

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes**

of the Meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 in the Hadwin Lounge,  
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

#### **Those attending**

Ian Holme (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes, Tony Winnett,  
Tony Needham, Ken Pattison, Jill Russell, John Howard, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle.

*Also present*, Martin Swainston, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

#### **Chairman - Ian Holme**

Ian thanked Ken Pattison for taking the Chair for the Special Meeting, as he had been detained at work.

#### **109 Apologies for absence:-**

Jeff Kemp (holiday abroad), Joe Kelley.

#### **110. Declarations of Interest:-**

None

#### **111 Minutes of the Meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

The minutes of the PC Meeting, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by Val Hughes.

#### **112. Matters Arising**

##### **1. Primary School election arrangements**

A letter has been received detailing reasons for not selecting either the Village Hall or Hurworth Grange for the elections. It also stated that the election should not interfere with the school lessons, as the hall is isolated.

The council were unhappy with this response, and the following actions agreed:-

- a. Letter to DBC promoting Hurworth Grange as the most central and most suitable.

**Action Clerk**

- b. Follow up letter to that previously sent to Hurworth primary School enclosing the DBC response and highlighting the point that normal lessons should continue. **Action Clerk**

##### **2. All Saints Church clock**

The church has offered to pay fifty percent of the clock repair bill, and the PC re-appraised their decision and unanimously voted to go ahead with the repair; proposed by Val Hughes, Seconded by Peter Foster.. **Clerk to arrange.**

All other items are covered in the agenda.

#### **113 . Public Participation**

No further participation by the public.

## 114 Accounts for Payment

1. The schedule of accounts for payment had already been circulated to all councillors, viz:

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>Oct-12</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sue Webster	102236	Salary	448.01
P.D Allan	102237	Salary	502.90
DALC	102238	Training	27.00
John Howard			
UJ	102239	Tree work	222.00
Inland			
Revenue	102240	PAYE	19.80
P.D Allan	102241	Training & Exs	125.80
MY Print	102242	Newsletter	497.00
A.C.Metals	102243	Skip hire	192.00
HCA	102244	Photocopying	16.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	16.60

All the accounts were accepted and the cheques were duly signed by Ian Holme and Ken Pattison.

## 115 Financial Report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. There were no questions regarding the current figures.

The Clerk reported that he had invoiced HCA for their annual rent of £900, and requested approval to pay HCA £1000 for the annual rent due on the Parish Office. This was agreed.

Val Hughes advanced the opinion that the PC should be making regular annual payments into the Burial Fund, to prepare for the purchase on new burial land, it was agreed that Val will raise this at next Finance Meeting.

## 116. Convening of Finance Committee Meeting

The meeting will be convened on **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm** in Hurworth Grange. The Clerk will convene the meeting, and provide a summary of the current financial situation and the minutes of the last meeting.

## 117 . Matters of Interest

- a. **Bay Horse Public House Licence.** - We have received a response from DBC Licensing Authority confirming they have talked to the landlord, and have noted our comments and the concerns of the residents. The residents will be advised through Bill Bramwell.
- b. **. Croft House** – We have received a response from DBC Property Maintenance dept. They have inspected the fence, and declare it safe. No response from Yuill's, **Clerk to send a further letter.**

- c. **Croft Club Right of Way** – Notices have been posted stating the relevant dates relating to the Hearing on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- d. **First Aid Course** – Jill Russell reported that she has obtained a quotation, which is attractive. It was agreed that the PC organise a course in February, for 12 persons, sharing the cost. Proposed by Jill Russell, seconded by Jean Peacock, all in favour. The cost quoted is £42.40 per attendee. This will be advertised in the next Newsletter.
- e. **Bulb planting on the Green.** The chairman confirmed that he had talked to the vicar of All Saints Church, and had granted permission to plant the bulbs, in the location agreed by Cllr Kemp.

## 118. PACT Report

Ian Holme attended the October Matting and reported as follows:-

PACT: 26th Sept- 24th Oct

2 Crimes: 1 Gas meter box damaged at Evans Halshaw  
1 report of youths drinking on the Green

Note; The Pastures area of Skerne Park is within Hurworth Parish but does not come under the same beat as the rest of the Parish. Therefore all crimes will be reported to the Skerne Park PACT rather than Hurworth.

Farmwatch reported no incidences

Speedwatch held on 24th Oct  
158 cars checked, 5 speeding (over 35mph)

2 fixed penalty tickets issued for cars obstructing footpaths

### ***FUTURE PACT MEETINGS***

HPC have previously explored the possibility of the Police reporting directly back to the PC at our monthly meeting but this has not proved possible.

A PACT meeting, only for Hurworth, was also considered but at the time it was thought that may be an unnecessary drain on Police resources (ie having separate meetings for each of the rural communities)

However events at the October PACT meeting indicated that the current arrangement of shared meetings was no longer tenable, with individual Cllrs at MSG insisting that all future PACT meetings must be held in their Parish.

This decision was totally unacceptable and therefore arrangements have been made for Hurworth to have its own PACT meeting, commencing **on Thursday 29th November, 6.30-7.30pm at Hurworth Methodist Church**

**The Chairman requested that as many councillors as possible should support the next meeting. Clerk to remind councillors via E Mail.**

## 119. Credit Union

The Chairman brought attention to the problems being faced by several members of our community, as the credit squeeze continues to take effect. He would like the council to consider the formation of a Credit Union, or the extension of an existing Union.

The Chairman has had an exploratory discussion with Tony Brockley who runs the Darlington Credit Union, who has offered to address a PC Meeting to outline the operations and benefits to the community. **Ian Holme will make the arrangements.**

## 120. Playground enhancement

Val Hughes reported that she has visited a number of playgrounds in the area, and that the Grange facility is the poorest. She has also talked to Brian Graham, at DBC, and he has offered to address the PC, but stresses that no money is available.

The playground at the Grange is actually owned by DBC and maintained by them, this is different to the arrangements at most of the other locations.

Peter Foster produced documents from yesteryear, which confirmed the legal status of the Grange playground.

## 121. Land and Property Review

Ken Pattison made a full report, viz:-

Four plots of land have been identified, which he believes should be registered in the name of Hurworth Parish Council.

- a. Village Green -
- b. Church Garth – Lych Gate
- c. Friars Pardon
- d. Grange Estate.

Cllr Pattison and the Clerk have made extensive searches into each of these properties, and accumulated a significant amount of pertinent information. Much of this work has been done in conjunction with the Land registry in Durham and with Stephen Allison, Lawyer (Property), Resources Group, Darlington Borough Council.

HPC have the opportunity to purchase three of these sites for a peppercorn rent, plus pay the legal expenses.

- a. It was proposed by Jill Russell, and Seconded by Ian Holme that HPC registers the Village Green in the council's name. The motion was unanimously agreed. **Action Ken Pattison and Clerk.**
- b. Church Garth / Lych Gate is ongoing, with the council's consent.
- c. Friars Pardon and d. Grange Estate plots.

The Chair opened the discussion, to consider any costs or liabilities which the council may inherit; Val Hughes prompted that adequate insurance cover needs to be put in place.

The meeting agreed that the council should go ahead, and a proposal was made by Tony Winnett, Seconded by John Howard, that these purchases should be concluded and that £1500 be allocated to cover the costs. The motion was passed unanimously.

At the request of Ken Pattison, it was agreed by all, that HPC will appoint Mr Stephen Alison, DBC Lawyer, to be our Legal Representative in these matters. Clerk to arrange.

## 122. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

- a. The work at **Elmfield Road and Ashfield Grove** was suspended because the contractor's equipment broke down and then the contractor needed to work at a school. The project will continue on 10<sup>th</sup> November; residents will be informed by DBC.
- b. Work will start at Friar's Pardon in early December.
- c. Primary School pathway - there is still confusion at DBC as to who will undertake this maintenance and upkeep. On a positive note Mr Schoon has completed the erection of his new wall, and it is impressive.
- d. Parking at Greenside Close is causing problems; access by Emergency Services may be severely restricted and this could provoke a catastrophe. DBC recommend that chevrons are needed to control the parking and preserve the Green. **Martin Swainston has undertaken to take action** to resolve this problem, and at a later date HPC may wish to write to the residents.

### **123. Localism Bill and Community Right to bid.**

Val Hughes, who did not attend the presentation by DBC on this subject requested details and the presentation material. **Clerk to supply.**

### **124. Speed Control**

Ken Pattison made a detailed report on the findings of his research into the various possible solutions to speed control in the villages. Having considered all practical solutions, the only recommendation for our environment is the installation of Speed Monitors, as advised by Mike Stauheir (Durham County Police expert)

Ken Pattison and Tony Needham requested quotations from five suppliers, and received three responses. They have evaluated the three quotations and recommend the solution from Swarco, who are based at Richmond. N. Yorkshire.

It is recommended that three units are installed, with one extra post, as the units are movable. The cost will be £5600, plus fitting, which will be undertaken by DBC. These will be installed at the following locations:-

- Outside the front of Hurworth Grange opposite the school.
- Roundhill Road
- Near the Emerson Arms / Otter and Fish at the entrance to the village.
- Post positioned on the Green.

The full report and specifications will be available in the Parish Office.

The 4 posts with suitable mains supply are to be supplied and installed by DBC. The next move is to meet up with DBC and their engineers to decide practical locations.

After considerable discussion, a motion was tabled by John Howard, Seconded by Val Hughes, that the council goes ahead with this project, and that an amount of £7000, be allocated forthwith. The motion was carried unanimously. **Action Ken Pattison and Clerk**

### **125. Allotments**

No report. A large skip has been placed at Strait Lane allotments, and is now full and is being removed.

### **126. Bus Service**

In the absence of Jeff Kemp, there was no report. However the questionnaires regarding potential bus usage have been delivered to all residences in the parish.

### 127. Tree Report

John Howard reported that the trees around the Green have now been trimmed, and he has addressed all outstanding requests for assistance. He also pointed out that this was the ideal time to plant trees, and as there are funds in the budget for trees, when does the PC wish to proceed?

Ken Pattison responded that a request for support for the Big Tree Plant had been put in the November Newsletter, and he hoped for a positive response.

### 128 Planning Applications

There were very few applications, and all for minor modifications. The council reviewed the applications and made 'no comment' to them all.

### 129. Newsletter

Tony Winnett reported that the November Newsletter had been printed and distributed. He thanked all parties for their assistance.

It was agreed that the Newsletter should continue to be delivered to Skerne Park.

### 130. Association Reports

Nothing to report

### 107 Any Other Business

1. Remembrance Day is on 9<sup>th</sup> November, Ian Holme will attend, and Val Hughes has purchased the wreath.
2. Jill Russell reported that she had received several expressions of concern about the introduction of wheelie bins. **The Clerk was asked to ascertain the status from DBC.**
3. John Howard asked why the HCA lease was only a five-year lease, as this could be very restrictive for obtaining grants, and long-term tenants. It was agreed that this will be placed on the Agenda for the **next meeting.**

The meeting finished at 9:30pm.