

Hurworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth  
–on-Tees, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June starting at 7.00pm.**

**Those present** Jean Peacock (Chair), Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Michelle Edwards, Wilma Campbell, Andy Coakes, , Andrew Robinson, Chris Pratt, Elaine Hedley, Paul Walters, Val Hughes and Margaret Williams.

Also attending: Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley and Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

**18. Apologies for Absence**

**None, all present.**

**19. Declarations of Interest**

Tony Winnett	-	HCA
Jean Peacock	-	HCA
Val Hughes	-	HCA
Wilma Campbell	-	HCA

**20.** . The Chair welcomed the councillors John Angus (Police) and members of the public. The Chair drew attention to the requirement for all councillors to hand in their 'Declaration of Expenses' form to the Town Hall. This is essential even if it is a nil return.

**21. PACT Meeting** –Paul Walters took the Chair, and introduced PCSE John Angus to present the Crime Report for April and May 2015.

Crimes two

Burglary in Church Row, jewellery and personal items stolen

Vehicle theft – Van stolen from Church Row, not recovered.

Antisocial behaviour - One Damage to bicycle at Hurworth Grange.

Report for The Lanes

Crimes One

Burglary from shed.

Antisocial behaviour - 21 incidents

On the positive side, the police have had a purge on the anti-social behaviour at The Lanes, and are pleased to report that there has been no reports since mid-April.

A number of police related items are to be discussed under 'Matters Arising' and the Chair agreed that these should be discussed at this juncture, while PCSE Angus was present.

1. **Installation of a 20mph limit outside on Roundhill Road** outside the Primary School entrance.

DBC reported that they were addressing the area in front of the Secondary School, with a view to converting it to a 20mph zone. They are prepared to enlarge their survey to include the Primary School zone, but warned that it may take 6 months for there to be any action. The Council agreed that this should be followed up to get this actioned.

2. **Parking problems on strait Lane.** DBC reported that they are fully conversant with the problems, but no solution has been identified. Preventing parking half on the pavements would cause a problem for the buses to pass, and preventing parking would cause greater problems in close adjacent areas. They recommended that any cure may be worse than the current difficulty. John Angus agreed, but will continue to monitor the situation.
3. **White lines at Church Row.** The residents have expressed strong objections to white lines to mark parking spaces, as it will spoil the look of the village. Some councillors agreed, and this matter has been dropped.
4. **Disabled spaces on Linden Drive.** DBC has stated that they do not provide personalised disabled parking spaces. They only consider high density areas like hospitals, colleges and city centre areas. No further action.
5. **Restricted parking outside the Spar shop.** This piece of road is not an adopted highway, and is probably the responsibility of Hurworth Parish Council. To take any action would require the consent of the landowner, and an application for a Traffic Regulation Order. The DBC list for these is very long, and it may take many months for it to even be considered. DBC also state that the reduced movement of traffic eases traffic collision risk, and encouraging higher levels of movement may be detrimental. They recommend that the Parish Council do not pursue this.  
Peter Foster suggested asking the Spar staff to take note of parking offenders, and John Angus would call to discuss the problem. Peter Foster also suggested that stickers could be used to enlighten drivers who park for long periods, that they are causing an obstruction. The council agreed to consider this matter further.
6. **The council are considering purchasing another monitor, to install on Croft Road near Croft House, where the 30mph limit starts.** John Angus offered to carry out a speed survey and provide the council with feedback. He also suggested that we could move the monitors about, and rather than buy another unit, we could get the post and power installed and then move a unit when we want to monitor the area. All agreed that this is a very practical suggestion.

**SpeedWatch.** John Angus reported that the police has carried out several sessions, and have made several warnings. No serious speeding offences have been logged.

The data from the speed monitors is being received by Paul Emmerson at Police HQ, and they are producing statistics. Margaret Williams requests that we get some of the reports so we can better relate to the benefits that the monitors produce.

Andrew Robinson reported that plants and flowers are being stolen from a particular grave in the cemetery, on a regular basis. John Angus promised to investigate.

- 22. Minutes for the Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The Minutes were adopted, proposed by Wilma Campbell and Seconded by Chris Pratt.
- 23. The Minutes for the PC Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were adopted, Proposed by Micelle Edwards, seconded by Margaret Williams.
- 24. The draft Minutes for the Annual Assembly had been received by some councillors, but not by others. In the circumstances it was agreed that the Clerk will circulate the Minutes again, and they will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## **25. Matters Arising**

- 1. Tony Winnett stressed to the meeting the importance of setting up a sound Parish Contingency Plan. The Plan had been launched at the Annual Assembly, and now needed a Working Committee to establish the foundations and encourage volunteers to become involved and make a commitment.  
Peter Foster immediately volunteered and said that he knew people who would come on board. Andy Coakes and Michelle Edwards also offered to join the group, and the Working Party was established.
- 2. The Chair reminded the councillors who are attending the **training course** at Sadberg on 10<sup>th</sup> June; the joining instructions have already been circulated. Four councillors had attended the 'Code of Conduct' course at Darlington Town Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> May.
- 3. **QPC status** – A meeting has been arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> June, when Tony Winnett and the Clerk will meet the Assessors to move our application forward.
- 4. The other items which would come under this heading had been discussed during the PACT Meeting. See 21 above.

## **26. Public Participation**

Mrs Coakes drew the council's attention to the traffic island at Tees View which has been in a damaged state for several weeks. Margaret Williams agreed to investigate this and take suitable action.

## **27. Matters of Interest**

- 1. The council has received a letter from Innovation Group Environmental Services. Alnwick relating to alleged damage caused by trees at 16 Hawkswood, Hurworth.  
The Clerk has referred this initially to DBC Insurance department, who referred us to Zurich Insurance Company. Peter Foster has surveyed the area, and reported his comments. A copy of the letter and Peter Foster

comments has been sent to Zurich Insurance, and we await their advice before responding to the letter.

2. The council has received an E Mail from a person who is intending to purchase the house at 28 The Green. Their surveyor has highlighted concern about roots from the large sycamore tree, which have caused some damage to the property and could potentially cause further more serious damage in the future. The roots are also causing damage to the cemetery. The E Mail states that Phil Haynes (DBC Arborist) has visited the site, and says that the only solution is to fell the tree. The tree does not have a TPO, but is within the Conservation area. The Clerk has advised the potential purchaser that they must get Phil Haynes to make his advice in writing and get DBC Head of Planning to confirm their stance. The Clerk has sent a copy of the E Mail to both Phil Haynes and David Coates (Head of Planning), to ensure the facts are correct. David Coates has responded stating that the matter must go through the formal process of an application to fell a tree within the Conservation area. The E Mail from the purchaser states clearly that they will meet all expenses, and plant a new tree, if the tree is removed. Peter Foster says this is a huge tree and it may take more than a week to fell and remove it, with the road being closed for part of the time.

## **28. Accounts for Payment**

The schedule of accounts for payment in May 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council.

<b><u>Payment of Accounts</u></b>			<b><u>May-15</u></b>
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
CDALC	102574	Annual subscription	447.09
		Grass cutting and memorial up-	
David Parker	102575	keep	55.00
Bob Iles	102576	Salary May	286.7
P.D.Allan	102577	Salary May	516.68
Inland Reve-			
nue	102578	PAYE	153.00
Tony Winnett	102579	Travelling exs	9.76
P.D.Allan	102580	Admin expenses	38.12
Comet Inn	102581	Annual Assembly food	400.00
P.D.Allan	102582	Annual Assembly drinks	84.06
Jean Peacock	102583	Honorarium	100.00
		Rent £620, photocopying	
HCA	102584	£33.90	653.90
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	12.41
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	4.60
<b>Total outlay</b>			<b>2761.32</b>

## **28 Financial Report**

The Financial report to 31st May 2015, having been circulated to all councillors was approved by the council.

The details and budget will be discussed in greater detail at the forthcoming Finance Committee Meeting.

The Accounts have been sent to our external auditors – BDO.

The VAT Return has been completed and submitted this month, for the previous 12 month period.

## **29. Planning Report**

Jean Peacock gave the following report:-

1. Conversion of barn on Burma Road into dwelling place- this has been rejected.
2. Modifications to the property at 37 The Wayside – this application has been postponed. Val Hughes commented that the council should support the residents who are objecting to this application. – There is serious concern over the congestion which will be caused by building two new houses at the end of the street. This will create multiple driveways and reduce turning space in an area which is already overcrowded with vehicles.
- 3.
4. Alterations to the Potteries – No comment
5. Erection of extensions to 43 The Green - No comment
6. Extension to the rear of 29 Church Row – No comment
7. Pathway access to 22 Friars Pardon – No comment
8. Revised application to 20 Friars Pardon – there are queries about the tree conditions in the original application. Margaret Williams has concerns that the conditions may not have been adhered to. The Clerk has already sent an enquiry to the Planning Dept.

## **30. Finance Meeting**

The Chair announced that there will be a Finance Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June starting at 7:00pm in the Library at Hurworth Grange. This will focus on the current year budget, and evaluate possible projects.

## **31. Highways**

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

The speed monitors are going to be taken down on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to have UPS units fitted. One monitor is tripping at the incorrect speed and this will be rectified at the same time. We have also requested copies of the latest statistics from the police, and hope to receive these soon. The data being sent to DBC is not being processed; apparently their computer is blocking the input, and the matter needs to be discussed and reassessed.

The request for the drop down pavement at the bus stop has been completed.

## **32. Paths and Walkways**

1. Val Hughes reported that the parish walks have been very successful and are well supported. Walk Leaders are still required for two of the scheduled walks. A suggestion has been made that we should arrange a couple of Christmas walks.

A full schedule of Parish walks has now been drawn up by Val Hughes, and this is on the web site and details published in the local papers.

2. Andy Coakes reported that there has been a meeting with Malcolm Thompson of DBC Countryside regarding the proposed circular walkway for disabled people. The route has been inspected and notes taken regarding the landowners, whose permission is required, the need to replace stiles with remote access radar gates, and the quality of the surface to allow mobility carriages and wheel chairs. Plastic matting may be required in several places to smooth the ground surface. The path needs to be two meters wide, to allow two wheelchairs to pass.

Andy confirmed that the project is practical. Once the costs have been determined the Clerk will seek a grant to fund the cost outlay.

## **33. Trees**

Peter Foster reported that he has surveyed the trees in the Grange, and reports that they are in excellent condition. He stated that EPICH has done a wonderful job in the grounds and that the Nature Reserve area and scout hut area are looking splendid.

He reported that the strong winds have not damaged the trees and new have received no reports of problems from the gales.

The silver birch for Goblins Wood has been ordered and will be planted upon arrival.

Wilma Campbell reported that an oak tree has been vandalised in the Grange; it appears an axe has been used, however the tree will survive.

The trees which overhang the allotment wall require pruning, as they are likely to damage the wall. Which is a listed wall.

## **34. Newsletter**

Tony Winnett reported that the newsletter is almost complete and will be going to the printers next week. It should be available for distribution by 27<sup>th</sup> June. Concerns over the distribution were aired, as there appears to be areas of the Parish which do not receive the newsletter.

Paul Walters agreed to cover the outlining properties on Roundhill Road, and Michelle Edwards agreed to cover the Church Row flats. The church has agreed to deliver the quarterly newsletters, although some of their volunteers are reluctant due to the weight of the paper. The Grange are short of volunteers at present and hence the entire parish is not covered.

Tony stated that he will be working with Elaine Hedley on future newsletters, with a view to Elaine taking over the responsibility next year.

The web site has been extended to include additional information required by the QPC panel. Some of the older material has now been removed. The number of hits is steadily increasing.

Peter Foster suggested that we get a quotation for the Post Office to deliver them for us.

### **35 Allotments**

Michelle Edwards reported that the external pathway alongside Strait Lane allotments is overgrown both with the grass and the protruding hedge. She will contact StreetScene to get the pathway cut back, as at present walkers are cutting through the allotments with dogs, to avoid the pathway impediments.

An allotment holder has requested taps to allow allotment holders to get water to their personal allotments. This is contrary to the Allotment Rules, whereby the council is, at present, supplying water free of charge. The matter will be placed on the agenda of the next Allotment Committee meeting.

Michelle asked whether it would be possible to provide a skip, not for the Allotments, but for residents to collect the grass from the DBC grass cutting, to tidy the streets. After discussion, it was decided that this would require many skips, and they would be filled with personal rubbish, and hence the suggestion, although with some merit, would prove impractical.

### **36. Association Reports**

Peter Foster reported that there has been no meetings.

### **37. Any Other Business (None financial)**

**1.** Wilma Campbell praised the organisation and content of the Annual Assembly and said that she, and many others gained a greater knowledge of the work done by the council, and the planning which this council has instituted.

Peter Foster fully supported Wilma's comments and stressed that it would be even better if we could get more residents to take an interest. There was more than seventy people attending this year's Annual Assembly. He also said that in general discussions at the event he experienced no negativity, only support and enthusiasm for the council plans.

Some of the councillors felt that when we hold another public meeting, we should use microphones, as it was difficult to hear some of the presenters if you were sitting near the back of the hall. It was suggested that we invest in a mic system; this will be discussed at another time, as it cannot be discussed under 'Any Other Business'.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.

