and made an assessment of the traffic and traffic speeds. The initial feedback is that they do not think a 20mph speed limit, without cameras or traffic police supervision will be effective. The council again, reiterated that no other traffic calming devices were being considered.  
Cllr Joe Kelley agreed that this is the DBC feeling. He is working with the resident committee, and there are ongoing discussions with Priory Hurworth House School.  
A meeting for the council to meet the Priory management has been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30pm; Tony Winnett, Margaret Williams and Joe Kelly will attend.
- c. **Exercise Equipment.**  
Val Hughes reported that the new piece of equipment has been installed at Hurworth Grange. It is a 'Combo Pull Down Chest Press', which can be used in dual mode by two persons.  
This is an excellent addition to the growing Exercise Park, which compliments the playground and skateboard areas.
- d. **Brown Signs**

- All of the council's efforts to get brown signs to provide directions to Hurworth Grange have failed, as the facility does not conform to the brown sign check list.
- e. However, DBC has suggested that the entrance to the Grange could be widened, thereby making to more obvious, as well as improving traffic flow.
  - f. The council agreed that there would be benefits to this. The Clerk felt that a grant may be obtainable to fund this.
  - g. John Howard made it clear that this is a matter for HCA, and that the council should not discuss it further. Maureen Powles supported this view, so the matter was dropped.

### **133. Public Participation**

There were no matters raised by the public.

### **134. Accounts for Payment**

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>		<u>31st December 2014</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
T, Winnett	102513	Travelling Expenses	9.76
P. Foster	102514	Travelling Expenses	46.36
Fosters	102515	Work on three trees, as approved at Nov meeting	774.00
Cancelled cheque	102516		0.00
TCS CAD Solutions	102517	2 Printer cartridges	124.68
HCA	102518	Water charges for year at Grange allotments	40.00
Darlington Assoc of PCs	102519	Donation under Section 137	150.00
P.D. Allan	102520	December salary	502.54
Bob Iles	102521	December salary	353.60
Inland Revenue	102522	PAYE	204.00
P.D Allan	102523	Admin Expenses	43.77
Talk Talk	DD	Communications	12.69
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	4.60
<b>Total</b>			<b>2266.00</b>

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

With the departure of Cllr Ken Pattison from the council, a new cheque signatory is required.

It was agreed that Cllr Jean Peacock, as Vice Chairman, will become a signatory. The Clerk will make the appropriate arrangements with Barclays Bank.

### **135. Financial report**

The Financial Report for the seven months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted. The Report is appended as a codicil to these Minutes.

## 136. Matters of Interest and Correspondence

### a. Quality Parish Council status

The new criteria for QPC status has been announced on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015, and applications will now be accepted.

HPC has already registered and received acknowledgement

We have a 41 page Guide to help to make the application, and the Application Form to be completed, along with substantiating evidence.

It is HPC's intention to complete the process by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015, before the General Election, so that existing councillors can attain this achievement.

### b. Priory Hurworth House School.

This had been discussed under Matters Arising 'Westfield Drive'.

- c. Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation Event on 30<sup>th</sup> January in Durham. Tony Winnett, Michelle Edwards and the Clerk will be attending this meeting.
- d. Peter Foster expressed his feeling that the lights on the Christmas tree on the Green were rather dull, and brighter lights would improve the image. This had been raised by several other residents.
- e. The council agreed to purchase new lights for next year, proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Maureen Powles, all agreed. It was agreed by the Clerk should obtain Dr Bagshaw's agreement, as for many years, he has provided and decorated the tree. **Action Clerk**

## 137 Planning

Jean Peacock gave a report, which covered the planning application received in December, plus two which had arrived this week.

Guided by the comments from Jean, the council considered each application, and in every case agreed there will be 'No Comment' on the applications.

Clerk to inform DBC.

The two new applications are:-

- Repairs to Croft Bridge
- Removable of peat

John Howard expressed the opinion that the council should try to negotiate some financial benefit from new developments in the Parish. Any funds obtained could be used to enhance the facilities and amenities in the Parish.

## 138. Highways Report

Margaret Williams gave a report, as follows:-

- Belgrave Terrace – yellow lines have been installed in this road, and the pavement and curbs is in the course of being refurbished.
- The speed monitors are to be turned around, and the monitor at the Green will be moved to the Otter and Fish post. **Action Clerk**
  - A resident has asked whether the data recovered from the monitors can be made public. As this does not contravene the Data Protection Act, this can be done. Arrangements will be made to publicise the data.

Vehicles are still abusing the double yellow lines at the Spar corner. The new Special Constable, when he arrives, will be asked to address this problem.

## 139. EPICH

Wilma Campbell gave the following update report on the activities and plans for EPICH:-

Wilma is the Chairman of EPICH, and she reported that they have scheduled their next Management Meeting for 12<sup>th</sup> January, when they will be discussing their plans for 2015.

‘We have been in communication with DBC who spent time looking around the area and came back with site recommendations. These are going to be discussed on Monday evening at the next EPICH meeting and hopefully prioritised so that a realistic timescale can be planned.

Contact has been made with FOE in Darlington and they seem keen to offer help and support to our projects.

Both primary schools have been contacted about improving existing or creating new wildlife areas within their school grounds’.

A discussion ensued, which covered the following points:-

EPICH lack manpower at present and are hoping to recruit new volunteers soon. The wood chippings deposited at the Grange will be deployed to enhance the paths as soon as manpower is available; they requested that no more deliveries are made for the time being. The chippings are deteriorating and the paths need a covering. It was agreed that if volunteer help cannot be found, Wilma will inform the Clerk, and the council will ask the handyman to tackle the problem.

#### **140. Facebook**

Norma Kyle had intended to address the council on the virtues of Facebook, but unfortunately is unable to attend this meeting.

Norma has created a sample Hurworth Village Diary’, which will be used to record in advance all village events, with dates and venues.

Norma has agreed to keep this updated and maintain the Facebook site.

The sample site has already attracted over thirty ‘friends’ and is receiving messages.

John Howard expressed concern about the potential misuse of a Facebook site.

It is not the intention of this site to be operated by Hurworth Parish Council, but to provide a village calendar of Events, and publicise the activities.

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

a. Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

‘Having walked Footpath No1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, Tony Winnett brought to our attention some issues relating to it:-

- the cross beams at either end of the bridge over Cree Beck were positioned in such a way that a large dog would find it difficult to go over or under them,
- the reported stile has not been reinstated however a new gate has been installed in lieu.

The concerns were passed on to Malcolm Thompson @ DBC who confirmed that the bridge was the responsibility of DBC and the landowner at Lygon House was going to repair the surface of the pathway and lay some stone to improve the surface.

Val Hughes and I walked the Footpath today. The signage could be improved at one particular point to help find your way. We felt that if it is decided to make out a programme of walks, this one should be included as it is relatively short and easy underfoot, although the section walking along Neasham Road might not be suitable for young children.

We will report back to M. Thompson on our findings.

- b. Val Hughes suggested that walkers should be encouraged to walk all of the 17 pathways. This suggestion was warmly greeted and it was agreed that Val will draw up a schedule of walks and dates, which will be published in the next Parish Chronicle, put on the website and Facebook.
- It is hoped that a walking group can be formed and all the paths used by the end of 2015.

**Actions: Val Hughes to prepare a draft schedule; Clerk to approach Dr Bagshaw's walking group.**

#### **142. Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported that he has made an inspection of all of the HPC trees, and almost all are in sound condition, including the new trees which have been planted this year.

- a. The village Christmas tree on the Green is not looking well and requires the lower branches trimming off. Dr Bagshaw has reported that he thinks the area may have been sprayed with weed-killer, probably to make the grass cutting easier. **Action clerk to investigate.**
- b. There is one tree in Goblins Wood which appears to be dead and is covered in ivy. After discussion the council agreed that as this leans badly in a strong wind and is potentially dangerous, it will be cut down. A new tree will be planted to take its place. This decision was taken after a motion was placed by Maureen Powles and Seconded by Jean Peacock. The vote was 4 in favour, 1 against, with 5 abstentions.
- c. The row of trees at Eden Close need trimming to keep them from interfering with neighbouring properties. The wooded area also requires some cleaning up. **This work will be carried out before the next PC meeting.**

John Howard asked whether the chippings which we are using on pathways and may come from diseased trees, could cause a spreading of the disease. Peter Foster reassured the meeting that the diseased spores blow away, and no damaging disease can occur from using the chippings. It has been reported that there are two large tree trunks in the wooded area near Eden Close. The meeting agreed that these should be left in situ, as they helped nature to perform its natural functions.

#### **143. Allotments Report**

Michelle Edwards reported as follows:-

- Strait Lane allotments has a Waiting List of 9, and at present there are 2 vacant plots.
- Hurworth Grange has a Waiting List of 7, with no vacant plots.
- The fence at Strait Lane is being repaired as it has come away from the ground fittings, and dogs are able to get underneath. This work is in hand.
- The annual rents of £15 per plot, are being collected; £150 has been received to date.
- The vacant plots will be allocated on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Val Hughes recommended that notices should be put up at both sites, reminding allotment holders that their annual rent is now due. **Action Clerk and Michelle Edwards.**

#### **143 a .Flood Report**

Maureen Powles reported that she has talked to Ken Pattison and received a handover update.

The situation at the Glebe and Friars Pardon is that the work is progressing, as agreed by all parties. This is expected to resolve the problems, but the proof will be at the next flood.

The residents who are considering taking legal action against DBC, for past illegalities has gone quiet. As this goes not concern HPC, there is no need to further participate in any future discussions.

Ken Pattison has agreed to remain in the loop, assist where necessary as a consultant to help the council.

#### **144 Association Reports**

Tony Winnett reported that the latest news from the LEADER committee is as follows:-

- Hurworth Village Hall have put in a request for funding to improve the accommodation of the hall.
- Parish Councils will be approached with possible financial assistance to implement high speed broadband in the rural areas.
- It appears there will be no funds available to assist small businesses, although this was in the initial mandate.

The Airport Consultative Committee did meet and discussed the future developments for Durham Tees Valley Airport. The meeting was fairly negative as little or no progress has been made with the new road, although funds are available.

Overtures to the Stockton MP has received a blank response, displaying a total lack of interest in the projects. They intend to seek support elsewhere.

#### **145. Any Other Business – non financial**

- a. The next newsletter is to be prepared for distribution in early March. Tony Winnett asked for all articles and inserts to be ready by 10<sup>th</sup> February, please.
- b. Nominations for this year's Queens Garden Party are now invited. After discussion it was agreed that Val Hughes be nominate by this council.
- c. Tony Winnett advised the meeting that there will be a Memorial Service in Darlington for RAF pilot Mc Mullen, on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January starting at 8:30am. He will be representing Hurworth parish council.
- d. The Clerk will be on holiday on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, but will be available at the office on substituted days.

Next Meeting will be Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm

