

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth – on-Tees, on Thursday 2nd May 2013 starting at 7.30pm.

Those present: Ian Holme, Tony Winnett, Tony Needham, Val Hughes, Ken Pattison, John Howard, Jeff Kemp, Peter Foster, Chris Pratt, Norma Kyle, Jean Peacock

Also attending: Cllr Martin Swainston, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Joe Kelley (DBC business). Jill Russell was absent.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

- Jean Peacock – HCA
- Tony Winnett - HCA
- Val Hughes – HCA and allotment
- Peter Foster Trees and Open Spaces

3. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Tony thanked the council for electing him as their Chairman, and stated that he intended to pursue the council's policy for preserving the parish environment and being pro-active in implementing improvements, where appropriate.

He highlighted, with thanks the excellent work Ken Pattison and Tony Needham have done to address the severe flooding problems which the villages have incurred, and hopes they will continue this excellent work.

He is keen to react to residents demands, when practical, and to continue to follow the Parish Plan, in adhering to resident's long term wishes. Among the priorities are the Speed Monitoring, parking issues and the playground upgrade.

Tony asked for the support of all the councillors and Clerk, during his year in office.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th April 2012.** The Minutes having been distributed were accepted after discussion, by a vote of 6 in favour, 2 against with 3 abstentions.

One item is noted: Norma Kyle did not undertake to liaise with the residents of Strait Lane, as was reported in the minutes. This notation corrects this item.

Also Benfield should read Bedburn in Minute 230.

5. **Matters Arising,**

All items will be covered in the agenda at this meeting.

6. **Public Participation**

Lynn Chapman, who lives and operates a business on Neasham Road, opposite the Tawny Owl public house reported that she is very concerned about the speed of the traffic on the stretch of road from the arena to Skipbridge. There are often horses on this stretch of road, and vehicles are travelling at high speeds.

Peter Foster totally supported Lynn's observations, and said that this had been the case for several years. The speed limit is 60 mph, which is too high for a rural thoroughfare.

It was agreed that this would be referred to the next PACT Meeting, and it was suggested that Lynn should try to attend this meeting, to emphasise her complaint.

Payment of Accounts			Apr-13
Name	Cheque No	Details	Amount
Namesco	102287	Domain name	23.99
P.D Allan	102288	April salary	502.24
Sue Webster	102289	April salary	422.00
Inland Revenue	102290	PAYE	116.20
MT Print	102291	Newsletter	497.00
Foster	102292	Treework - 3 invoices	1080.00
Spanglefish	102293	Subscription - comms	24.95
HCA	102294	Photocopying	150.00
T. Winnett	102295	CPRE Subscription	36.00
P. D. Allan	102296	Admin expenses	42.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	12.79
BT	DD	Comms	67.02

7. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of accounts for payment having been previously distributed to all councillors, was accepted by the council:-

8. Financial Report

The financial Report to 30th April 2013, having been previously distributed to all councillors was adopted by the council. The following items were presented to the meeting by the Clerk, and agreed as follows:-

- The new signatories would be Tony Winnett, Ken Pattison and Peter Allan (Clerk)
- The Statuary Notice of Appointment of date for the Exercise of Electors' rights for the Accounts to 31st March 2013 has been posted on the parish notice boards.
- The books of accounts have been given to the Internal Auditor.
- A Finance Meeting will be held on Friday, 17th May (subject to confirmation), in the Art Room at Hurworth Grange.

9. **Matters of Interest**

a. **Croft Club Right of Way.**

It is noted that the P.C lost their case for a change in the definitive map allowing a legal Right of Way along the riverside at the Croft Club. This is a heart breaking blow to many of the residents of the parish.

b. **The monument on the Village Green.**

Three comments have been received, two negative and one requesting some historical information. Norma Kyle offered to respond to provide the historical information.

Mr White requested that his letter be read out, and he was invited to attend the meeting, but has not appeared.

The contract will be placed to proceed with this project.

c. **All Saints Youth Club**

A letter requesting a contribution of £3000 per year for three years has been received; this is to help to finance a dedicate Youth Leader to cover an area including Hurworth Parish.

More detailed information is required and **Ken Pattison undertook to investigate this request.**

Clerk to circulate the letter to all councillors.

d. **Councillor Training Course**

DALC is planning a training course at Peterlee on 9th July. Councillors wishing to attend should give their names to the Clerk.

It was suggested that more of the incoming correspondence should be circulated to all councillors.

10. **Playground Enhancement Report**

Val Hughes reported that she has made considerable progress and identified a number of pieces of equipment which could be installed either inside the playground area, or extended to an exercise route through the Grange grounds. The equipment is sturdy and designed for rough treatment, as may befall it.

She suggests that the council consider four units, to be installed by the manufacturer, with ground protection. The cost of four items will be circa £6,000.

Several of the items can be seen in local parks, and Val intends to visit the sites to check the equipment.

It was agreed that Val will provide a revised budget to the Finance committee later this month.

11. **FOTC Update**

Ken Pattison gave an update of the progress and activities within FOTC.

The FOTC has a new name EPICH (Eco people in Croft and Hurworth). The new name and a new logo were chosen from a

competition held at the schools in Croft and Hurworth. Val Hughes had generously provided cash prizes.

The council's award of £1000 is being used to develop three nursery gardens at the schools, to encourage the involvement of the young people.

They have sent for an Local Authority Pack which addresses Bumble Bee Conservation through prudent planting.

EPICH is currently drawing up a plan for eco development through planned planting, for the whole parish.

The Grange pond project is ongoing, and further details will become available later.

The EPICH group is attracting new members and all are welcomed.

12. Electronic Recording of Meetings

Val Hughes suggested that meetings should be recorded, to provide a full record of information.

Ian Holme expressed his concerns about Data Protection, and alluded to a previous discussion on this subject a few years ago. The meeting rejected this suggestion.

13. Speed Monitoring

Ken Pattison reported that some progress has been made and a meeting with Andy Casey, DBC, had moved things along. Andy will be sending a copy of the DBC H & S Procedures relating to two man lifts on ladders to HPC.

The current timescale for the placing of orders by DBC for the posts is three weeks; some small modifications have been agreed.

It has been noted, in the press, that Ron Hogg has offered to pay for a unit at Middleton St George, and the clerk will investigate this further, to see whether he will contribute to the HPC project.

14. PACT Meeting

Stan Holme took the Chair at the April meeting, held at the Methodist Church Hall.

There were 8 incidents in the past month, all defined as minor. John Angus was present, and alluded to the excellent initiative of the school, in helping to ease the parking and speeding problems which constantly cause problems on Croft and Hurworth Road.

15. Highways

Tony Needham reports as follows:-

- a. The road at Elmfield Road has been resurfaced again, as the original work had proved unsatisfactory.
- b. The work on the footpath at the glebe has been completed.
- c. In the current financial year, DBC has informed us the only highways work which will be done is the essential/ emergency and potentially dangerous situations. No planned work is scheduled.
- d. The main road between the Otter and Fish and Neasham is being resurfaced.

- e. Belgrave Terrace and Baxby Terrace are on the priority list, but will only receive attention if a time slot occurs at DBC.
- f. The internal road repairs and resurfacing at the Village Green will start in three weeks time. The contract has been placed. Letters will be sent to residents advising them of the project dates.

16. **Land**

Ken Pattison reported:-

- a. Friars Pardon – finalised, HPC has agreed to a restricted covenant, awaiting Shepherd Homes final agreement.
- b. Grange Estate land – as a) above.
- c. Village Green. The time for objections expires on 11th May.
- d. Hurworth Place toilet block. – A final check of ownership is being made by Malcolm Thompson (DBC) through the Land Registry.

17. **Allotment Report**

The Clerk reported that all the allotments have been assigned, and rents received. One letter has been sent to a plot holder, whose allotment is not being properly attended, and is causing distress to adjacent plot holders.

We have received a request from one allotment holder for permission to keep hens. This has been rejected.

Mr Lawman has requested, in writing, for the construction of an earth toilet. The meeting discussed this for some time, and a motion was put forward by Ian Holme, seconded by Peter Foster that the Council will grant permission for a toilet, but the allotment holders themselves will need to bear the cost, handle the maintenance and cleaning and find a suitable place to erect it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ken Pattison has prepared a set of Notices which will be displayed at the Grange and Strait Lane allotment sites advising the procedure for dealing with bees, and contact numbers, if required. These procedures will become part of the hand out when new allotment holders are allocated plots. They will also be added to the HPC Standard Procedures.

Ken Pattison has prepared a draft risk Assessment for beekeeping, together with Recommendation documents.

The meeting formally adopted all of these documents.

Norma Kyle requested that any allotment holder who keeps bees on the site, should have this noted on the Allotment Register.

18. **Flood Report**

Ken Pattison reported that there was a small amount of progress, but cost cuts were impeding some aspects of the work. Bill Westland is trying to find funding to assist.

A camera is being put down the drain in the Glebe by DBC/SDC to try and ascertain if a soakaway exists.

We are waiting for actions from DBC and Northumbria Water, but we have been advised that this could take a long time.

19. Planning

Jeff Kemp provided the following report:-

Subject: Planning Applications May 2013
Planning application No 13/00121/FUL

Remodelling of land by infill of inert materials to overcome field flooding

The field adjacent to Springfield Farm Croft Road.

Water is always in the field shared with a pond on Stressholme Golf course and presumably through damming up the spring field this would result in more flooding on the golf course. Presumably the field name SPRING means water will continue to flow. Needs reviewing by the environment agency and water board.

Plan. Appl. No 13/00233/FUL

Change of use of land to extend existing gypsy site by two plots and four caravans on Snipe Lane

More requests for extension through change of land use is received each month, which is a concern. Our concern and objections have been expressed through freedom of Information Act request made to DBC which has been acknowledged and we await a reply.

Plan. Appl. No 13/00245/FUL

Another request to increase the existing gypsy site on Snipe Lane by 3 plots, mobile homes and caravans

We should strongly object to this application as it is rejected. It creates another track/road east of snipe lane and lends itself to major extensions even back toward the A66. The highways agency should be approached again in respect to safety as 12/14 plots already exist with presumably up to 24 cars and caravans moving on and off the A66.

Plan. Appl. No 13/00211/FUL

Change of use of DB Council land behind the property to convert to gardens.

4 Linden Drive Hurworth DL2 2DJ

Approval will in my opinion lead to other requests from adjacent properties.

Requests for purchase of council land to extend garden areas refused in past in other H P C areas. Most likely the council would welcome revenue at this time.

A Planning Inspectorate report rejecting the appeal for the right of way at Croft Club has been received. - I do not see any point in further appeals.

HPC has submitted a Freedom of Information request for more details of DBC's plans for gypsy sites and future applications within Hurworth Parish. We are awaiting their reply.

20. Trees and open Spaces

Peter Foster reported:-

1. All the tree stumps at Westfield Drive have been ground down, supervised by Tony Needham.
2. All the tree stumps on the Green, Friars Pardon and other isolated sites have been ground down. The stump in the playground has not been done yet.
3. The trees around the Green have been trimmed, as appropriate.
4. The request for tree work at Lych Gate is subject to TP Orders and will require a Planning Application. Street Scene has rejected our request for work, as it is not DBC land **Action Clerk** to get a recommendation from Phil Haynes on what he advises we should take.
5. The large oak tree on the Grange is still causing concern. HPC has a duty of care, although the land is under lease to HCA. Action: Clerk to get a recommendation and quotation from Phil Haynes so that we can resolve this problem.

Ken Pattison recommended that we get a report on all the trees in the parish, which are under HPC duty of care provisions. Action Clerk and Peter Foster to progress this.

21. Newsletter and Web Site

Tony Winnett reported that the Newsletter for May have been distributed, along with an HCA flier.
He is now working on material for the next edition.

22. Any other business (Non financial)

Jean Peacock drew the council's attention to the bad state of the bus shelter opposite the doctors' surgery. Ian Holme agreed to take this up with Martin Swainston.

Ken Pattison requested sponsorship for the All Saints Swimathon where he is swimming for 55 mins for a nominated Lion's charity. Regrettably this request seemed not to be taken seriously.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm

