

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 5th July 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, Jill Russell, Jeff Kemp. Ken Pattison, Norma Kyle.

39 Apologies for absence:-

Chris Pratt, Jill Russell.

Also absent, John Howard

Also present, Cllr Martin Swainston, Cllr Joe Kelley and Andy Walker (Northern Echo)

40. Declarations of Interest:-

Val Hughes and Tony Needham (Allotments)

41 The Chairman welcomed by Chief Inspector Chris Reeves (Durham Constabulary).

Inspector Reeves outlined the arrangements which have been made for the Olympic Games, which involved several local police officers assisting with policing the events in London.

PC Paul Foley, who is trained in riot duties, will be operational at the Games, but his place in the rural area, here, will be adequately covered by the existing team, which is deployed covering the broader area. The period in question is between 3 and 4 weeks, and police cover will be handled on a rotation basis. The total team based in Darlington exceeds 200 personnel.

Sergeant Mark Ralph will be in charge throughout this period.

The footpaths around the riverside will remain open, but the F.A would like to keep everything low key. The Middlesborough F.C. car park and grounds will be closed to the public.

On a general note, Inspector Reeves reported that crime in the area is at a low level, with reported crime at less than 1.5 percent.

Tony Winnett asked if the Eco Park is a police 'no go' area. The answer is that as it is private land, like all other private land, the police do not have an automatic right of entry.

Martin Swainston asked whether the council can get direct contact numbers for local police. This is discouraged, but numbers can be given to the Clerk, in case of a specific requirement. All calls should go through the main police switchboard.

Inspector Reeves is keen to rejuvenate the Neighbourhood Watch, and also to encourage greater attendance at PACT Meetings. He would like the agenda to be expanded to encompass Community Matters. The possibility of monthly meetings within each village was raised and will be discussed further.

The Special Constable for Hurworth is not going to happen; the recruiting principles have changed, and been centralised.

The Community Speedwatch will continue, and will be strengthened by adding a Traffic Police presence in the village, and imposing fines.

42. Minutes of the Meeting dated 7th June 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 Ken Pattison.

43. Matters Arising

1. Ken Pattison reported that Dr and Mrs Bagshaw had finalised the selection of the Christmas tree, which will be planed on the Green. We are to make to check with the utility companies regarding pipes and cables in the area. **Action: Clerk** to write and thank Dr Bagshaw.
2. **John Howard** needs to follow up on the Goblin Wood complaint.
3. There has been no response to the council's letter to Mrs Veining at the Primary School. Cllr Swainston is also trying to obtain an appointment. **Action Clerk** to telephone and make an appointment.

44. Public Participation

Mrs Viv Whitaker wished to show her support for the bee keeping initiative, and offered to use half of her allotment to house hives. Peter Akers also offered space on his allotment, so a total of three hives could be accommodated.

Peter Aker has talked to other allotment holders, and several are in favour. Ideally a separate allotment should be allocated for the purpose. Viv Whitaker offered to oversee the project.

Tony Needham supported the project, stressing the benefit to pollination at the allotments.

Norma Kyle suggested that children should be encouraged to visit.

Ken Pattison asked for the bee project to be put on the agenda for the next Allotment Meeting, and that Roger Chapman be invited to address the council. He also suggested that a grant of £5000 may be available. This would cover the cost of hives, bees, suits and masks; a protective fence may also be required. **Action Ken Pattison** to progress the project.

45. Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Eon	102190	Christmas tree lighting costs	216.11
Skipbridge Signs	102191	Allotment signs	70.00
HCA	102192	Photocopying	37.08
Xentral DBC	102193	Road repairs	129.30
MT Print	102194	Newsletter	497.00
Sue Webster	102195	June salary	410.15
Tony Winnett	102196	Meeting exs	34.77
P.D. Allan	102197	Office& allotment expenses	52.54
P.D.Allan	102198	June salary	503.10
Inland revenue	102199	Income tax PAYE	19.60
Northumbrian Water	102200	Strait Lane allotments Tree and bust maint Grange	28.19
Eden Landscapes	102201	allotments	160.00
Eden Landscapes Ian Holme	102202	Repairing steps in burial grounds	65.00
	102203	Chairman's honorarium	100.00
Barclays Band	DD	Bank Charges	2.30
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	11.81
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60

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

46. Financial Report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 30th June 2012. There were no questions regarding the current figures.

47. Matters of Interest

1. The new Code of Conduct was formally adopted by the council. All councillors must complete, sign, and return their "Interest" forms to the Clerk.
2. The PC has received a letter of concern regarding the use of the open space at Lychgate. Peter Foster related the history of the land, and that it was provided by Johnson's of Hurworth (builders) as an amenity plot. **Action Ken Pattison** is to talk to the resident, the Land registry and DBC.
3. A new swing will be fitted in the playground.
4. A complaint from Christine Blades about tree roots has been channelled to **John Howard for attention.**
5. A request from Butterwick Howe Hospice for a donation was declined. **Clerk to respond accordingly.**
6. A revised Planning Application system has been distributed by DBC. **Jeff Kemp** is to peruse and digest the impact.

7. Mrs J. Redfern has offered to participate in the Big Tree project. Ken Pattison is attending to this.
8. DALC have arranged a seminar to appraise a new accounting package. The Clerk will attend.

48. **Hurworth Grange Senior Citizens** A letter has been received from the **Senior Citizens**. It was agreed that **Jeff Kemp** will visit Ron Henderson to discuss their plight.

49. **Localisation Bill**. The Clerk has circulated Val Adams presentation slides to the visiting councils. And will continue to circulate incoming information on this subject.

50. **Pact Report** Ian Holme attended the meeting at Hurworth Grange, and reported that the crime level in our parish was very low, and there are no major concerns at this time.

51. **Highways Report** Tony Needham reported as follows:-

1. The stile on footpath 12 has been prioritised for repair, and DBC have promised an early resolution.
2. The hedges will not be cut until the end of August, as this is still the nesting season.
3. The trees at Croft House are spreading to the pathway. **Clerk to request** DBC and Yuill's to trim them back.
4. Grass outside Rockliffe Court. Middlesbrough F.C has still not cut the grass on their property. **Clerk to chase again.**
5. Mrs Vening, Head of Hurworth Primary School has not replied to our request for a meeting. **Action Clerk** to press to arrange a meeting with the PC.
6. Some dog owners have been throwing used dog litter bags into the salt bins. Action **Tony Winnett** to raise in the next newsletter.
7. There has been no response to the PC letter to the residents of Westfield Drive regarding grass cutting and site maintenance. The council agreed that we will arrange to cut the grass and tidy the area. Proposed by Ken Pattison, seconded by Ian Holme. **Clerk to engage David Parker.**

52. Allotments Report and Referendum Results

1. The referendum results on the formation of an independent Allotment Association were as follows:-

For the proposal	9 votes
Against	18 votes

The decision is that the allotments will remain under the control of the PC. **Tony Winnett** to post the result on the PC web site.

2. Two notices have been erected at the allotments addressing that 'Dogs must be kept on lead'. The Chairman reported that he had sent a letter to one allotment holder confirming the rules relating to dogs.
3. Seven letters have been sent to allotment holders whose plots are not up to standard.
4. **Norma Kyle** is to arrange for the re-location of the dog litter bin.
5. A spring has been fitted to the allotment gate at Strait Lane.

53. **Bees** This was discussed during the Public Participation.

54. Rights of Way Norma Kyle expressed concerns that landowners were not always complying with Right of Way conventions. The pathway through Timmy's Lane was cited as an example. It was agreed that **Tony Needham** would raise this subject with Malcolm Thompson at DBC Countryside.

55. Planning Applications Jeff Kemp reported as follows:-

A. Planning Applications for June 2012

1) Planning Application No 12/00378/FUL

Install 16 roof mounted Solar Panels on Garage roof at Hurworth Manor, 44 The Green, Hurworth

The Panels will be well out of site to the public.....No Objection

2) Appeal Reference APP/N1350/A//12/2173539

Appeal against rejection to allow more Gypsy sites on Snipe Lane. Hearing on 18th July

I do not intend to go to the meeting. Our objection still stands to the increase of gypsy sites on this lane. The entrance/exit is directly is very dangerous as it is directly on to a busy major Trunk Road (A66) The Highways Dept support this.

3) Plan App No 12/00376/FUL

Internal refurbishment and modifications to the entrance area. Hurworth Comprehensive School, Croft Road, Hurworth.

No Objection

4) Plan App No 12/00344/FUL

Erection of two Storey extension to Corpse House, Roundhill Road, Hurworth Moor.

This is the 3rd application for major extension to the existing housing. These are major extensions you could say turning into terraced housing. The number of occupations on this group of housing could be increasing substantially. We have already suggested that the existing services may not cope.

B.. Jeff Kemp also reported - At the last council meeting I was volunteered to read the above and see if any specific ref is made in regard to HPC

The document is very broad in that it covers a large area including HPC

I have noted the paragraphs that could be of interest and summarised that policy ;

Page 21 para 3.1 12 and 13.....DBC approach to development in villages. DBC will protect the countryside their vitality, viability and retain services to sustain employment and facilities for the rural community. Planning will only be granted with the above in mind. Planning permissions are in hand to facilitate growth of Durham Tees Valley Airport and employment opportunities.

Page 43/44 para 6.1.3From 2004 to 2026 it is anticipated that 8675 new dwellings will be required within DBC

para 6.1.10.....Small housing development sites in and around HPC only to sustain local growth and needs of the local community.

Page 47 para 6.1.15.....Indicates that new housing development within our area will be nil up to 2021 and that 150 new dwellings needed 2021 to 2026

Page 53/54 para 6.4 Accommodating Travelling Groups.....Refers to Government Policy to make adequate sites for Travellers. We have seen DBC proposals and await modified proposals incorporating the concerns within the areas affected.

Page 73/4 para 9.17 Priorities for public transport between villages and town amenities.

The other 90 pages make interesting reading (if you have the hours to spare) but in the main do not affect HPC specifically.

- 56. Trees.** In the absence of John Howard there was no report. Ken Pattison reported that there had been a very poor response to the Big Tree proposal, except from two residents. More time will be allowed but it is possible that this project will be shelved.

- 57. Alan Gibson Memorial** The council thanked Val Hughes for organising this event, which was well received.

- 58. Bus Services** Joe Kelley, Ian Holme and Jeff Kemp made met and attended meetings to discuss possible alternative transport suggestions. A grant is available, which would help to cover the costs for one year, but thereafter.

The cost of buying and maintaining our own transport would prove prohibitive, but a loop scheme with other villages is still being considered. Also under consideration is the possibility of the PC contracting out an evening mini-bus service to a Taxi operator. The practicality and costs of the various options are currently being established.

- 59. Newsletter** Tony Winnett reported that the June Newsletter has been distributed, and that the next edition will be in September / October.

The meeting wish the Clerk to establish and maintain a Village Diary, so that village events do not clash, and residents can be better informed.

- 60. Association Reports** Peter Foster reported that he had attended the Airport Consultation Group, and there is a very positive approach to expanding the facilities.

Proposals have been put forward which include further development of 350 acres of land around Teesside. This will create extra jobs and establish a long-term future for the airport.

- 61 Summer Recess** There will be no meeting in August, but the Parish Office will be open as usual. The Clerk will call upon councillors if the need arises. The Council agreed that the Clerk, Chair and Cllr Kemp are delegated to cover any incoming Planning Applications.

It was also agreed that the Skateboard project could be advanced should the Grant Application decision be delivered during the recess.

62. Any Other Business

- It was agreed that the Clerk will install a new telephone at the office.
- The new Surgery List has been distributed.
- The village benches are to be serviced and re-varnished. **Clerk** to make arrangements
- Peter Foster requested that the Clerk follow up on the installation of a safety gate opposite the Otter and Fish, particularly due to the risk caused by recent heavy flooding on the river bank.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm