

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday 3RD January 2013 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, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle.

Also present, Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

155 Apologies for absence:-

Jeff Kemp (Away on family business),
Jill Russell – absent.

156. Declarations of Interest:-

Ian Holme, (personal interest in Hurworth Community Association).
John Howard and Val Hughes - allotments

157. Minutes of the Meeting dated 6th December 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 Tony Winnett.

158. Matters Arising

- 1. Wheelie Bins** – DBC has responded to our letter regarding inappropriate sites for wheelie bins. They requested a list of addresses, where these bins will cause problems. The Clerk is gathering this information from the councillors and will respond to the DBC directly.
- 2. Hurworth Grange sign** – Our letter has been forwarded to the relevant department at DBC, but no response has yet been received.
- 3. First Aid Course** – In the absence of Jill Russell, this has not yet been arranged.
Action: Clerk to contact Jill Russell. Details to be included in the forthcoming Newsletter.
- 4. Priory Hurworth House School** – No response yet to our letter, but the school has been on holiday.

159. Public Participation

Mr Geoffrey Scott, who has written to HCA about his concerns about the large trees in the Grange grounds, which are a potential danger to his, and his neighbours' properties addressed the meeting. A very large ash tree fell during the Christmas period, but fortunately fell into the Grange grounds. The oak tree is even larger, and there are three other trees which pose a danger. Keith Sandick, Centre Manager of HCA has contacted Phil Haynes, DBC Arborist to arrange a survey, and take advice. John Howard will take a watching brief, as the council's tree representative. **Action: Clerk to write to HCA** recommending that a survey be taken of all the trees in the Grange, to ensure that they are fully covered for insurance, and to identify any work which needs to be done. The last full survey was carried out in 2006.

Mr Scott would like the trees trimmed down, to reduce the risk, and also for the benefit of the trees themselves.

Val Hughes stated that Phil Haynes recommended removing all the ivy from the tree trunks, and she suggested that FOTC may take on this task.

160 Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>Dec-12</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sue Webster	102254	Salary December	410.15
P.D Allan	102255	Salary December	337.90
Inland Revenue	102256	PAYE Dec 12	184.82
Hurworth Methodist Church	102257	PACT Meeting rent 3 months	30.00
Hurworth Social Club	102258	Chairman's Admin Exs	51.25
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	15.24
BT Comms	DD	Comms	61.92

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

161 Financial Reports

The Financial Report, having been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, was accepted, with no questions.

162. Matters of Interest

1. The Chair congratulated the Clerk for passing the CILCA examination, and formally presented him with the Certificate.
2. Now that the council has a qualified Clerk RFO, it was agreed that the council will apply for Quality Parish Council status. The cost of the application will be £120. This was proposed by John Howard and Seconded by Val Hughes, and was carried unanimously. Action: **The Clerk will start the process**, and it will be discussed at the next PC Meeting,
3. The Chair was pleased to announce that the council has been successful in obtaining a grant from Awards for All, for £8,000 which is to replace the main water system in Hurworth Grange. He thanked the Clerk.

4. Concern was expressed about the condition of the new car park matting. It is apparent that cars have been using the new facility, although the contractor informed HCA that it should not be used until the grass has grown through. Peter Foster emphasised the importance of this. Action : Clerk to talk to HCA to prevent further occurrences.
5. Police Panel; The Chair stated that he feels it important for HPC to attend this forum. Ken Pattison and John Howard volunteered to attend the first meeting, and report back to the council. Action: **Clerk to enrol KP and JH.**
6. Salt bin for All Saints Church – The price has been increased substantially, and hence Ken Pattison will discuss this with the church, before the order is confirmed.
7. We have been advised of the possibility of a substantial grant, for use in either public parks or cemeteries. **Action: Clerk to enquire further.**

163. Flood Action Update

Ken Pattison and Tony Needham updated the council with the progress being made in December.

- Northumbrian Water has resolved the problem of leaking foul water at the Glebe.
- However, in resolving the Glebe situation, the surplus surface water is now causing further flooding in Friars Pardon. There are still serious problems in Blind Lane and West End. There is a blockage in the culvert, and to date no action has been taken. The cost may fall on local residents, if the problem is under their property. KP in discussion with DBC/NWL.
- An on-site meeting has been held to look at the pathway at the Glebe, with the intention of making good the damage caused by the emergency work. Mr Scott Hardin and Mr Fidel were in attendance. The damage would appear to have been caused by the contractor – Seymour. Northumbrian Water is trying to improve the situation.
- There is no progress with Cree Beck; Peter Foster has offered to help, when the survey is started. KP chasing up DBC/NWL.

164. Hurworth Grange Lease

The Clerk had a meeting with the Trustees of HCA, and they will be requesting the tenure of the lease to be extended to ten years, when the current lease is about to expire in 2014.

165. Playground Enhancement

Val Hughes reported that very little progress has been made in December, mainly due to the DBC holidays. The trees will be trimmed during the week commencing 8th January, and we are waiting for a response regarding the safety of the ground in the playground.

Sports Facilities

Val Hughes raised the subject of using the facilities at Hurworth School, for community recreation activities. Ian Holme, who is a Governor of the School, reported that he has talked to the new Headmaster, and that there are encouraging signs. The school welcomes the principal of community use of the new sports facilities (due to complete Sept. 2013) and are currently negotiating the requirements with Sport England (who are involved due to Planning Conditions) There are security and financial considerations, but discussions will continue, and hopefully a solution will be developed

166. Credit Union

It was agreed that information regarding the facilities of a local Credit Union will be put in the next Newsletter. Any further progress, in Hurworth, will depend upon identifying two volunteers, who would operate the Union, as an extension to the Darlington Association.

167. Land and Property Review

Ken Pattison reported that due to the Christmas holidays, there has been little progress with the land transfers. Two of the properties were moving along to a conclusion, but Ken wishes to make further surveys at the Land registry, before the council make their final commitment to proceed with the purchase. The Lych Gate property is a more complex problem, and the land appears to be owned by The Crown.

Stephen Allison will be back from holiday next week, and a further meeting will be scheduled.

The ownership of the toilet block is being investigated, and Ken will report on this at the next meeting.

168. Highways

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

1. Tony had carried out a 'walk around' with DBC and identified areas which require attention in 2013. It is hoped that a schedule will be drawn up, and a commitment received to address these locations.
2. Chris Pratt reported that there is, again, a large pothole on Croft Road, between Evans Halshaw and Croft village. Tony will report this to Highways DBC.

169. Speed Control

Ken Pattison reported that agreement on the location of the units had now been resolved, as follows:-

- Hurworth Comprehensive School
- Roundhill Road
- Location near Otter and Fish
- Location on The Green.

The units are portable, and hence four locations, but only three units.

The units are not battery driven, and the availability of electricity near the locations is now being considered.

The units have an 'option' which provides the collection and retrieval of data remotely. This option will cost an additional £1200. The meeting supported this addition, but no final decision has been taken.

170. Allotments

Norma Kyle reported that the tree trimming at the Grange allotments has not yet been completed. **Action Clerk to make the arrangements**, bad weather had delayed the work.

Val Hughes has put a notice up at the allotments sites, relating to the National Association of Allotments.

171. Tree Report

John Howard reported that Phil Haynes (DBC Arborist) had carried out his survey of the trees on The Green, and we will receive his report shortly.
The work on the trees in the Grange playground is scheduled for next week.
JH will investigate the circumstances regarding a letter from Mr Redfern, resident of The Green, and **he and the Clerk will address and respond to the letter.**

172. Planning Applications

In the absence of Jeff Kemp, Ian Holme reported on the two December applications:-

1. 27 Friars Pardon – infill extension – ‘No Comment’
2. 5 Roundhill Road – demolition of garage and house extension – ‘No comment’.

173. Newsletter and Web Site

Tony Winnett requested information and articles for the next Newsletter and web site updates. Specific items include:-

- HMS Hurworth activities
- Latest grant of £8000 award.
- Village diary
- Success stories

Action Clerk and TW to pool their thoughts and prepare suitable material.

It was agreed that Ian Holme will talk to Martin Swainston about articles which appear in the Liberal Party Forum leaflet. **Action IH.**

174. Association Reports

Peter Foster - Nothing to report, as no meetings had been held in December.

175. Any Other Business – Non Financial

1. Chris Pratt asked if we can ascertain the Arriva policy on buses stopping to pick up and deposit passengers on Croft Road, between Evans Halshaw and Croft village. **Action Clerk**
2. Tony Needham drew the council’s attention to the latest spate of dog dirt, and dog owners’ responsibilities. Also some dog owners are throwing filled dog litter bags into Church Row Flats property.
3. Tony Needham drew attention to the presence of horses at Manorfield, and questioned whether they are allowed, and what action the council can take to reduce this activity and horse dirt fouling. **Action Clerk to investigate.**
4. Norma Kyle asked whether the Council had received any correspondence from the residents at Strait Lane regarding the shortage of parking space. They had intended to draw up a plan to request permission to convert a part of the green area opposite their houses into a car park. Nothing has been received. The Council expressed their disapproval of reducing the green area, and suggested double yellow lines may be a better option. **Action: The Clerk was asked to write** to DBC requesting support to protect the green area, and to try to stop vehicles parking on the grass, by installing a low fence. Also to express the

view that double yellow lines should be considered, as the road is potentially dangerous due to parking on both sides, and at the bend at Timmy's Lane.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.