

Hurworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April starting at 7.00pm.**

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

Also attending: Cllr Martin Swainston Lorraine Tostevin, Denis Pinnegar and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

**185. Apologies for Absence**

Ian Holme (Business), Norma Kyle (Business), Maureen Powles. (Sickness) John Howard (Business),

**Not present:** Press.

**186. Declarations of Interest**

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

**187.** The Chair welcomed the councillors and members of the public, and introduced Michelle Edwards to Chair the PACT Meeting.

**188. PACT Meeting**

The PACT Meeting was Chaired by Cllr Michelle Edwards.

PCSO McCallum presented the police report for February.

**Crimes** –Three in total.

Burglary – One burglary in Church Row, Hurworth, break in through back of house.

Vehicle Theft – Van stolen from Church Row, Hurworth

Theft from motor vehicles - One in Sanderson Road, SATNAV stolen from unlocked car.

Anti-Social Behaviour – 3, all reported by the same person, and all relating to children knocking on doors on a Friday evening near the Spar shop.

The anti-social behaviour at Skerne Park was once again very high.

**Speed Checks**

No Speedwatch in March.

The Clerk reported that the council has received a complaint that the traffic along the stretch from Croft House to Croft Bridge between the hours of 11:00pm and 12:45am is exceptionally high, and could be construed as potentially dangerous. This complaint was reaffirmed by two councillors. The police agreed to conduct random checks at a point 30 meters from the 30mph speed limit sign.

Jean Peacock reported a complaint by the lollipop lady about the speed of traffic coming down Roundhill Road; she feels that this will lead to an accident if the speed is not reduced.

A letter has been received requesting support for an objection against the issue of an HGV licence; the meeting agreed that this is not a police or council matter.

Wilma Campbell reported that transporter lorries were using Croft bridge as a turning circle, backing from the bridge into Croft Road, opposite the Comet.

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

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Wilma Campbell and Seconded by Jean Peacock.

#### **190. Matters Arising,**

- **Priory School**

The meeting has now been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> April at 2:45pm. The subjects to be discussed include the traffic issues on Westfield Drive, parking at the front of the school, and a suggested modification to the school hours.

- **Salt bins.**

Michelle Edwards reported that the salt bin at Appletree Close is going to be moved to an agreed position, by StreetScene.

- **Hogweed**

Following the request of the council, two quotations have been received for the work to be done on the hogweed in the parish. Copies of the two quotations were distributed to each councillor. It was observed that the quotation from Mr Hannaford was very detailed and professional, the cost is also slightly lower than the quotation from B Green.

Chris Pratt proposed that the Hannaford quotation be accepted, Seconded by Val Hughes. The vote was Hannaford 8 votes, B Green no votes. **Action: Clerk to arrange the contract.**

- d. Wilma Campbell gave an update on the EPICH project at Hurworth Grange.

- **Scout Hut project.**

- Area behind scout hut has been cleared and the beginnings of a small wall built to define and retain the bramble patch. Snowdrops, anemones and daffodils have been planted. We are preparing to purchase some bluebells for planting within the next few weeks.
  - North facing wall – climbing plants bought and then planted on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Unfortunately one of the plants a large, variegated ivy has been removed by someone, within 36 hours of planting.
  - Research is ongoing about type of feeders etc to be used in the bird hide.

An area near the skateboard park has been cleared and fenced for the future storage of wood chippings.

#### **191. Public Participation**

The Chair introduced Mr Denis Pinnegar and invited him to present details of the request for assistance to the All Saints Church appeal, item 8a on the agenda.

Mr Pinnegar detailed the need for a new heating system in the church and the church rooms. He pointed out that the church is used for a variety of community activities, including the Youth Club, Drop In, the Sans Pareil Choral Society, and the new Silver Surfers Drop In.

After a very in depth study, which included site visits, the solution agreed upon an ECO Friendly BIOMASS heating system. The Government operate a scheme which provides a rebate on usage, which is valid for twenty years. This will ensure that the heating costs are sustainable for many years to come. Several grants have been applied for, and a community appeal has been launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The project is time sensitive, as the Government will be reviewing the rebate tariff in July, and this is expected to be detrimental.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pinnegar for his comprehensive report, and recalled that the council have supported the Village Hall, HCA and EPICH, and as this is another important community amenity he recommended that the council should support this request.

Val Hughes agreed that the council had supported the other community organisations in the parish, and proposed that a minimum of £2500 be awarded to this appeal. Michelle Edwards Seconded the proposal to award £2500. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **192. Matters of Interest**

- a. The Chairman invited Cllr Martin Swainston to address the meeting.



Cllr Swainston informed the meeting that he will not be standing for re-election as a Ward Councillor. His employment duties at work have increased, with greater and broader responsibilities, which are absorbing more of his time. He also has a 10 month old daughter, and would like to spend more time at home.

Martin expressed that he had enjoyed his period as Ward Councillor and appreciated the co-operation with which he had worked alongside the Parish Council. He said it has been a privilege to have worked with the parish council and wished the councillors well for the next period of office. He said that over the last three years the Parish Council had greatly improved and was commanding greater respect. He added that it is important that the council fights its corner and works closely with DBC. Martin shook hands with all the councillors, and said his 'goodbye'.

#### **b. Newsletter distribution**

The Clerk has approached All Saints Church to distribute the Parish Chronicle along with their own newsletter. This has been agreed in principle, subject to the agreement of their volunteers. An annual donation of £100 was agreed.

#### **193. Accounts Payable**

The schedule of payments to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, having been previously distributed to the councillors, was approved.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MT Print	102542	Newsletter	639.60
T. Winnett	102543	Trav expenses	9.76
P.Foster	102544	Trav expenses	32.94
EPICH	102545	Section 137 award	2500.00
CDALC	102546	Training - election	27.00
DBC	102547	2 Salt bins	576.00
N. Water	102548	Allotment expense	9.94
P. Alllan	102549	Salary	523.44
Bob Iles	102550	Salary	325.05
Inland Revenue	102551	PAYE	176.20
Clydesdale Bank	102552	Transfer to 12 month bond	20000.00
HCA	102553	Photocopying	12.20
P.D. Allan	102554	Admin expenses	30.69
P.Foster	102555	Trav expenses	31.49
M.Harrison	102556	Handyman - speed monitor testing	30.00
T. Winnett	102557	Trav expenses	41.48
Talk Talk		Communications	15.05
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Telecommunications	DD	BT	71.96
<b>Total</b>			<b>25055.10</b>

This will be the final schedule for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. The council agreed that the award to the church community heating project should be added to this list, and treated in the year to 2014-15.

#### **194. Financial Report**

The Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 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 the accounts will now be closed and submitted to the Internal Auditor. This is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> April. Gordon Fletcher has agreed to be the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk informed the council that during the period to the next meeting, a number of Public Notices will be put on the Council Notice Boards, regarding the Financial Accounts and inviting access to the public for inspection.

#### **195. Election Information**

The Clerk reported that he has a supply of election packs in the office; several have already been collected. He emphasised that candidates who have any questions or require assistance should consult the Electorate Office at the Town Hall. The Head of Department is Linda Todd. The existing councillors will remain in office until Election Day, and should carry out their duties until this date.

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

The Chairman made the following statement:-

The Annual Assembly will be held at Hurworth Grange on 20<sup>th</sup> May. A draft agenda has been prepared and will be circulated later. All councillors and the Ward Councillors should attend.

Leaflets will be distributed throughout the parish inviting residents to attend. A cold buffet will be provided. Notices will be placed on the Council and Allotment notice boards, and also on the Parish web site.

#### **197 Planning Applications**

The Chair reported that he had attended the Consultation Meeting at Morton Park held by Elgin Solar Company, which outlined their plans for a Solar Farm near Middleton St George. This is outside Hurworth Parish, but of significant interest to our neighbours.

Jean Peacock reported as follows:-

The council agreed that there should be 'no comment' to all of the following applications:-

15/00193/FUL 3 The Green, Hurworth,  
15/00052/FUL 36 The Wayside, Hurworth  
15/0086/FUL 35 The Green, Hurworth

#### **198. Highways**

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

- The speed monitors will be turned around next week. There has been a delay due to there being no power opposite the Otter and Fish Inn. This is being repaired at this time. Also Swarco will be providing battery back-up cells, so that data is not lost when the units are disconnected.
- We have received some data from the Westfield Drive Residents Committee. Some councillors have been unable to open this file. The statistics indicate that a 20mph limit is not warranted under DBC conditions, and this will now be dropped. The 20mph limit for Roundhill Road will be pursued.
- The bollard at Manorfield has been replaced.
- We have received complaints about parking at the rear of the Physio opposite the church.  
**Action Clerk to write to the Physic owner.**
- Michelle Edwards reported that the bus stop by the Church is also often blocked by parked cars, and causes difficulty for people getting on or off the bus. This will be included in the above letter. Also the yellow lines indicating the stopping bay for the bus opposite the Spar



shop require re-painting. Action Clerk,

### **199. Pathways**

Val Hughes reported as follows:-

The posters are up advertising the Parish walks, and there have been press releases in both the Northern Echo and D&S Times. The Clerk will put posters up on the Council and allotment notice boards. The Parish Website is featuring the new Walks Programme

We are hoping for a good turnout, and fine weather. The full calendar of walks will be published shortly; some details are already on the HPC web site.

Wilma Campbell reported

Late this afternoon I received a phone call regarding Footpath No 1. Two local residents found the stile next to Eurojag inaccessible from the field, due to the swampy conditions caused by the horses' feeding area being positioned beside the stile.

- 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. 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. It has not yet been addressed.
- 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

### **200. Tree report**

Peter Foster reported that there was nothing to report this month, all the trees are in good order.

### **201. Allotments**

Michelle Edwards reported that all the rents for 2015 have now been collected and all the plots have been allocated. There is still a Waiting List for both sites.

The water has been turned on as from 1<sup>st</sup> April; John Edwards is checking to make certain there are no leaks.

A complaint has been received about an allotment holder having a fire during the day; the rules dictate that fires are only permitted at certain times.

An Allotment Committee Meeting will be convened in June, after the election of the new council. A request has been made to put 'Hens' on the agenda, presumably to allow hens to be kept on allotment plots.

### **201. Association Reports**

Tony Winnett and Peter Foster attended the NALC Conference at County Hall Durham.

Presentations were given by Durham County Council and by Cllr Bill Dixon of DBC regarding the likely creation of a Combined Tees Valley Authority. NALC and CILCA gave presentations detailing their Quality Council Schemes and changes shortly to be announced in qualifications for CLICA Parish Clerks.

Presentation Papers were available for Councillors.

**Action Clerk to circulate the papers**

**202. Any Other Business (Non financial).**

There was no other business raised.

The Chairman thanked all the councillors, both those who had recently left and those who are still in the council, for their dedication and voluntary work. He said it has been a privilege to have been their Chairman for two years.

Val Hughes responded by thanking Tony for his hard work and leadership.

Peter Foster thanked the Clerk for his work during the year, and expressed the view that Hurworth Parish Council is now a professional organisation and should be proud of itself.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:00pm.