

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 7th June 2012 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending:-

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

19 Apologies for absence:-

Joe Kelley (DBC Councillor),

20. Declarations of Interest:-

Tony Winnett for Item 31 Planning Applications (Eco Lodge)

21 Presentation by Val Adams (DBC Planning Dept.) addressing 'Neighbourhood Planning'.

The chairman welcomed guests from Neasham, Croft and Low Dinsdale parish councils. Also representatives from the Borough Council, plus Leslie Millgate, Gillan Gibson of CPRE Durham and Dr Pollard.

The presentation covered the effect which the Localisation Bill will have on the structure and powers of local councils, and how the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, made in conjunction with neighbouring parishes, could enhance our status, and give local councils' more leverage.

The presentation highlighted the following aspects:-

- Scope of the Localisation Bill 2011.
- Emphasis on planning based on "Right thing in the right place."
- Emphasis on 'positive and progressive' approach and overcoming negativity.
- In theory a Parish Neighbourhood Plan could influence a Borough Plan.
- Reference was made to the National Planning Policy Assessment, which is the highest level policy document, and then the DBC Framework Plan, which was finalised in 2011, after consultation.
- The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is the local governing body, based at DBC, and they will assist and give guidance to all councils who wish to develop their own plans.
- Any local Neighbourhood Plans must conform with and integrate into the DBC Framework Plan, which is now in concrete. Hence, local plans are limited to the scope already defined within this document.

- The development of a plan is a ten step process, which could take upto 18 months to prepare, and is likely to be expensive.
- Plans should address Open Spaces and Green areas, and proposals require over fifty percent acceptance, of all responders to the referendum.

Peter Foster asked if any grants were available, and the answer was negative. However advice and guidance may be available.

Ian Holme asked for confirmation that any neighbourhood plan would need to conform with the DBC Framework. Therefore there would be no scope to oppose/challenge anything in the Framework. This was confirmed.

Ken Pattison asked if a Neighbourhood Plan would carry more weight than our Parish Plan. The new document would have greater legalistic credence, and therefore will carry greater influential weight, but only within the limitations of the existing DBC Framework strategy.

There were a number of questions from the representatives of the other parish councils;-

Mr Dodsworth (Neasham) suggested that a preferred route may be by modifications to the DBC Framework strategy. It appears that the 'Independent Advisor' plays a major role, and effectively has the last word and decision on what is acceptable. The meeting felt that this was not the most appropriate situation.

Representatives from Low Dinsdale expressed concerns about wind farms, and made the point that although they may be vital, they should not infringe on personal residences.

Gillan Gibson contributed by saying that most people were against the concept of 'referendums', but believed that they are necessary to ensure all stakeholders are consulted.

Mr Dodsworth asked who will have to pay for all the work involved, and Val Adams said that it would be the local council, although her department's services should be free of charge. She stated that 'cost should not be an obstacle', and prevent the initiative.

The mood of the meeting suggested that the cost and work involved is likely to make the development of a full scale plan unattractive, but there is scope for focusing on special areas or major issues within our own environment.

The Chairman thanked Val Adams, and all of the representatives from the local councils, who had attended the meeting.

22. Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd May 2012

1. The minutes of the PC Meeting, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Chris Pratt and seconded by John Howard.
2. The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 3rd May 2012, having been pre-distributed, were adopted, proposed by Jean Peacock, seconded by Tony Needham, and signed by the Chairman.

3. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 3rd May 2012, were adopted, proposed by Peter Foster, seconded by Tony Needham, and signed by the Chairman.

23. Matters Arising

10 Tees View. The Clerk had discussed the problem of the scaffolding attached to this house for almost 12 months, with the DBC Building Control dept., who stated that there had been no license application regarding this property.

It was agreed, that as the scaffold encroached onto the pathway, then we should make a complaint to the Highways Dept. **Action Clerk.**

24. Public Participation

Although several people attended the meeting, no points were raised during this forum.

25. Financial Matters

1. Accounts for Payment 7th June 2012

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

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>31st May-12</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hurworth Village Hall	102180	Dia Jubilee expenses	500.00
Sue Webster	102181	Salary May 12	441.70
P.D. Allan	102182	Salary May 12	483.30
B. Lawrence	102183	Dia Jubill plaque	84.00
Inland Revenue	102184	PAYE	39.40
Gordon Fletcher	102185	Internal Audit 2012	250.00
H.C.A.	102186	Photocopying	8.80
P.D. Allan	102187	Office expenses	83.58
T. Winnett	102188	General Exs & comms	59.72
J. Kemp	102189	Expenses mileage	86.62
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	12.29
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60

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

2. Financial report

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

3. Statement of Governance

The formal document, as provided by the auditors, and having been circulated prior to the meeting was formally adopted, proposed by John Howard and seconded by Jeff Kemp. The chairman will sign this document.

4. Financial Accounts for the Year to 31st March 2012, Final Accounts for Audit.

The council formally adopted the accounts, as presented, and as audited by the Internal Auditor, Mr Gordon Fletcher. Proposed by Chris Pratt, seconded by John Howard.

5. Internal Audit Report.

The audit report, having been circulated prior to the meeting was formally adopted, proposed by Ken Pattison and seconded by John Howard.

6. Risk Assessment.

The Risk Assessment schedule, updated as at 31st May, having been circulated prior to the meeting was formally accepted by the full council, proposed by Ken Pattison and seconded by Peter Foster, and a unanimous vote.

26. Matters of Interest

1. A certificate was presented to Tony Winnett for his attendance at DALC training course.
2. A letter from Hurworth Grange Senior Citizens group informing the PC of their financial plight, was read to the council. This will be investigated further and placed on the agenda for the next meeting. **Clerk to write to them.**
3. The hole outside 41 The Green has been repaired at a cost of £108; the council ratified this expenditure, raised by Tony Needham.
4. At the instigation of Ken Pattison, a letter is to be delivered to the residents of Westfield drive requesting them to arrange for the grass to be cut and maintained opposite their properties. **Action Clerk**
5. A letter has been received from Dr and Mrs Bagshaw offering to have a tree planted on the Village Green. They suggest either an oak tree outside their house, or a Christmas tree in the centre of the Green. A vote was taken, resulting in 7 votes for the Christmas tree, 3 for the oak tree, and 2 abstentions. **Action Ken Pattison to talk to Dr Bagshaw.**
6. A letter has been received regarding the annual audit. The council confirmed that they support the appointment of BDO as our external auditors.

27. Localisation Bill

The Chairman referred to tonight's presentation, and said that further consideration would be necessary. Jeff Kemp volunteered to study the DBC Framework Strategy document, and report back in due course.

The council wish to keep their options open, at this time.

28 PACT Report

Hurworth and Neasham Crime Report

Total of 5 crimes in May

ASBO- 2: Primarily scooters/mopeds being ridden in the new car park at the Primary school

Crim. Damage- 3 : Stressholme golf course- brick through windscreen

Damage to roofs at Hurworth school and the a house on the Green (2 arrests made)

It should be noted that there have been widespread incidences of break-ins to garages and sheds in the vicinity and vigilance is advised

Speedwatch

None this month

Road Traffic Division has been doing some speed enforcement, but no figures are available.

Police Levels

Both PC Foley and PCSO Angus have been away during May and it appears that no suitable cover was put in place

Concerns were expressed about this, especially as PC Foley will be in London for a month to cover the Olympics.

The next meeting is to be 27th June at the Grange, at 6:30pm.

The Chairman suggested that we invite Chief Inspector Richardson to address the council;
Action Chair to try to arrange for him to attend the July PC Meeting.

29. Highways Report

Tony Needham reported as follows:-

1. There has been a meeting with Andy Casey, Head of Highways Dept. DBC., which was attended by Ken Pattison and Tony Needham. KP reported that he was enthusiastic about installing speed indicators in Hurworth. Later models are now available, and cost circa £2000 each. DBC will provide a detailed quotation, and would install the equipment for us. Double sided units are not available.
 2. Andy Casey had agreed to a walk about, and this was duly carried out, with the following feedback:-
 - Roundhill Road will get 450 meters on white lines, within 6 weeks.
 - The stretch from Roundhill Road to the Chapel will get hatching double lines.
 - Two new signs will be installed at the Neasham end of the village showing 'Slow'
 - The Keep clear chevrons at the Primary School are deemed to be satisfactory at this time.
 - We are not allowed to put chevrons on the other side of road as this will cause congestion.
 - The zig zag lines at Friars Pardon are deemed satisfactory, but we can get a second opinion.
 - We have applied for double yellow lines around the Spar area.
- DBC have a huge backlog of work, but we are currently second on their list.

3. Tony Needham reported that Mr Fulton, 44 The Green, has tidied up the area at the back of his house, and installed an excellent security fence. He recommends that we write to thank him for his co-operation. **Clerk to send letter.**
4. The Clerk has reminded Middlesborough F.C. that they need to cut the grass outside Rockliffe Court... They have promised to attend to this.
5. There are still problems at the primary School pathway and Mr Schoon's wall. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk write to Mrs Venning, requesting a meeting; Ken Pattison and Tony Needham to attend. It is also noted that the entrance via Southfield Close has been boarded up.

30. Allotment Report

Norma Kyle reported that the meeting of allotment holders took place on 17th May, but was poorly supported. The referendum letter has been sent to all allotment holders requesting them to vote on the topic of establishing their own Allotment Association, Stamped addressed envelopes were included, to encourage participation. To date five votes have been received.

Norma Kyle has made an inspection of all plots, and reported that seven plots at Strait Lane and one at the Grange require attention. Norma will be contacting the tenants.

Action Norma Kyle.

The next Allotment Meeting is scheduled for 12th July.

Val Hughes requested that a sign be put up '*all dogs must be kept on lead*', at the allotment site. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

An allotment holder has asked for the dog bin to be re-located. Norma Kyle will address this problem.

It was agreed that a sign stating that the property belongs to HPC should not be erected.

31. Planning Matters

Jeff Kemp gave the following report:-

Planning Report May 2012

Planning Application Ref 12/00283/FUL

*Erection of a two storey side and rear extension--Amended plans submitted 3 May 2012.
62 Hurworth Road, Hurworth Place Darlington*

No Objection

Plan. App Ref 12/317/FUL

Lakeside Eco Lodge Park Neasham Road Hurworth Moor Darlington

Removal of condition 20 from planning permission 07/01001064/FUL granted on appeal APP/N1350/A/08/2071080 dated 18th July 2008.

This would allow all year round opening with potential for residential occupation.

Lakeside Eco Lodge Park Neasham Road Hurworth Moor Darlington.

.After open discussion and a sharing of views, it was decided that the PC will register the following comments regarding this planning application:-

Hurworth Parish Council make '**no objection**' to the above, but request that the following points are considered when this application decision is made.

We can see no need to remove the above which was left in to preclude all round occupation.....and mean to ensure that policies on development in the countryside are not compromised and that local services do not come under pressure from permanent occupation. This is a Holiday Site.

If granted what action would DBC take to ensure that permanent occupation does not take place ?
Will the owners of these 'holiday homes', who have effectively become residents, become subject to the full taxes equitable with other residents, and community charges as applied an equal to normal housing estates ?

We have been informed that permanent occupation is already taking place.

John Howard pointed out that the granting of 52 weeks residency is now the accepted norm, under government policy.

Plan App Ref 12/00208/FUL

*Erection of single storey extension over existing Garage
8 Elmfield Road Hurworth Darlington*

No Objection

Plan App Ref 12/00337/FUL

*Erection of side extension incorporating attic space to form bedrooms.
1 Croft Meadows Croft Road Darlington DLS 2SD*

Removal of clause 20 at Croft Meadows could be detrimental, as we are concerned that additional occupation may not be compatible with the existing sewerage system. The existing septic tank already serves four houses.

No Objection, but raise this concern.

Plan App Ref 12/00341/FUL

*Demolition of existing stable and Barn outbuildings and erection of new stables and amenity block
Green Cottage Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor Darlington DL21QB*

No Objection. However make the comment that the Garage Looks very much like a bungalow with double wall and full insulation !

Planning application ref 12/317/FUL Removal of condition 20 from planning
permission07/01001064/FUL granted on appeal APP/N1350/A/08/2071080 date 18/7/2008

32. . Tree Report

John Howard reported that there has been a request from the new owner of 48 The Green to trim the branches of the tree which are now banging on his side windows. He is also concerned that the roots are disturbing his garage floor. John Howard has tried to contact the owner, who is still living in Glasgow, and will inform him about the TPO regulations, and the process to follow.

Allotment holders at the Grange have complained that the trees are causing shadow over their plots, and hence affecting their crops. **Action John Howard** will investigate and **Clerk** to talk to them and the Grange, to arrange for appropriate trimming; these trees are not subject to a TPO.

Mrs Cook of Roundhill Road has complained about the state of the trees in Goblin's Wood. **John Howard will investigate.**

- **Big Tree Plant**

Ken Pattison reported that John Howard, Norma Kyle and himself had re-visited all the sites. They had studied the grant application conditions, which stress the requirement for 'Community Involvement'. With this in mind, an article has been put in the Hurworth chronicle asking for interested parties to make themselves known. Without a display of community commitment, there is no point in pursuing this project.

It is essential to 'establish a need'; and to generate more interest the team have adopted a theme of ' Wild Life', encompassing birds, bees and trees.

It is noted that peter Robinson, a member of RSPB, is willing to participate in the grant application and roll out of the plans.

33. Small and Medium Councils

Jeff Kemp attended the recent meeting in Peterlee, and reported as follows:-

Local Small to Medium Local Councils Forum Formation (24 Councils)

Jeff attended this Forum on behalf of Hurworth Parish Council

The meeting concluded that the formation of such a group would be beneficial and the aims and objectives set out mainly being to give a voice to the above group by having representation at DCC meetings when Policy is decided. Most attendees represented councils nearer to Durham or south west Durham.

As we work closely with DBC I felt it may not be of benefit to us but decided to attend the **next meeting 18th May at Seaham**

At the meeting a Chairman was voted in: Paul Fitchett of Branspeth Parish Council,
Vice Chair elected - Denise Bennett of Burnhope P.C.

Hurworth Parish Council is now full members with voting rights

Topics Discussed ;

- **Neighbourhood Planning**

This must be tackled by a Council or Group to protect their interests before DCC/DBC thrusts one upon you. **Any costs of referendums etc are refundable.**

- **Allotments**

A lot of problems experienced in forming an Association to run their own affairs experienced, but was all Councils Aim. Some had been successful. Model rules are available. and a National Association exists.

Major

benefit of an Association is that they would have funding available, **not available to Councils.**

- **Speed watch**

Mike Barton Dep. Chief Constable of Durham is to giving a talk to Teesdale local councils group. PACT attendance mainly poor. Improvement had been gained by inviting the public.

General opinion expressed that the flashing light showing excess speed are ineffective and not cost affective. Some councils where speed watch warnings were installed found that many of the offenders were people advocating the council do more to bring speeds down!

- **General Level of Competence**

Very few of the council Clerks are suitably qualified. When qualified a council would be able to deal with or enforce many matters they are currently unable to do.

- **Localism and Standards**

A lack of understanding as to full extent this was shown. Much discussion on standards ensued. It appears that DCC will form these with help from co-opted, suitably qualified councillors.

- **Breach of conduct** - guidance will keep coming through from Stephen Wragg.

- **Independent Persons guidance will** „ „ „ .

- **Register of Interests.**

Failure to disclose pecuniary interests will be a criminal offence.

Dispensation to vote etc may be given if the number of prohibited members is such that it **Impedes Council business** or it is in the interests of persons residing in the authorities area.

Many Statistical and guidance notes will continue to be made available to us whether we are in or out of this Forum through our CDALC Asc. Membership and Stephen Ragg

During a discussion with council member of Whorlton I discovered that a holiday village similar to Eco Lodge is going ahead with Planning permission to be open 52 weeks of the year. **BUT not permanent residence!** Recently passed legislation allows this. Worry as to how this will be enforced.

I now consider it is worth continuing to attend meetings if only to see how other Councils are handling the same problems as us.

The council agreed that Jeff Kemp should continue to attend these meetings.

34. Alan Gibson Memorial

Val Hughes reported that the tree has been planted, with a supporting framework.

The family of Alan Gibson has been informed, and it is agreed that a formal placing of the memorial plaque will take place at noon on 23rd June. **Action Clerk to write to the family members.**

The Chairman will conduct the positioning of the plaque, which will be attached to the tree framework.

Clerk to invite the press and Captain of Dinsdale Golf Club to attend.

Val Hughes is attending to the plaque, wording, etc.

35. Bus Services

Jeff Kemp reported that he had attended a consultative meeting at the Dolphin Centre hosted by DBC.

It took the form of a presentation by JMP/DBC justifying the needs for cuts to certain rural services and confirmed **no going back..**

Those attending were upset as they expected ensures/ proposals to ease the problem.

We were put into discussion groups and asked to put forward ideas/actions which we felt might address the problem.

The consultants JMP/DBC are to review these if any had merit in providing a low cost limited bus service. eg use of council owned transport not used most of the day.

Further meeting will be set up to review.

HPC team are continuing in conjunction with Joe Kelly to explore alternatives.

36. Newsletter and PC web site

Tony Winnett reported that the Newsletter was now complete, and at the printers. It should be available for distribution in 10 days time.

37. Association Reports

Peter Foster reported on his meeting at Durham Tees Valley Airport.

The ownership structure at the airport has changed, and is now:-

Peel Investments own 89%

6 local councils own 11%

The new owners are taking a very positive view on the future of the airport, and hope to increase activity, increase levels on employment and throw off the burdens which have been hampering expansion.

Special effort will be made to enhance the image of the airport, attract new operators, increase the on site business activities, many of which are being performed in the South East.

The council is encouraged by this fresh and positive approach.

38. Any other Business (non financial)

1. A new lock has been attached to the riverbank gates at Croft bridge. The clerk has two spare keys.
2. Chris Pratt has agreed to cut the grass at St John of God field, for the Country Fair. Ken Pattison reported that permission has not yet been obtained.
3. Streetscene have agreed to cut the grass at strait Lane allotments, Tony Needham are also trying to get the style repaired.
4. Although the gypsies left a mess, mainly horse droppings, on croft riverbank, it was agreed that this would clean itself in due course.
5. It is noted that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Party on Manorfields, organised by Hurworth Village Hall and sponsored by HPC was a tremendous success. About 500 people attended.
6. Ken Pattison wishes to revisit the topic of bee keeping in the parish, stressing the national need to preserve the species. He wishes to generate support within the parish.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday 5th July 2012 at 7:00pm,