

# Hurworth Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth – on-Tees, on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 starting at 7.00pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk). Alexa Copeland (Press)

### 122. Apologies for Absence

Norma Kyle - (Leave of absence, Ian Holme (Work commitment), Cllr M. Swainston (Work)

### 123. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

Val Hughes - HCA & allotments

### 124. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>TH</sup> December 2013.

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Jeff Kemp, Seconded by Peter Foster.

### 125. Matters Arising,

All Action Items from the last meeting had been attended to.

### 126. Public Participation

Nobody from the public attended this meeting.

### 127. Accounts Payable

The schedule having been distributed to all councillors, was approved by the meeting. Details as follows:-

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>Dec-13</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HCA	102376	Rent	740.00
S.Webster	102377	Salary	260.00
P.D.Allan	102378	Salary	508.24
Inland Revenue	102379	PAYE	110.20
TCS CAD Services	102380	Printer cartridges	124.68
Northumbrian Water	102381	Allotments water	11.02
P.D.Allan	102382	Admin Expenses ( 2	83.82

		months)		
P.D.Allan	102383	Open Spaces work	32.00	
Eden Landscapes	102384	Open Spaces work	172.00	
Bank charges	DD	Admin expenses	4.60	
TalkTalk	DD	Admin expenses	18.60	
BT Comms	DD	Admin expenses	70.68	
TalkTalk	DD	Admin expenses	13.78	
<b>Total</b>			<b><u>£2,149.62</u></b>	

#### **Additional cheques**

G.A. Needham	102385	Materials for Toilet block	12.00
Fosters	102386	Tree work at 3 sites	385.00

Cllr Howard requested additional information about the Open Spaces and Tree expenses. The following information was provided:-

Fosters	Tree work on sycamore tree in Friars Pardon	35.00
	Cut up tree and repair fence at Eden Close	165.00
	Crowning two trees in Lych Gate – more work to be done	185.00
G.A. Needham	Poison for rats at H. Place toilet block	12.00
Eden Landscapes	Repairs and reassembling seat at Otter and Fish	100.00
	Repairing fence at Grange Avenue	60.00
Clerk	Supplying and delivering soil to burial ground	32.00

It was agreed that more detail would be provided on the Accounts Payable schedule.

### **128. Finance Report**

The Financial Report for the 9 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

Please see addendum with Report details.

### **129. Matters of Interest**

a. The report to be sent to the ICO in respect of three complaints raised by one resident, has been completed, studied and agreed by the Vetting Committee and sent to the council's legal advisers, for perusal and confirmation. The report which has taken several days to compile, has been seen by the legal advisers and their comments recognised and modifications will be made. The report will be sent to the ICO by recorded delivery on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Our legal advisers have also recommended two high profile lawyers, who have specialised experience in these matters. The council will now await the findings of the ICO before engaging a lawyer to handle this and any future problems of this kind.

b. The council have booked four places for the Vetting Committee and Clerk to attend a training course at Peterlee which addresses Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts and legislation.

The council has received a letter requesting financial assistance from the Over Sixties Club, based at the Emerson Arms. The Chairman recommended that a donation be made, similar to the amount donated to the Over Sixties Club which is based at the Grange. The Clerk stated that he had visited the club under discussion, and had witnessed a meeting, he had checked with the Emerson Arms that meetings were held regularly and also that the club had an official Secretary.

Cllr Pattison recommended that rather than make a quick decision, a procedure should be put in place, to validate all applications for donations, and that a template should be designed to determine the credibility of associations making requests. This was converted into a formal proposal, Proposed by Cllr Pattison and Seconded by Jeff Kemp. The motion was carried.

The decision on the request by the Over Sixties Club was postponed to the next meeting.

c. Val Hughes urged members of the council to attend the Holocaust Service in Darlington, details of which have been circulated to all councillors.

d. The HPC Litter Picker resigned, giving one month's notice. The council expressed their appreciation to Sue Webster for the excellent work she has performed, and wish her success in her new position.

HPC will advertise the position, and will interview candidates. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk will conduct the interviews and select the person. The position will be for 15 hours per week. **Action Clerk**

### **130. Planning report**

Jeff Kemp gave the following report:-

NO APPLICATIONS for Dec 2013

However we have been invited to attend DBC Planning Application Committee meeting on Wed 15th Jan at the Town Hall in order to present our objections to the following applications;

Change of use of use of land behind Lygon House Straight Lane to private Gypsy site.

1) Plan Appl No 13/00902/FUL

Insert a copy of our objections submitted

DBC are recommending Approval.

2) Fell of oak tree on Hurworth Grange.

Plan Appl No 13/00757//TF

No comment.

3) An application for a further 3 Gypsy plots each with the usual resident mobile home,

tourer van, and amenity buildings.

Plan Appl No 13/00700/FUL

The council will insert copy of objections submitted previously.

The highways Authority have completed a report on access etc to Snipe Lane and have substantially increased permitted numbers due mainly to changes to legislation to speed up and encourage building etc. They will explain their situation at the meeting.

Jeff Kemp will be attending the Decision Meetings for Lygon House and the oak tree at the Grange.

The Chairman congratulated Jeff Kemp and the council in contributing to the reappraisal of the changes to the DBC procedure for handling planning applications. The council is delighted that following Cllr Bill Dixon's visit to our parish council meeting, they reverted to the old system. Well done all round.

### **131. Highways Report**

Cllr Needham advised the council that there was nothing to report.

Ken Pattison reported that the No Parking notice on Blind Lane had been removed and was now on the Green. **Action Clerk to get it relocated.**

### **132. Speed Control Units**

One unit is now wired up, but the others require a contractor to provide the wiring and power connection. Date for this given by DBC is between 15<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Swarco will be installing the units shortly, either as the poles are wired, or all at one time.

### **133 Flood Action Report**

Residents are becoming increasingly fed up with DBC flood people. They perceive them as being obstructive and lacking transparency, with no constructive suggestions being made. Councillors Needham and Pattison suggested a French drain down one side of Glebe Lane which the residents liked. A quotation is being obtained for the work. On receipt a further meeting will be held with the residents to decide a course of action. DBC have already objected to this but have not made an alternative suggestion.

### **134 Tree Report**

Cllr Foster reported:-

1. Work had started at Lych Gate; two large trees have been crowned, and we are still waiting for planning permission to trim other trees. One very large tree requires attention, and the lime trees trimmed.
2. The tree at Friars Pardon (Goblin Wood) will be cut down next week, provided the weather permits.
3. The repair work has been completed at Eden Close.
4. Three trees are to be planted on the Green, to replace those which were removed. The residents who previously raised objections, will be advised.
5. Two replacement trees will be planted at Friars Pardon.

6. Peter Foster recommended that the apple trees in the Heritage Orchard should be pruned. Ken Pattison, on behalf of EPCIH welcomed this advice. Peter Foster stated he was prepared to do this free of charge. Councillor Pattison accepted this offer with pleasure and thanks.

### **135. Allotments**

Cllr Williams reported that the pathway at Strait Lane has been repaired, with the bark provided by Fosters.

There are 9 on the Strait Lane waiting list and 3 on the Grange waiting list. Several applicants will be allocated plots in January, and new tenancy agreements signed. Allotment rents, at £15, are now due.

### **136. Association Reports**

Peter Foster and Jeff Kemp reported that there had been no meetings in December.

Cllr Winnett reported that there had been some progress at Tees Valley Airport. The main Board had agreed to the revised plans, but the Middleton St George Parish Council were unhappy about the amount of houses scheduled to be built.

The drop off and collect time duration for free parking has been increased, which will make it easier for passengers.

### **137. Any Other Business (Non-financial)**

- a. The bollard on Roundhill Road is once more broken; it is understood that DBC intend to remove them.
- b. Cllr Howard raised the question of what plans HPC and the village has for the Commemoration for the 1914-18 War, which is being encouraged by some of the country. The council was mainly against the idea as it celebrated the start of the war rather than the end. It was stated the British Legion was against the idea, a sentiment shared by the council. The Clerk advised the meeting that he thought the Village Hall is planning an event. Council representatives on the Village Hall committee stated they were unaware of any such plans. **The Clerk is to investigate**
- c. A letter has been received from a resident highlighting concerns about the bad bend on Roundhill Road. It was agreed that this will be referred to the next PACT Meeting.
- d. It was noted that the discussion on maintenance of the Grange trees had not been put on the agenda. It was agreed it would be on the Feb agenda.
- e. A brief discussion took place on the possibility of proxy voting. This will also be put on the Feb agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm