

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday, 5th April 2012 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

378. Those attending:-

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

also in attendance: - David Roberts (Northern Echo), Peter Allan – Clerk,

379. Apologies for absence:- Joe Kelley (DBC Councillor),
Lauren Pyrah, Northern Echo.

Jill Russell and Norma Kyle were absent, but tendered no apologies.

380. Declarations of Interest:-

Jean Peacock with regard to HCA matters

381 Visit by Phil Wilson MP, Sedgefield Ward

The Chairman welcomed Phil Wilson, and introduced the sub-committee that had been looking at problems associated with local bus cuts on behalf of HPC, namely Councillors Holme, Kemp and Howard, plus Borough Councillor Kelley. A report prepared by Councillor Holme for the sub-committee on these cuts was reprinted by Councillor Holme and formed the basis for public debate with Phil Wilson.

Report is attached as an addendum.

In addition to the specific details embodied in this report, Councillor Holme added that there was additional concern about students getting to college and young people walking to and from Darlington at night; these are educational and safety concerns.

Mr Wilson addressed the subject, and stated there were similar problems in several areas of County Durham, particularly in Ferryhill, Fishburn and Easington. He had been instrumental in getting two early morning buses re-instated in these areas, to ensure people could get to work. The key is to be able to establish the 'need', and persuade DBC to provide a subsidy.

Discussion followed, with both the public and councillors contributing, and it was agreed that the most positive action would be for several parish councils to unite in a campaign to build and put forward a case to DBC, Arriva and Scarlet Band.

Mr Wilson agreed to broker a meeting between these organisations and HPC and other local PCs to try and establish a way forward.

It was agreed that one possibility would be to take a serious look at providing a 'community bus', which could have a limited regular service timetable, and could be a minibus. This had been done reasonably successfully at Easington.

Cllr Howard asked Mr Wilson if he would arrange to send details of the Easington Community Bus Report, to which Mr Wilson agreed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wilson for attending the meeting, and looked forward to his participation in addressing the bus problems further.

382. Minutes of the Meeting dated 1st March 2012

The minutes, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Peter Foster and seconded by Chris Pratt.

383. Matters Arising

- The chairman reported that the work at Westfield Drive was now completed. The contractor had fulfilled their contract; an additional contract to plant 200 hawthorn saplings, with rabbit protection, value £480 was also complete. There had been a lot of on site discussions by Cllrs Needham and Pattison with most residents on Mowbray and Westfield Drives affected by the project, By and large, most residents were very happy with the project.

384. Public Participation

- Michelle Edwards expressed concern about the traffic congestion outside the Comprehensive School at leaving time. Cars were being parked at both sides of the road, and also inside the Grange premises.

This concern was supported by some councillors, and although the law was not being broken, the problem should be brought to the notice of the authorities.

Action: Clerk to talk to John Angus to see what the police can do to ease the congestion.

385. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for Payment 5th April 2012

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

Sue Webster	March Salary	£429.08
P.D Allan	March Salary	£522.70
K. Pattison	Travelling Exs	£61.00
DBC	Church View kerbing	£2241.60
CDALC	Annual subscription	£367.10
All Seasons Arborists	Westfield Drive project	£2080.00
Northumbrian Water	Strait Lane allotments	£8.88
Viking	Stationery	£45.94
P. D. Allan	March exs	£35.66

Darl. Assoc of Parish Councils	Sub 2012	£50.00
DD. Barclays bank	Charges	£4.60

Talk Talk	Direct Debit	£10.85
Talk Talk	Direct Debit	£18.60
BT	Direct Debit	£59.64

Funds received in March 2012

DBC Litter Picker refund	£2473.52
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All the accounts were accepted and the cheques were duly signed. These would be the final payments made in the financial year to 31st March 2012.

386. Financial report

In accordance with the council's practice, the financial accounts had already been distributed, showing the financial position as at 31st March. It was noted that these accounts showed both the actual and year end variations for the annual report. Also it was noted that we have received reimbursement of the litter pickers salary up to 31st December 2011.

The report was accepted by the council.

The Chairman recommended that the council should convene a Finance Committee Meeting, for all councillors, to be held in camera, to review the year end figures and further consider the proposed projects for the coming year.

Jeff Kemp proposed that a Finance Committee Meeting should be held, seconded by John Howard, all agreed and the date of Tuesday 24th April at 6:30pm was agreed.
(Subsequently changed to Thursday, 26th April 2012)

387. Localisation Bill

The chair introduced the subject by saying that he had attended two local seminars, one at Hartlepool and the second, with Tony Winnett at Marwood.

Tony Winnett had prepared a report, and this had been distributed to all councillors prior to this meeting.

The essence of the topic is the necessity to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, which can be used to try to influence DBC and to support the policies which the Parish Council follow in the ensuing years. We are fortunate that we already have a Parish Plan, and this can be used as the basis upon which the Neighbourhood Plan can be developed.

The Neighbourhood Plan could incorporate other neighbouring parishes, and hence a combined team and think tank should be formed. It was agreed that a joint meeting should be convened, along with Neasham, Low Dinsdale and Croft, and that Dave Coates, Head of Planning, DBC should be asked to run a workshop for this group. **Action clerk to contact Dave Coates, and then invite the other councils to a joint meeting.**

The seminar at Marwood included members of CPRE who are focused on Rural England, and they will be playing a large role in the future development of these plans. It transpired that Tony Winnett was in the past an executive of CPRE, and when asked, he agreed to become our representative on this body. **Action: Tony Winnett to join CPRE.**

388. Matters of Interest

1. Letter from John Buxton – will be discussed in AOB.

2. Letter from HCA, will be discussed under 'Skateboard'.
3. Letter from Mr George Reid. It was agreed that the council confirm that Mr Reid can plant plants on the space outside his house, and that he will tend them. The council thanks him.
4. Letter reference Big Street clean up. This will be placed on the next agenda.
5. Quotation for skateboard, will be addressed under 'Skateboard'.
6. DBC gypsy site document. This has already been circulated to all councillors. The final date for consultancy input is 24th April; any councillors wishing to contribute should send their comments to the Clerk.
John Howard wished to comment that the gypsy site on Roundhill Road is in fact a private residence, and the owners have no intention of expanding it.
7. Jan Prickett, All Saints Church, has requested permission to install a seat on the Green as a Royal Jubilee Commemoration Bench, and to plant bulbs around it. The council agreed, and Jan Prickett will be informed accordingly. **Action Clerk.**
8. The clerk had sent a letter to Yuill's builders drawing our attention to concerns over the safety of the wall, and the untidiness of the grounds at Linden House. A letter of response has been received, and although they say the wall is not a risk as it could only fall inwards, it is noted that some tidying up has been started this week.

389. PACT Report

Ian Holme made his report, as follows:-

PACT meeting fm 22/02/2012 to 28/03/2012

Neasham and Hurworth

all crimes 3

0 burglary

0 burglary other

1. car stolen from Neasham covert

1. number plates stolen Belgrave Terrace

0 criminal damage

0 violent crime

0 asb

theft

1. Gear for the pro golf shop Rockcliffe Hall - 1 person arrested and dealt with.

390. Highways Report

Tony Needham advised the council that there is nothing to report.

Val Hughes drew attention to Friars Pardon, where the yellow lines at the corner have been eroded due to remedial repairs. They are essential and need to be reinstated. **Action Clerk.**

391 Allotment Report

The Clerk reported that two new applications for allotments have been received and one plot holder has surrendered her allotment.

392. Skateboard Project

Some progress has now been made, as follows:-

- DBC has declined to provide a quotation for this project, and say they do not wish to participate.
- The clerk has talked to Heighington PC and taken advice and guidance from them. They are in fact already in the process of providing a skateboard area and have an agreed specification.
- A contractor being used by Heighington has carried out a survey at HCA, and provided a specification, along with a quotation. The specification is as follows.

1. Sweep clean full area. using machine (Note HCA must do the weed killing, Weedol is recommended).
2. Tack coating over existing concrete
3. Regulate surface, using machine.
4. Supply and lay 40 (no cars) 50m if cars tarmac covering
5. Cover with 10m hardstone or 5ma asphalt
6. Use existing round top edging; this is essential, replacement would cost extra £600.
7. Back slope will remain, but will be planed with machine, and knitted to new flat surface

Gravel area

Clean out, supply, lay and roll dark gravel

The contractor has agreed that we can use this as the model specification for other quotations.

It is clear that the cost will be higher than the amount HPC currently have allocated, and therefore we should seek a grant. **Action Clerk to apply for a grant and obtain further quotations.**

HCA has submitted a letter expressing concerns, together with further verbal details, that if this area is designated as a 'skateboard rink' and/or becomes a restricted area, it will incur a high excess insurance premium, circa £1100 per annum, and also require two people to supervise when it is in use, even if only one skater is present. One of the attendees should also be a first aider. These are conditions which HCA cannot accept.

The area will in fact remain as it is designated as a multi use play area.

It was agreed that in principle we will proceed with the project, with the following actions:-

1. **Clerk to obtain three quotations**, based on this specification.
2. **Ken Pattison, Ian Holme and the clerk would meet with HCA officers** to iron out any problems and agree the way forward. It was noted that John Howard offered to join this group, which offer was accepted by the Chairman. It was emphasised that the HCA will need to agree to the final plans.
3. The Clerk to apply for a grant as soon as possible.

393. Planning Matters

Jeff Kemp reported as follows:-

1. **Snipe Lane gypsy site.** No further comment required at this time.
2. **Hurworth Comp School** extension – Ian Holme requested that the council give their support, and this was agreed. Clerk to inform DBC.
3. **Evans Halshaw** entrance alterations. No comment required
4. Extension and modification of **18 The Chase**. Ken Pattison requested the council support this application as the resident is disabled. The council agreed, and Clerk to inform DBC.

394. Tree Report

John Howard stated - nothing new to report.

Agreement has been given for a tree to be planted, probably in the Grange Nature reserve as a family commemoration.

395. Newsletter and PC web site

Tony Winnett has taken on the role of Editor of the Parish Newsletter, and custodian of the Parish web site.

The next newsletter will be in mid June, and articles and entries should be forwarded to Tony by 16th May.

It was reported that the litter picker has been highlighting dog poo by placing small flags to indicate where culprits have failed to pick up. She was commended for her enterprise.

396. Association Reports

Peter Foster reported that there had been no meetings held in the last month – nothing to report.

397. Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly will take place immediately before the AGM, which is scheduled for 3RD May.

After a short discussion, the council agreed to the Chairman's proposal that he should distribute his Annual report for the Annual Assembly prior to the meeting, in order to keep this meeting short.

John Howard favoured a full Public Assembly, with letters of invitation sent to groups and interested individuals, but failed to get a seconder. Ian Holme tabled the motion, seconded by Chris Pratt, that the advertising of the meeting should be contained to the press notification and parish notice boards. Borough Councillors to be asked to give reports as per previous years. The agenda will be essentially the same as previous years,

The AGM will follow the usual format.

Notice of the two meetings will be publicised three weeks prior to 3rd May. The Northern Echo reporter was asked to co-operate with the publication and make a global invitation to the public to attend. The notice boards will be used to advertise the event.

398. Any other Business

1. John Buxton's letter resigning as the consultant to the council for the Croft Club Right of Way, was discussed, also his offer to take on the role again, but only on his own specified terms. The council decided to thank John Buxton for his help to date, but advise him that we will continue the process ourselves. **Action: the Clerk to thank John Buxton and decline his offer.**
2. Big Tree Plant. John Howard asked if any progress has been made. In short the answer is 'no', but Ken Pattison offered to discuss the matter with Cllr Kyle in order to pull together a grant application which could be submitted before the next deadline in August.
Ken Pattison stated that a resident of Mowbray drive has offered to prepare a supporting application, and render it to the council as a supporting document. Peter Foster stated that Westfield Drive was not a suitable place to plant new trees, as they will be too close to the main road, and could cause a hazard. This aspect will be looked in the compilation of the grant application.
3. Val Hughes asked agreement to arrange for the Alan Gibson memorial plaque to be positioned, with a short ceremony during the first week of June. All agreed.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd May 2012 at 7:00pm, which will be the Annual Assembly and AGM.