

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 4th July 2013 starting at 7.00pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelly, and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

38. Apologies for Absence

Norma Kyle (Unwell), John Howard (Holiday), Cllr Martin Swainston (business)

38. Malcolm Thompson – DBC Countryside Officer

The chairman welcomed Malcolm Thompson, Mr Thompson outlined his duties within DBC, and explained that whereas three years ago there were four people in his department, he is now alone, and covers 26 parishes.

His duties include maintaining the definitive map, recording and ensuring the integrity of all rights of way, keeping all designated footpaths and stiles in good order, and also he is responsible for controlling the outbreaks of giant hogweed. In fact a large slice of his slender budget is spent on controlling the hogweed.

He confirmed that once a right of way was created and placed on the definitive map, it was there forever and was not subjected to regular usage. It would need an extinguishing order to change the status.

Mr Thompson has a team of one part time staff and several volunteers, hence fulfilling work requests can take time.

At present, DBC is looking closely at possible plans to create a cycle path from Darlington to Hurworth; several possibilities are being explored, and it is hoped that this will progress soon.

He expressed regret that the Croft Club riverside path failed to be confirmed, but is hopeful that an alternative route can be established. A permissive path is being discussed.

Peter Foster announced that the next parish walk will be in July, and hoped that more parishioners will participate. It will use pathway 1, where it is believed that there are a number of obstacles, which need attention. Tony Needham agreed to walk the path with Malcolm, and agree on an action plan.

38. **Declarations of Interest**

Tony Winnett – HCA

Val Hughes – HCA

Ian Holme – HCA

41. **Chairman's Address**

The Chairman informed the meeting that Ken Peacock has resigned as Treasurer of the Hurworth Community Association and HGSC, due to ill health. Ken has been an absolute stalwart of the Grange for many years, and took on the external re-painting of the entire building, before taking up the role of Treasurer. His services and presence will be sorely missed, and leave a large void which must be filled.

The meeting expressed their sincere thanks for all the work he has done for the community.

The chairman **alluded** to the campaign for 'Growing Places', and urged councillors to make their comments **known** by filling in the Comments Form; these should be completed by 2nd August. The Clerk has requested 12 copies of the documents which spell out this development plan, and these will be circulated.

Finally, the Chairman reminded the councillors that there **would** not be a meeting in August, so the next meeting will be on 5th SEPTEMBER.

42. **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6TH June** The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster, Seconded by Jean Peacock.

43 Matters Arising,

- a. The bus shelter roof still requires repair work... **Action Martin Swainston will follow up.**
- b. The tree at Bank Terrace still requires attention -... **Action Martin Swainston will follow up.**
- c. The grass at the Primary School still requires cutting; Tony Needham has partially cut it, but it needs the large DBC mower.
- d. Although HPC received a response from Bill Westland, the council would still like more specific details about the grant which has been applied for.

44. Public Participation

No subjects were raised.

45 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>July -13</u>		
		<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Peter Foster		102304	Expenses	24.40
DACYM		102305	Section 137 award	1000.00
Craig Layfield		102306	Grange water system	2000.00
Friends of Rockcliffe Court		102307	Section 137 award	150.00
Tony Winnett		102308	Honorarium	100.00
Fosters		102309	Tree work	145.00
Hurworth Methodist Church		102310	Room rent	30.00
Northumbrian Water		102311	Allotment water	24.53
NPower		102312	Christmas lights	120.90
P.D.Allan		102313	June salary	502.04
Sue Webster		102314	June salary	396.50

John Spence Ltd		102315	Hurworth Green roadworks	1674.00
P.D.Allan		102316	Admin expenses	69.42
Inland Revenue		102317	June PAYE	116.40
TCS CAD		102318	Printer cartridges	124.68
Barclays Bank		DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk		DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk		DD	Comms	18.33
BT		DD	Comms	64.98

46. Financial Report

The financial Report to 30th June 2013, having been previously distributed to all councillors was adopted by the council.

46. Election Update

The election for Hurworth Parish to replace Cllr Russell will take place on 25th July; the polling station will be Hurworth **Primary** School.

There are two candidates, and all appropriate notices have been displayed.

The council decided that, if possible, we should consider using poll cards, to ensure a good response from the electorate; however the date for this decision had already passed. There would have been **an** additional cost of circa £900, for the printing and distribution.

All matters relating to the election will be handled by DBC Town Hall.

48. Matters of Interest

1. We have received a letter **from** Priory Hurworth House School inviting HPC to attend a meeting on 10th July. Tony Winnett, Tony Needham and Jeff Kemp will attend. **The representatives were requested to raise the possibility of using the Priory field behind the Rectory for possible planting associated with the Woodland Trust and EPICH; Clerk to confirm.**
2. We have received a document about an Electoral Review within Darlington Borough, including views on the number of councillors required. **Clerk will circulate this document.**

49. PACT Meeting

Ian Holme presented the PACT Meeting report, as follows:-

Hurworth

Police and Communities Together: Meeting 27/6/2013

Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

Attendees:

PCSO John Angus

Ian Holme (Chair)

7 members of the public + 4 apologies

Police Report:

Crimes: 0 Burglary

0 Violent Crimes

0 burglary "other"

0 thefts from vehicles

2 Theft of motors vehicles from Stressholme golf club

5 Thefts- 3 milk bottles stolen from doorstep, Woodlands Way, Elmfield Rd
and The Green

1 mobile phone stolen, Westfield Drive

1 items stolen from golf bag at Stressholme Golf Club

1 Criminal damage- The Oval, damage to cars and garden fence, one arrest

3 Anti-social behaviour- 1- Sanderson Rd, Youth playing football and on garage
roofs

1- Youths started small fire close to Hurworth school

1- Youths on driving range at Stressholme golf club

No Speedwatch as yet. PCSO Angus has paperwork for the two volunteers and another member of the public volunteered at this meeting and passed on their contact details.

Open Discussion

Parish Councillor Hughes advised that adult fitness machines are to be installed adjacent to the play area at the Grange. PCSO Angus requested that a line of sight be established from the Grange building for added safety/security. HPC to discuss with HCA.

Update

Residents previously raised concerns over the dangerous on-road unloading of cars at Evans Halshaw at Blands Corner.

Police have followed this up and advised that they now have a policy of unloading in Darlington (off Chestnut St) and should not be unloading at Blands Corner.

Speeding on Neasham Rd

Residents made the Police aware of the speed of traffic on the straight stretch of road between the Tawny Owl and Strait Lane junction. With concerns over visibility from the Tawney Owl access, Euro-jag activities and the Strait Lane, Roundhill Rd and Burma Rd junctions it was put forward that the speed limit should be reduced on this stretch.

The Police have looked at this **and** do not believe that a reduction in speed limit is likely to be supported due to lack of evidence re incidents on this stretch

PACT Priorities

Remains as "common sense" approach to parking and traffic generally.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 25 July, 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall

The Chairman drew attention to the requirement for volunteers to help with the Neighbourhood Resolution project. It appears that there is a lack of enthusiasm for this scheme.

The council discussed their concern about the speed of traffic on Neasham Road and in particular the danger at the 'T' junction with Roundhill Road. Also the lack of footpath from the Arena to the Tawny Owl.

Peter Foster requested that this item be placed on the September agenda.

Tony Winnett will Chair the next PACT Meeting on 25th July.

50. Highways

Tony Needham reported that the work on the village green internal will start on Monday, 8th July. We have paid the initial deposit.

Nothing else to report.

51 Planning Matters

Jeff Kemp reported as follows:-

Subject: Planning Report for June 6th July for Hurworth Parish council meeting

Planning Application No 13/ 00420/FUL

Demolition of existing kitchen extension. Erection of single storey side kitchen extension and improvement to roof drainage.
The Old Rectory 52 The Green Hurworth DL2 2JA

No Objections

Plan. App. No 13/00438/FUL

Demolition of existing Summer House and erection of conservatory and linking

Porch to side and rear .
50 The Green Hurworth DL2 2JA

no Objections

Plann Appl No 13/00445/Ful

Loft conversion to front and rear of house

81 Woodlands Way Hurwoth

No Objections

Plann. Appl. No 13/00441/FUL

Change of use of horse grazing land to provide a site for a mobile home, 4 touring vans and 2 utility blocks.
Field map ref ogr e 42905 n511842 Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor.

Plann Appl No 13/00447/FUL

Change of use of land for residential purposes on 3 plots to include hard standing site for mobile home, touring van and erection of 3 amenity buildings

3 Snipe meadows, Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor DarlingtonDL2 1QB

Plan Appl No 13/00479/FUL

Change of use of land to extend Private Gypsy Site for residential purposes on 3 plots each to incorporate hard standing for mobile home and 2 touring vans and construction of 3 amenity buildings.

HPC have objected to date on these developments in the past and JK suggests the same again primarily now on safety grounds because of the large number of vehicles now using this small lane entrance to the major trunk road(A66)! If all these applications were approved this would most likely exceed highways approvals. A small business appears to be now operating from this lane with adverts on the side of the road. Also we should refer them to DBC letter dated 8th May from councillor Chris McEwan cabinet member in respect Traveller sites and our letter dated 18th June confirming that no new application approval needs to be given in that DBC at this time have met requirements.

Planning Appl 13/00493/FUL

Single storey extension to front of house

Garden Cottage 2 Neasham Road DL22AZ

No Objection

Jeff went on to express his deep concerns that although the Cabinet Report indicated that Hurworth quota had been reached, there is likely to be a continuing flow of windfall applications. The number of gypsy sites at Snipe Lane appears to have reached 36 units, and pictures clearly indicate that some of these are **for** residences.

There is even more concern that the application for 5 sites on Strait Lane is about to be re-submitted. It appears clear that even if DBC reject an application it is often overturned by the Appeals Board in Bristol.

The council agreed to form a sub committee, which would address these very serious concerns. The first action will be to prepare and publish a press release informing all the residences that the villages are being potentially surrounded by gypsy encampments. Also, that it appears that these encampments are being converted into permanent residences, which is not in accordance with the Travellers mode of living.

It appears that Hurworth has become a soft touch, and that DBC are impotent to reject applications and assist us. The information we received under FoI appears to be outdated or faulted, as application are still flowing towards this parish.

Actions to be taken, urgently:

- a. Press release. It was noted that once again the Northern Echo press representative did not attend the PC meeting.
- b. We need to generate 'people power', and need to call a public consultation meeting
- c. We need to show concern that the property at Black Bank kennels has been sold, and this could create a further extension to the Snipe Lane area gypsy complex.
- d. We need to try to establish whether the gypsy legislation is being abused, and whether there is a longer term plan for all these developments.

The council agreed it is time to fight further applications more vigorously, and ensure that our objections are upheld. Particular emphasis needs to be the scrutiny of retrospective applications, where building have already been constructed without due permission.

It was suggested that HPC should open a dialogue with the Appeals Board in Bristol, expressing our concerns, advising them of the 'whole picture' and our disillusionment with DBC. This was not accepted by the council.

In future 'Planning' will be a priority item, high on the PC agenda, with encouragement to involve the public.

52. Association Reports

Peter Foster reported that he had attended the DALC meeting. The most noteworthy item was the way to get approval for a 'brown sign', for Hurworth Grange.

Jeff Kemp had attended the Small and medium Council Group. He commented on his surprise that the Group view was, due to cost cutting, parish councils may be dissolved to save the precept, and the work absorbed into the county or borough councils. This appears totally contrary to David Cameron's policy. Jeff encourages HPC to be PROACTIVE and transparent, clearly indicating how public money is being wisely spent for the long-term sustainability and benefit of the parishioners.

Durham Tees Valley Airport – nothing to report.

53. Allotments In the absence of Norma Kyle the Clerk reported:-

An allotment meeting was held on 13th June, with the three allotment representatives, Tony Winnett chaired the meeting, and Norma Kyle and the Clerk attended. George Lawman attended, to promote the Allotment Association concept, and three allotment holders attended as observers.

All the allotments are assigned, and we have a short Waiting List at both the Grange and Strait Lane.

It was agreed, in principle, that George Lawman will house the earth toilet on his plot, and the shed on 11b will be transferred to his plot.

The new bee allotment procedure was presented to the Allotment Meeting and formally adopted. Up to three hives can be located on an allotment, two of which can **be can have colonies, the third being used as temporary accommodation for any swarmed colony.**

A letter has been received from **Tony** Sayers recommending that HPC make an award to Mr Spingley, who has constructed a fence along the Grange allotments **from surplus timbers**; he also cuts the grass and maintains the site. The council agreed to thank George Spingley and send him £200 **for his efforts.**

The next meeting will be on 12th September.

54. Exercise Equipment

Val Hughes reported that the 4 items of equipment have been ordered, and should be installed in August at the Grange. They will be located just outside of the playground area; a letter has been sent to HCA confirming the agreement reached regarding location, responsibility and insurance cover. The equipment carries a 10 year guarantee.

55. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported as follows:-

- a. He is performing regular inspections of the trees in the parish. He has identified 3 elm trees on the Green which need some attention; 2 cherry trees on the Grange which is dead and should be removed, and a large branch which needs cutting off.
- b. He suggests that the area where the cherry tree should come down could be replaced with rhododendrons.
- c. The tree stumps that have been ground down on the Green should have new trees planted in November.
- d. The tree in Goblin Wood, has been inspected by Phil Haynes.
- e. The tree at the Comet has been dealt with.
- f. We have received the tree Survey for Hurworth Grange from Phil Haines.

HPC has received notification of the availability of free trees from woodland Trust. Ken Pattison agreed to take this to FOTC – **EPICH**.

It was agreed that a discussion should be opened with Priory School about the future of the Hurworth House playing field.

Ken Pattison agreed to open a dialogue with the Brothers regarding their field, and it's future use.

56. Flood problems

Ken Pattison reported that there was little or no progress, but requested the Clerk to contact Bill Westland again to get details of the grant application.

57. Projects Update

- a. The speed monitors have been ordered
- b. The exercise units have been ordered
- c. The monument project has been ordered and is progressing
- d. An initial estimate to resurface the community centre road is £7000.
- e. DACYM section 137 award has been finalised. Proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Ian Holme. £1000 shall be awarded for the current year, to assist in the cost of a Youth Leader for Hurworth. The award will include a willingness by HPC to review the matter in 12 months, with a view to providing continued support.
- f. The church cenotaph; a professional person has offered to clean the cenotaph free of charge. A tree may need cutting back as the roots are disturbing the unit, and it will need some paving and trimming. The cost will be much lower than expected.

58. Any Other Business (Non financial)

- a. The next Parish Walk will be on 19th July
- b. The next newsletter will be in mid August, **articles** and contributions to Tony Winnett, please.

The meeting ended at 10:30pm