

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 5th June 2014 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Tony Winnett, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock, Margaret Williams, Ken Pattison., Tony Needham. Val Hughes, Jeff Kemp, Ian Holme

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and Andy Walker (Northern Echo).

19. Apologies for Absenc

Chris Pratt (Family visit), Norma Kyle (Work), (holiday) John Howard (Work), Cllr Martin Swainston (Family birth)

20. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA

Jean Peacock – HCA

Val Hughes – HCA

Ian Holme - HCA

21. PACT – Ian Holme took the Chair

Police Report for the month of May:-

PC Foley and PCSC John Angus gave their apologies, and the report was given by PC Neil Walton, with PC Sarah Stephenson in attendance.

Crimes –

Anti-social – 3 incidents

- a. Hurworth Moor – involving an off-road motor cycle
- b. Blackwell Golf Course – youths on the course
- c. ECO Lodge – neighbour dispute

There were no burglaries

Thefts – 4 thefts

- a. Croft Road – drunk and disorderly person failed to pay the taxi.
- b. Theft from Croft news agency.
- c. Theft from a car at Blackwell Golf Club
- d. Lead stolen from a house on the Green.

Criminal Damage – there were 3 incidents

- a. Neasham Hill Farm – ongoing dispute
- b. Priory H.H. School – two incidents with students.

No drug related crimes

Peter Foster reported that three newly planted trees on Friars Pardon have been vandalised. – This is being looked into by PCSC Angus. This is a TPO area, so this constitutes a criminal act.

Speedwatch

Three sessions were held during the month. No significant incidents were recorded.

The Clerk reported that a resident has reported that several vehicles are speeding through the village between the hours of 7:00am and 8:30am, this includes road-side food vans. Jeff Kemp confirmed this. The police agreed to make radar speed checks during these hours, in order to trap the culprits.

Tony Needham reported that vehicles are speeding in Westfield Drive, including taxis. These are vehicles dropping off and collecting children to the Primary School and Priory H.H. School.

Tony Needham suggested that the council apply for a 20 mile an hour limit to be introduced on Westfield Drive.

Ken Pattison informed the meeting that the three speed monitors are now collecting a vast amount of information, and this can be given to the police, to assist them in timing and placing their radar checks. David Alban was introduced to the meeting, as he has taken on the role of analysing the data and preparing the reports. The police will provide a contact name and details so that the data can be transferred.

The Clerk reported that a resident has reported a van being parked outside 31 The Green almost every night and weekend. It was also parked there from 10th May to 19th May. It appears that the owner parks it under the street light, and gets a lift to and from it on a regular basis. The details of the vehicle and the company name and telephone numbers were given to the police, for them to investigate.

22. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1ST May 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Jean Peacock, Seconded by Val Hughes.

23. Matters Arising,

- a. HCA Lease. There has been no progress in the last month. The Clerk and the Treasurer of HCA have agreed to visit the solicitor as soon as the draft lease is ready.
- b. The addition to the FoI and Data Protection have been drafted, other procedure changes will be put before the council at the next meeting.
- c. DBC has informed the council that the issue of the Polling Station location will be reviewed in the autumn. It was agreed that Ken Pattison and Tony Winnett would discuss this matter with the Governors of the Primary School. If the response from the Governors is favourable **the Clerk will arrange an early meeting** with DBC to outline the council's views, prior to the autumn review.
- d. DBC has responded to the council's query about the size and location of the huge barn on Roundhill Road. It conforms to the Planning Application, and no objections were raised.
- e. Malcolm Thompson, DBC has agreed to inspect Pathway No. 1, and he is aware of HPC's deep concerns about the condition.
- f. The Rockcliffe Hall circular pathway is still awaiting the sign off by the trustees of St John of God Trust.
- g. The grass at the Primary School has now been cut.
- h. A letter of thanks has been sent to David Alban.

23. Public Participation

There were three members of the public present, but no business was raised.

23. Accounts for Paymen

The schedule of payments with details had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. The council agreed the schedule and the cheques were approved and signed.

	<u>Payment of Accounts</u>			<u>May-14</u>
<u>Name</u>		<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CPRE		102432	Annual ,Subscription	36.00
Eden Landscapes		102433	Open spaces work	100.00
B.Green		102434	Hogweed in church grounds	30.00
Francis Carne		102435	Dog fowling notices	19.98
P.D. Allan		102436	Salary	502.54

P.D. Allan		102437	Exs- Files & badges19.13. Print cart £31.99, mileage 21.52	72.64
G. Lawrence		102438	Allotment notice board	90.00
Bob Iles		102439	Salary - litter picker	213.30
Inland Revenue		102440	PAYE	168.80
T. Winnett		102441	Honorarium	100.00
P. Foster		102442	Travelling expenses	53.68
				1386.94
Direct Debits				
Bank charges		DD	Charges	4.60
TalkTalk		DD	Communications	16.20
TalkTalk		DD	Communications	18.60

26. Financial report

The Financial Report for May 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

Please see addendum with Report details

2. The Clerk reported that BDO, the external auditors have insisted that the Asset Register is updated, by adding the cost of the Car Park meshing, the Exercise Equipment and the Speed Monitors to the Fixed Assets. Also depreciation cannot be deducted at any time. This has added £14000 to the council's Fixed Assets.

27. Matters of Interest

The HPC Procedures need to be revised and updated, due to procedural changes both within the council and through NALC. **Action Ken Pattison and the Clerk**

28. Matters of Interest

1. The complement of HMS Hurworth will be visiting the parish from 27th to 29th June. A full itinerary has been put in place by the church, schools and cricket club.
2. **Tees Valley Rural Community Council** is applying to DEFRA to establish a new LEADER area. This will include Hartlepool, Stockton, Vale of Mowbray and Darlington; this constitutes a total of 45,000 population. Members of the council together with representatives from parish based charities and small businesses have attended a meeting at Hurworth Grange to listen to the outline plans. Another meeting has been arranged for Thursday 12th June, to further define the benefits which can accrue from this initiative, and try to ensure that any funds are distributed fairly.
3. A meeting has been arranged with Priory H.H. School on Tuesday 10th June at 4:00pm. The following councillors will be attending – Tony Winnett, Jeff Kemp, Tony Needham, Ken Pattison and Cllr Joe Kelley.
4. It was agreed that Tony Winnett, Jean Peacock and the Clerk will attend the meeting addressing Community Owned Property at Durham Cricket Club on 18th June.
5. Dog litter stickers were distributed to councillors to display at strategic locations.

29. Planning Report – Jean Peacock

The Chairman thanked Jeff Kemp for the excellent and diligent job which he has done in handling planning matters for the last two years. The councillors all echoed their agreement.

Having reviewed all the applications received in May, Jean reported that there were no contentious applications, and recommended ‘No Comment’ to all.

Jeff Kemp informed the council that two more applications were on their way, one for Snipe Lane and one for Croft House. These may require urgent attention.

30. Growing Places

The Chairman drew the council’s attention to the latest release of the summation of the document addressing the Growing Places, which effects all areas with Darlington Borough. He urged all councillors to read the documents and review their thoughts on the subject; all comments should be routed through the Clerk by 20th June, for submission by 4th July. We have obtained two CD’s, which embrace the information, which is on the DBC web site.

31. Allotments.

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

The two new notice boards have been erected at the allotment sites. The Strait Lane one has a lock on it, so in future information will be routed through the allotment representative at Strait Lane. Information for the Grange site will be handled by Tony Sayers.

The grass has been cut around the Strait Lane allotments, and two loads of bark have been delivered by Peter Foster (complimentary)

The new litter and dog bins have not yet been installed by DBC.

It was agreed that in future the Allotment Minutes will be displayed on the HPC web site.

32. Hogweed – Ken Pattison

It has been reported that there are many outbreaks of hogweed and also Japanese Knotweed in the parish.

DBC has sprayed both sides of the pathway around the golf course along the river bank, within the last week. However, they will not attend to any other areas, as they are not within their remit.

The Clerk reported that there is an intensity of hogweed within the All Saints Church grounds and along the river bank from the church to the bridge. Margaret Williams has reported Japanese Knot weed in the Glebe.

The **following actions** were agreed:-

1. Discuss the problem with the Environment Agency with a view to establishing ownership and responsibility for the riverbank.
2. Find out from Malcolm Thompson, at DBC, what qualifications, etc are needed from a contractor, if HPC decide to address the problem at the council's expense.

33. Highways

Tony Needham reported:-

1. The damaged BT manhole outside the Grange has been repaired.
2. DBC has sprayed the kerbs and pavement areas to kill off the weeds.
3. There have been many complaints about the rising volume of traffic on Westfield Drive, and the excessive speeds by drivers. Also the taxis which transport the youths to Priory School.

Ken Pattison suggested that an article in the newsletter requesting resident's opinions regarding possible courses of action, in particular with regard to the 20mph limit.

Jeff Kemp advised the council that DBC approved the plans for the entrances to the two schools just three years ago. He went on to suggest a public meeting be convened.

Tony Needham recommends that we request a 20mph limit on Westfield Drive.

Actions

- a. Write to DBC outlining the new circumstances.
 - b. Article in the newsletter inviting opinions
 - c. Convene a Public Meeting, dependent upon the reactions received after the newsletter.
4. There is concern about the pathway to the Primary School being slippery in the winter months, and it is now currently part of the DBC responsibility. Action Clerk to raise this with DBC Highways Dept., copy to be sent to Cllr Kelley.

34. Speed Monitors

Ken Pattison reported that the monitors are now all operational, and the data is being collected.

David Alban will routinely analyse the data and produce reports

KP reminded the council of the process which was followed leading to the installation of these units. :-

- Requirement to address the excess speeds of traffic within the villages was highlighted in the Parish Plan, and given a high priority.
- A full review was conducted with meetings with the police and DBC. Various options were considered including speed bumps, traffic calming islands, speed cameras and reduced speed limits.
- The Head of the Traffic Police for Durham County recommended speed monitors,
- The data produced from the units will be used to analyse traffic flow, and also will be fed to the police, to assist radar trap control, and bring in an effective penalty based solution.

KP requested all councillors to explain this process to any residents who express concern about the introduction and effectiveness of the solution.

KP requested that Peter Foster finishes the tree pruning opposite the Comprehensive school, to improve the performance of the unit located there.

35. Flood Issues

The residents of West End have been given a survey by DBC of the gradient/levelness of the Glebe back lane. This appeared to confirm the residents view that the additional laid tarmac toward the end of the lane was at least partially the cause of the puddling/flooding experienced by about four households. They had also submitted a further letter of complaint regarding the delay to their first letter. The matter is now being addressed by Mr Downey, the DBC Complaints Officer, who will send a draft response to the residents for their comment. The residents are also to send in a response to the levels survey. Once all DBC final responses have been collated there

will be a round-up discussion between the residents, parish councillors Needham and Pattison, and Borough Councillor Kelley to decide an appropriate course of action.

The action by Bedburn Trust on the Glebe ditch has been reviewed by DBC/NWL and we await the outcome.

36. Tree report

Peter Foster reported the vandalising of the three trees at Friar's Pardon, which has been reported to the police, and discussed under the PACT Meeting.

A lady has offered to provide 4 saplings, but they are not required at this time.

No further items to report.

37. Association Reports

- a. Peter Foster had attended the meeting of the Darlington Parish Council Association, and reported that, in his opinion, HPC has nothing to gain from being a member, and that the meetings are badly conducted, even without an agenda.

Based on PF recommendation, it was agreed that HPC will resign membership therefrom. **Action Clerk.**

- b. Peter Foster has attended the meeting of CDALC, addressing issues relating to Village Greens. This was an instructive meeting covering many topics, a lot of which HPC has encountered in the past. PF handed to the Clerk a list of contact names and details, who can be contacted for assistance, including a barrister who specialises in Village Green matters.

The subject of travellers 'corralling' areas of common land was discussed, and the council made aware of the dangers of this practice.

- c. Jeff Kemp had nothing to report.

38. Any Other Business (Non-financial)

There was no other business raised

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:18pm