

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday 6th December 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, John Howard, Jeff Kemp.

Also present, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

131 Apologies for absence:-

Jill Russell (Holiday), Chris Pratt (Unwell), Norma Kyle (Work commitment). Joe Kelley (Dental treatment).

132. Declarations of Interest:-

Ian Holme, (personal interest in Hurworth Community Association).

133. Darlington Credit Union.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tony Brockley, who gave a talk to the Council, outlining the history and functions of the Darlington Credit Union. The Union was formed in 1988, and is the product of three smaller Unions, who eventually merged. Currently, the Union has investments of over £1 million, and loans of £300,000., and they are attracting new members at the rate of 100 per month.

The objective of the Credit Union is to provide funding, in the form of loans, to people who are of good character, and who have been identified as needing financial assistance. In most cases the person has been a member for at least eight weeks, and has been making regular weekly deposits into a savings account. In some cases the Union advanced small amounts of cash to people in dire need, where the repayment is unlikely, this is treated as charitable support. The interest rates charged by the Union are considerably lower than the doorstep financiers, and there are no penalties for late payment.

Mr Brockley stressed that the message to this council, is that they need to 'spread the word' and publicise the facility, and to canvas potential investors, to increase the available funds.

HPC may like to consider establishing a Collection Point within the parish, as an extension of the Darlington Credit Union coverage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brockley, and asked for this topic to be placed on next month's agenda.

134. Minutes of the Meeting dated 1st November 2012, and Minutes of the Special Flood Meeting dated 1st November 2012.

The minutes of these two Meetings, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Jean Peacock and seconded by Peter Foster.

135. Matters Arising

1. Primary School election arrangements

A letter has been sent to DBC promoting Hurworth Grange as an Election Station, and this is supported by a letter from the Primary School, stating that the use of the school is disruptive to them. DBC have acknowledged our letter, and agreed to review the situation.

2. All saints Church clock.

The clock will be repaired within the next ten days.

3. The First Aid course will be deferred until April, to allow for wider publicity via the next Newsletter to attract interested attendees. Action TW

All other items are covered in the agenda.

136 . Public Participation

There was no participation by the attending public.

137 Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Schedule of Accounts</u>			<u>£</u>
	<u>Account No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Landscapes	102245	Grass maintenance	400.00
Winnett	102246	Council exs	25.01
	102247	Annual rent of office	1000.00
HCA	102248	Annual utilities and Insurance.	620.00
Peter Foster	102249	Council exs	38.30
Sue Webster	102250	Salary November	422.77
P.D Allan	102251	Salary November	503.10
Inland Revenue	102252	PAYE Nov 12	19.60
P.D Allan	102253	Admin Exs	138.65
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	10.40

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

138 Financial Reports

The Financial status report will be covered at the end of the meeting, along with the Finance Committee Report.

139 . Matters of Interest

1. **Election Location**, was covered under Matters Arising.
2. **Playground Trees**. DBC have visited the site and it has been agreed that one tree needs to be removed and the other trees trimmed to heighten the canopy.
An order has been placed through Phil Haynes, DBC.
3. A letter from **John Buxton** was read to the council. It referred to a personal initiative being taken by him in addressing the state of styles in the parish.
4. After discussion, the meeting agreed that having completed and registered the Councillor's **Declaration Form** with DBC, no further action was required. It appears that the County Durham legislation is a little different to the DBC forms.
5. The placing of a Notice Board at the entrance to Hurworth Grange was discussed, and it was decided that this should be handled by HCA.
Peter Foster suggested that the Grange should have a brown road sign clearing identifying the premises.
Action clerk to take this up with DBC.

140. PACT Report Hurworth

Police and Communities Together: First meeting 29/11/2012
Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

Attendees: PC Paul Foley
PCSO John Angus
Det Sgt Karl Moss (Domestic Violence Unit)
Ian Holme (Chair)

30 members of the public

Police Report:

- 1 Crimes: 1 burglary "other" - Bicycle stolen from shed
- 3 thefts from vehicles, - Wheels stolen from Evans Halshaw, school bus & number plates
- 2 vehicle thefts, - van at Spar shop (recovered) and car from Stressholme golf club

1 theft of bicycle

No speedwatch this month due to weather conditions, though Traffic Officers have issued 4 speeding tickets in the Parish.

Discussed

A wide ranging discussion took place on the recent flooding events. Coordination of flood warning of the River Tees seems to be working well (Hurworth Place)

The Fire Service was needed again adjacent to Friars Pardon and more work can be done to coordinate action for residents in that area.

Det Sgt Moss gave an outline of the role of the Domestic Violence Unit

The suggestion of incorporating Neighbourhood Watch meetings into monthly PACT meetings was positively received.

The Chair advised that he did not feel it appropriate that the Chair of the Parish Council should also Chair PACT meetings and opened it to the meeting for volunteers. In the absence of non-Parish Council volunteers, Cllr John Howard kindly advised that he is willing to take this role on if necessary and this will be discussed/confirmed at the next meeting.

PACT Priorities

Key concerns expressed were parking on footpaths and speeding vehicles in the village. The parking issue is to be addressed with a "common sense" approach where inappropriate parking causes a significant obstruction/danger. The meeting was informed that the Parish Council has agreed to install 3 speed monitoring units at points around the village. Speedwatch will be re-introduced when the weather allows together with action from Traffic Officers.

Next meeting

There will be no December meeting due to Christmas

The next meeting will be on Thursday 31st January, 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall

Action Item: Clerk to make arrangements with the Methodist Church

141. Flood Action Update

Ken Pattison and Tony Needham updated the council with the progress being made, following the Special Meeting on 1st November.

1. Northumbria Water has repaired the pipes at the Glebe, and this should have resolved the foul water leakage. However, it appears to have caused a further problem for the residents of Friars Pardon, who have experienced an increase in flood water.
2. **Cree Beck.** There appears to have been no progress at this location.
3. **Blind Lane .** This site has been visited, but the two land owners have refused to do any work on their properties to help to alleviate the flooding problems. It has been established that the water from Elmfield Road is not finding its way to Blind Lane, but is going into the sewage outlet in The Chase.

A meeting has been arranged on Monday, 10th December, in Hurworth Grange, with representatives from DBC and the Northumbria Water, who will meet with Ken Pattison and Tony Needham. KP has located documents from 1982, which may assist in establishing responsibilities.

Action: Ken Pattison is to inform the residents that the contacts for any Flood related issues are Peter Foster (HPC Flood Warden) and the Clerk.

142. Hurworth Grange Lease

John Howard put forward the suggestion that the lease with the HCA be extended from a five year tenure to a longer tenure. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to try to find the reasons why there had been objections in the past to extending the tenure from one year to five years. **Action Clerk**

It was also agreed that HCA should be invited to request a longer lease, if they support the concept.

143. Playground enhancement

Val Hughes reported that she has had further discussions with DBC, and although they are being helpful, they have made it clear they can provide no financial support. The trees are going to be addressed, which will improve the facility, but Val has concerns about the health and safety, particularly the state of the ground, where the bark covering has gone and wooden struts are protruding. The cost of replacing the treated bark is very high.

Action: Val Hughes and the Clerk will talk to DBC and see what arrangements can be made.

144. Land and Property Review

Ken Pattison reported that there was little to report, as the transfers of two of the properties are in progress. The third property will take a little longer, and further research will be necessary. Stephen Alison, DBC Legal department, is handling each case on our behalf.

145. Highways

Tony reported as follows:-

1. The repairs to the pathway at Friars Pardon have been completed.
2. The repairs at the Spar corner are in progress, and will be completed within a few days.
3. All the **salt bins** have been filled by DBC in early December. However, the bin on Elmfield Road has been emptied; we think we can trace who has taken the salt. Also John Howard reported that the two bins on the Grange Estate have also been emptied. It cost £16 to get the salt bins filled, and in future if we can trace wrong use by residents taking the salt for their own use, then they will be charged. Tony Needham is negotiating with HCA to store bulk salt at the Grange, as this will cost considerably less. John Howard offered the services of his company to spread salt in critical areas, free of charge.
Ken Pattison requested the council to order a salt bin for All Saints Church, and re-invoice it to the church or him personally. **Action Clerk** to order the bin. Tony Needham is going to raise the possibility of DBC locating a bin at the Primary School entrance, where the path and road is very slippery. **Action Tony Needham.**
4. **Elmfield Road.** The resurfacing of Elmfield Road and Ashfield Drive has been completed. Residents have expressed their views that the work appears poor, but Tony Needham reassured them, that after about 6 weeks, when it has bedded down, it will appear greatly improved.
5. Complaints have been received about taxis entering **Priory Hurworth House School** and causing concern to pedestrians at busy times. It was agreed that the **Clerk will write to Mr Anderson** at the School, and request a notice be erected stating 'Pedestrians have right of way'. The Chairman suggested that it may be a good time to have the next regular meeting with the school.

146. Speed Control

Ken Pattison reported that agreement on the location of the units was still not settled, and there has been a change of Head of Dept at the police headquarters. Michael Straugheir retired on 6th December. Andy Casey (DBC) is also presently off ill, but it is hoped a meeting can be arranged for w/c 10/12/12.

147. Allotments

In the absence of Norma Kyle there was no report. The meeting confirmed that the allotment rent for 2013 will be £15; this is still very low in comparison to other councils.

148. Bus Service

Jeff Kemp reported that the council has only received nine responses to the 1600 questionnaires that were delivered to residences. He has analysed the replies, and it is clear that most residences have made alternative transport arrangements for the evenings, and that there is no realistic demand. The proposal for a regular bus service is now closed. However HPC will continue to work with our Borough Council colleagues to see if some level of service (perhaps voluntary) can be coordinated for those most in need.

149. Tree Report

John Howard reported that the trees around the Green have now been inspected by Phil Haynes DBC Arborist, and it was agreed that no further work is required at this time. They also inspected the trees in the churchyard and in Lychgate. The council has asked Phil Haynes to make a complete survey and provide a report on all the trees in the parish which have a TPO status. The cost will be circa £200.

Peter Foster made a statement that when he had said no new trees should be planted, due to current disease concerns, he actually referred only to ash trees and other species which currently have disease problems.

There was a discussion about planting new trees; some councillors supported this, others commented that there are already quite enough trees in the villages. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Ken Pattison reported that only three people attended the Big Tree Plant meeting, and they were all councillors. Although there is clearly no interest in this topic in the parish, Ken Pattison intends to talk to DBC, who have received grants and support as community groups are presently planting trees in Darlington under grants from The Big Tree Plant.

150. Planning Applications

Jeff Kemp reported that there had only been two new applications, and neither was worthy of comment. **Clerk to inform DBC Planning Dept.** – 'No Comment' to both applications.

74. 151. Newsletter and web site

Tony Winnett reported that the next Newsletter will be scheduled for February 2013, and he welcomed contributions.

It was agreed that Tony will include a Parish Plan update report, in the next newsletter and also put it on the web site as soon as possible. **Action Tony Winnett and Clerk.**

Details of the First Aid course will be included in the February newsletter, and also details of future PACT Meetings.

At Tony Needham's suggestion bulk deliveries of the newsletters should be made to the doctors and dentist surgeries, public houses in the parish, and the barbers.

152. Association Reports

Nothing to report

153. Any Other Business – Non Financial

1. Wheelie bins. It has been established that wheelie bins will become mandatory in Hurworth as from June 2013.

There are mixed views about the bins, and the council would like to explore alternative options, where it is deemed that wheelie bins would not be practical, as an example in Church Row. **Action Clerk to investigate.**

2. Val Hughes reported that the path from West End up the Glebe is in poor condition. Ken Pattison offered to address this at his meeting with DBC next week.

3. There have been a number of complaints about the signs which Mr Fulton has put up on the Green advertising Christmas trees for sale. There are also concerns about the increased traffic on Coach Lane, which is used largely by pedestrians. It is appreciated that Mr Fulton is doing this to raise money for charities; but nevertheless, a letter needs to be sent to him, expressing the concern about erecting a notice on the Green without requesting permission, and without explanation. **Clerk to compose and send the letter.**

154. Financial Report

All councillors had received the Minutes of the Finance Meeting on 16th November, and these were accepted, proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Tony Winnett.

The clerk gave a short presentation of the updated financial status reports, having incorporated the recommendations of the Finance Committee, and extending the forecast out to 31st March 2015.

The Clerk described how the Precept is calculated and used the DBC cost matrix to illustrate the effect of a Precept increase. John Howard proposed that the Precept for 2013-14 should be increased by the amount of the DBC grant, which we will no longer receive, the amount being £9,785. This equates to 62 pence per month for a Band rated D resident. The motion was seconded by Ian Holme, and the vote in favour was unanimous.

It was agreed that the figure allocated for traffic control units should remain at £7,000.

The projects recommended by the Finance Committee were placed before the council for acceptance, proposed by Tony Winnett, and Seconded by Jeff Kemp; the vote in favour was unanimous. The projects confirmed are as follows:-

• Traffic Controls	£7,000
• Skateboard phase 2, and completion	£2,500
• Playground refurbish and upgrade	£4,000
• Repairs to internal roads on The Green	£3,000
• Earmarked reserve for property repairs at Hurworth Grange	£4,000
• FOTC support up to £1000, dependent upon specific projects	£1,000

Current committed expenditure (orders placed) include:-

• Land purchasing costs	£1,500
• Hurworth Grange car park extension	£3,765
• Church Clock	£450

All the figures and projections were approved by the meeting, and it was agreed that details of the progress made during 2012 and the future plans should be publicised within the parish and via the press. **Action the Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.