

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth – on-Tees, on Thursday 7th November 2013 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Tony Winnett, Tony Needham, Ken Pattison, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Chris Pratt, Margaret Williams, Ian Holme

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr M. Swainston, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

87. Apologies for Absence

Norma Kyle absent - (Unwell), Jeff Kemp (Personal commitments)
John Howard- absent from meeting

88. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA
Jean Peacock (HCA)
Val Hughes (HCA) and the Ramblers Association

89. Chairman's Address

- a. Cllr Bill Dixon sends his apologies, due to an emergency DBC commitment, and will attend the HPC Meeting on 5th December.
- b. The Chairman reported that he, Peter Foster and the Clerk attended the DALC AGM in Durham County Hall, and had taken the opportunity to have a short meeting with Mr Browse, who is President of NALC. The subjects covered were;
 1. The purpose and control of the Freedom of Information Act, and the specific role of the ICO.
 2. The statute and questionable benefits of a mere ten persons being able to demand an election, which cost the council over £3000.
 3. The role and powers of the Planning InspectorateMr Browse agreed to follow these issues up through their Government representative.
DALC informed the meeting that the cost of the annual subscription is likely to double in 2015, due to the withdrawal of grants.
- c. The next Newsletter is scheduled to be distributed during the last week of November. Would all contributors ensure their articles are submitted as soon as possible, please.
- d. The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting with Mr Neeraj Sharma and Mr George Lawman, to discuss the extension of the Citizens Advice Bureau. CAB would like to have a presence in Hurworth, to replace the arrangements which they used to have with the doctors' surgery.
Ideally they would like to use an office in Hurworth Grange one day every two weeks; an experienced CAB employee would talk to people, by appointment, and offer guidance when appropriate. The employee would not be from this parish, thereby improving the privacy of meetings.
In addition CAB are looking for sponsors who will contribute to the cost of running this office, which will be circa £7000 per annum.
Mr Sharma is going to prepare a document setting out his ideas, and this will be presented to the council in due course.

- e. It is necessary to hold a Finance Meeting in November to consider Projects for 2014, review the budgets and agree on next year's precept. The date set will be Friday, 15th November at 6:00pm. Will all councillors circulate their ideas for 2014 projects prior to the meeting, and present them at the meeting.
- f. The Rockliffe Hall Seniors Golf Tournament went very well, and there were no complaints or problems due to the excess traffic.

90 . Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2013. The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster, Seconded by Chris Pratt.

91 Matters Arising,

All matters not on this month's agenda have been attended to.

92. Public Participation

Mr Geoff Scott raised his concerns about the large oak tree in the Hurworth Grange grounds, which he and his neighbour consider a danger to his property and life.

A letter has been received from the Chairman of HCA informing the council that as leasees of the property, they had taken a decision to fell the tree. Planning permission is in progress, and the council agreed that the decision about the future of this tree was indeed a matter for the HCA. Hence the tree will be felled.

Ken Pattison advanced the opinion that all the trees in Hurworth Grange should become the responsibility of the council, as it is unfair to burden the Community Association with the costs of tree maintenance.

It was agreed that this will be discussed at a joint meeting with representatives of both organisations. The question of insurance needs to be investigated and clearly understood. The Chairman specifically requested that Ken Pattison attend the meeting. **Action; Clerk.**

93. Planning Matters

In the absence of Jeff Kemp, Ian Holme gave the planning report.

Plan Appl. No 13/00721/FUL

Change of use of land to provide a Gypsy site incorporating a static mobile home, site for a touring caravan, amenity block, and stable block comprising two stables and tack room.

Snipe Lane .

Recommend Objections as before i e

a) further extension to this site on this Lane has been banned by DBC and the highways dept. by way of unsafe access to the A66.

b) The site is on the east of snipe Lane which has been previously rejected on the ground of **a new site effectively being created east of Snipe Lane** which would be seen from the A66

The application has been rejected by DBC

Plan Appl. No 13/00815/FUL

Erection of extension to the old Stressholme Golf Course Club House Lounge, changing rooms and car park by Blackwell Golf Club.

Blackwell Golf club Snipe Lane.

Recommend no objection.

Plan Appl No 13/00756/FUL

Erection of detached garage to the rear of the property.

The Wheelhouse, Hilton House Farm Neasham Road Hurworth.

Recommend no objection.

Plan Appl No 13/00793 and No 13/00792

Demolition of bungalow and erection of a 2 level dwelling house.

Demolition, alteration and extension to existing dog kennels and catteries to form 3 new attached residential cottages.

Black Banks Farm, Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor DL2 1QB

(It would appear that a new wooden horse stables have been constructed. Can find no planning application or approval given.)

The approvals sought are in a quadrangle behind the the new dwelling house to be constructed. If approved given 4 new properties would require access just west of the Snipe Lane Gypsy Site on the A66 which has been refused further expansion because of unsuitable access on and off the A66. I suggest the same should apply here. There are substantial farm buildings behind the proposed cottages which I have no doubt would be the subject further requests for new dwellings.

This site has applied previously for construction of a Gypsy/ Traveller Site, which was rejected.

Recommend Rejection.

Plan Appl No 13/00801/FUL

Change of use of ten Hospitality boxes to form a physiotherapy business.

Darlington Mowden Park RFC Darlington Arena Neasham Road.

Recommend No Objection

94. Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>Oct-13</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M. Harrison	102352	Open spaces work	83.00
DBC	102353	Car park balance	1200.00
Swarco	102354	Speed monitors	7526.99
M & M Services	102355	Allotment grass cutting	7.61
Sue Webster	102356	Salary	240.50
P.D.Allan	102357	Salary	545.24
Inland Revenue	102358	Income Tax PAYE	73.20
P.D. Allan	102359	Admin expenses	59.95
Jeff Kemp	102360	Admin Exs	18.30
Cowling, Swift and Kitchen	102361	Land transfer costs	1080.00
Oliver Pattison	102362	HMS Hurworth entertainment	100.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	10.80
TalkTalk	DD	Comms	18.60
Total for month			10968.79

95. Financial Report

The Financial Report, having been circulated to all councillors, was accepted by the meeting.

Please see addendum.

96. Matters of Interest

- A. The crew of HMS Hurworth will be attending the All Saints Church Remembrance Service on 10th November. HPC will be entertaining them in the evening at the Emerson Arms. A number of guests have been invited, representing voluntary organisations in the parish.
- B. A Remembrance service will also be held at Durham Teesside Airport, and members of the council will be attending and lay a wreath on behalf of HPC.

- C. Sandbags for Hurworth Place. DBC has confirmed that the toilet block at Hurworth Place can be used to store the sandbags. The keys have not yet been located, and DBC may have to fit a new lock.
- D. The pathway near Croft Club, number 11, has had an application for espongement. This is being handled by DBC Countryside. The council, lead by Val Hughes, and seconded by Ken Pattison, wish to oppose this action, and preserve the pathway for the residents to use. **Action HPC to lodge their objection.**

97. PACT Report.

Ian Holme gave the following PACT Report for the month of October 2013.

Hurworth

Police and Communities Together: Meeting 31/10/2013
Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

Attendees:

Sgt M Ralphs
C Supt G Hall
Ian Holme (Chair)

8 members of the public + 4 apologies incl PCSO John Angus

Police Report for July and August

Crimes: 0 Burglary
0 Violent Crimes
1 burglary "other" - attempted shed burglary.

1 thefts from vehicles- spare wheel stolen

1 Theft of motors vehicles - keys left in whilst unloading

0 Thefts

1 Criminal damage- vehicle scratched

2 Anti-social behaviour- use of off-road motorcycles at Stressholme

Speedwatch - none undertaken due to weather

Open Discussion

Senior golf event at Rockcliffe passed off without incident or reported disruption.

A resident requested 6no no parking bollards to be placed outside All Saints Church on Sunday 10th from 8am in order to accommodate visit from the crew of HMS Hurworth. This was agreed by Sgt Ralphs.

Priory school- Police aware of issues in September related to new intake of pupils. This appears to be settling down now.

A resident passed on concern from others re youths in the area of the church youth club on a Friday evening(noise and litter). It was generally accepted that the youth club was a great benefit to the community. Sgt Ralphs suggested a "visual Audit" to take place on a Saturday morning in the vicinity of the church to check for any problems caused. This was agreed and he reminded the meeting that any issue relating to asb should be directed at the police in the first instance.

A resident reported unusual traffic movements late at night which will be investigated.

The Police are aware of traffic concerns given the current diversions at MSG. This will be monitored.

PACT Priorities

Vicinity of the youth club and unusual traffic movements

Talk by C/Supt Graham Hall

C/Supt Hall gave a wide ranging talk on the challenges and achievements of the local police forces incl;

crime increasing nationally incl 10% in Darlington- predominately theft (food toiletries and drink)

Burglaries to sheds and cycles remains an issue.

Fly tipping increasing (residents made reference to council tip rules making this problem worse)

Less of a problem from asb. with fewer drink related problems.

85% public satisfaction with police in the Darlington area.

Crime detection = 34%

Neighbourhood Resolution initiative launched (a resident expressed an interest in joining)

Cyber crime and bullying is a relatively new problem which they are looking to act upon.

Budget threats to cctv and asbo team a real concern going forward

Concerns re police officers transporting injured patients to hospital due to lack of ambulance cover with backing up at A&E

Police looking to recruit more volunteers and Specials

Response officers are now routinely fitted out with £30 bodycams to record evidence.

Finally he thanks those attending and those actively assisting incl Susan Proudfoot of Farmwatch who is coordinating one of the best such initiatives in the country.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th November, 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall

98. Association Reports.

Peter Foster reported that he had attended the DALC AGM, and fully supported Steve Ragg and the Durham organisation, expressing his view that HPC should support the increase in subscription, when it is raised.

He also reported that Durham Teesside Airport senior management were going to meet Durham County Council, who has expressed concerns about the diminishing traffic through the airport.

99. Highways

Tony Needham gave the following report:-

Tony and Joe Kelley have had a very progressive meeting with DBC and Streetscene, details as follows:-

HIGHWAYS MEETING OCTOBER 11th 2013

Present : Joe Kelley – DBC Councillor for Hurworth (JK)
 Steve Brannan – DBC Highways (SB)
 Gary Bennet – DBC Streetscene (GB)
 Brian Graham – DBC Streetscene (BG)
 Tony Needham – HPC Highways (TN)

This meeting was arranged in order to discuss some overlooked highways issues.

JK started the meeting off by enquiring about proposed cuts in the 2014 budget due to financial restraints, the answer to this question was, as we expected, further cuts will take place but the level was uncertain.

On the subject of highways, we made a strong plea for resurfacing work to be carried out on the roads and footpaths in Hurworth Place i.e Belgrave/Baxby Terraces and Croft bank. SB stated that these were on the top priority list and the work should be carried out next year, again dependent on the finances. TN also asked for Blind Lane and on the main road between the Otter and Fish/Emerson Arms to be resurfaced, also for an engineer to check out the landfall behind the wall opposite the Otter and Fish in order to establish if it could result in subsidence damage to the main road.

The next issue was a proposal for road warning signs at the Neasham Rd/ Roundhill Rd junction – TN/JK gave an account of how dangerous this junction had become due to speeding vehicles. SB stated that although signage was not his remit, he had been on a site visit and thought the amount of signs already there were adequate but would look into this problem with Andrew Casey, who is responsible within DBC for safety, road signs etc.

TN then questioned whether the 40mph area, which starts outside the Rugby Club Arena, could be extended to the south side of the Tawny Owl pub on Neasham Road. SB said this was doubtful. JK/TN also enquired if the footpath could be extended from the Rugby Arena to the Tawny Owl. An emphatic 'No' was given to this request but it may not be totally ignored as grants could be investigated by either HPC or DBC.

Afterwards, moving onto BG, our main objective was to get a response on the poor state of the Primary school drive which has been neglected for quite a few years. Although DBC Estates had taken over the land from the school and passed the responsibility over to Streetscene, no work had been carried out. BG stated that financial restraints were the problem and could not foresee work being carried out as grass cutting etc. will be slashed even further next year. TN/JK then asked if BG could perhaps organise a work share between the school and themselves so that essential work would be carried out. BG agreed to look into this proposal and also arranged for a site visit on 18th October.

Other items covered were:-

1. Hedge cutting
2. Tree pruning around the lamp posts
3. Traffic islands and chicanes cleaned up
4. Litter problems outside the Spar Shop (new litter bin ordered)
5. Childrens' play area at the Grange – new swing required

These will be remedied.

- Street Scene has now taken responsibility for the pathway beside the Primary School.
- The children's swing has been replaced.

Chris Pratt reported that Mr Fidel has complained that somebody has cut back a tree and dumped the debris in his field. Actions; Peter Foster will visit the site and make suitable arrangements to remove the debris and possibly repair the fence.

100. Allotments

The Chairman announced that Norma Kyle has taken 6 months leave of absence, due to continuing ill health. Cllr Margaret Williams agreed to take her place as one of the council's Allotment Representatives.

A letter of support will be sent to Cllr Kyle wishing her a speedy recovery.

Letters have been sent to all allotment holders inviting them to attend the Allotment Committee AGM on Thursday, 21st November.

The letters referred to HPC being "supportive" of an Allotment Associations. It was pointed out that several councillors now had reservations in this respect and that the feelings of the council were better represented by the reference in the previous PC meeting minutes that HPC had an "open mind" on the matter.

The council has received a quotation for a toilet for the Strait Lane allotments, cost circa £1700. This will be discussed at the Finance Meeting. **The details are to be circulated to all councillors.**

101. Projects 2013

- a. Ken Pattison reported that there was progress with the installation of the speed monitors. Two posts with electricity connections will be installed within two weeks. The remaining posts will take a little longer as sub contracted electric connectivity is required.

It is proposed that Martin Harrison is engaged to move the units and make adjustments, as and when required. All agreed.

- b. Tony Needham referred to the quotations for the road resurfacing at Hurworth Grange. He stated that one of the contractors who had submitted a quotation has the necessary qualifications to undertake this contract. It was generally agreed that the project specification should be drawn up to British Standards Specification. It was pointed out it was the job specification and not the individual which required qualifying.

102. Trees

Peter Foster reported as follow-

- a. An inspection of the trees on the Village Green has been made, and all the trees are in good health.
- b. The chestnut tree in Goblin's Wood / Friars Pardon has cankering and needs to be felled as it could fall onto the main road. **Action fell this tree.**
- c. The very large willow tree opposite the Otter and Fish is in a dangerous state and must receive attention urgently. Branches have already fallen and are blocking the thoroughway and also damaging the lower riverside wall. This tree could blow down and do extensive damage. It was suggested by Peter Foster that if the tree is felled the cut pieces should stay on site to help form a protective barrier for the river bank which is showing signs of erosion. **Action Clerk to report this to DBC in view of the fact the footpath is under their auspices.**

The Clerk reported that he has cancelled the Tree Survey for Hurworth Grange as it is clear DBC do not have time to perform it. A new contract will be placed with an arborist.

103 Flood Report

Ken Pattison reported that it appears that Bill Westland has received a grant for £6000 for each household, which will be used to assist individuals who encounter damage from future floods. This is not an answer to the village problems, and Ken and Tony will continue to monitor progress and try to get results.

104. Any Other Business (not financial)

- a. A red transit van is causing difficulties with parking at Linden Court. **John Angus to be informed.**

- b. The bollards on Coach Lane to Manorfields are positioned too close together and prevent mobility buggies and double pushchairs from passing. **Action Clerk to advise DBC.**
- c. Ken Pattison informed the meeting that EPICH would like to develop a wild flower meadow on the Priory School playing field. They would like this to be considered alongside the actions for providing new allotments in this area.
- d. The Clerk made a brief report on the results of this year's Hurworth Country Fair. The event has been considered a great success both as a community project and gathering, and it also made a modest profit. The Chairman and council members expressed their congratulations and thanks to the volunteer committee who had done so much work to achieve this.

The meeting finished at 9:35pm