

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes

of the Meeting held on Thursday 7th February 2013 in the Hadwin Lounge,
Hurworth Grange, Hurworth on Tees.

Those attending

Ian Holme (Chairman), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Val Hughes, Tony Winnett, Ken Pattison, John Howard, Chris Pratt, Jeff Kemp, Norma Kyle.

Also present, Joe Kelley, Martin Swainston, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Northern Echo reporter.

176 Apologies for absence:-

Tony Needham (Holiday), Jill Russell (Holiday)

177. Declarations of Interest:-

Ian Holme, Tony Winnett, Jean Peacock, Ken Pattison (personal interest in Hurworth Community Association).
John Howard and Val Hughes - allotments

178. Minutes of the Meeting dated 3rd January 2013,

The minutes of the Meeting, having been pre-circulated, were agreed, and signed by the Chairman after confirmation by the council. Proposed by Tony Winnett, and seconded by Peter Foster.

179. Matters Arising

- a. The clerk had enquired into the possibility of obtaining a grant through the Leisure and Parks trust. However, this does not extend to cemeteries or burial places.
- b. Other items will be addressed within this meeting's agenda.

180. Buses.

Cllr Joe Kelley updated the meeting regarding developments in community transport. £40,000 is left of grant funding and available for some form of sustainable service. Evolution are tending to operators with four possible timetables, two of which include Hurworth.

The proposals will go to the DBC Cabinet on 22nd February for assessment. It had been noted that taxi fares from Darlington to Hurworth have risen and are now £12.

There will be no further action taken by HPC at this time.

181. Public Participation

There were no questions or statements from the public.

182 Accounts for Payment

The schedule of accounts for payment had already been circulated to all councillors, viz:

| <u>Payment of Accounts</u> | | | <u>Jan-13</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Cheque No</u> | <u>Details</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
| Sue Webster | 102261 | Salary January | 448.01 |
| P.D Allan | 102260 | Salary December | 484.70 |
| Inland Revenue | 102262 | PAYE Jan 13 | 38.00 |
| David Parker | 102263 | Open Space maintenance | 100.00 |
| Cumbria Clocks | 102264 | All Saints Church clock repairs (£400 invoiced to and rec'd from church) | 990.00 |
| DBC | 102265 | Grit for bins | 19.99 |
| DBC | 102266 | Tree work & survey | 470.76 |
| P.D. Allan | 102267 | Office Exs & Allotment Exs | 75.01 |
| Barclays Bank | DD | Bank Charges | 4.60 |
| Talk Talk | DD | Comms | 18.60 |
| Talk Talk | DD | Comms | 10.89 |

The following additional cheques were presented for acceptance:-

Ken Pattison – land registry expenses £16.90

HCA – Contribution to Recreational area refurbishments, previously authorised by the PC - £2,600.00

TCS CAD and Graphic Solutions – printer cartridges £119.94

All the accounts were accepted and the cheques were duly signed by Ian Holme and Ken Pattison.

183 Financial Reports

The Financial Report, having been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, was accepted, with no questions.

184. Matters of Interest

a. Croft Club Right of Way. Interviews and briefings have been conducted by Malcolm Thompson, Countryside Dept. DBC, and the documents have been completed. The arrangements are in place for the hearing on 26th February at Hurworth Grange. This may extend to 2/3 days. The public are welcome to attend.

b. Blind Lane resident George Reed has complained about the grass area outside his house being damaged by heavy vehicles during the snow period. It was agreed that the PC will erect another, larger notice, which will be concreted into the ground. **Action Clerk**

c. Quality Parish Council. NALC is changing the application criteria at this time, so our application will be delayed until the new documents have been released

d. **Precept queries.** The council has received two queries about the forthcoming precept increase, and these have been answered. An E Mail from Mr John Buxton was read out by the Chairman, seeking more information regarding the Speed units which we are about to install, which has also been answered.

e. A meeting has been arranged with **Priory Hurworth House School** for Tuesday, 12th February at 3:30pm. Ian Holme and Jeff Kemp will attend.

f. **North East Ambulance** has offered a free course on resuscitation procedures. The council agree they would like to hold this later in the year.

g. **Wheelie Bins** We have sent details of properties which may not be suitable for wheelie bins to DBC. They will in due course contact the residents directly.

h. We have received one FoI query, which has been answered in detail.

i. Mr Scott has again raised his concerns about the possible danger of the large trees in the Grange falling on his house. The Clerk has already written to Phil Haynes, DBC Arborist, requesting his confirmation that these trees are safe. The risk must be placed on DBC, as we are not allowed to trim these trees, as they have TPO's on them. **Action: John Howard to talk further to Phil Haynes.**

185. Flood Action Update

Ken Pattison updated the council with the progress being made in finding a solution to the flood problems experienced in the Parish.

Northumbria Water and DBC attended a meeting, along with a representative from Stockton Borough Council, who are now assisting.

A solution has been identified which it is thought will resolve the problems at The Glebe and Friars Pardon. NWL has agreed to allow the surface water to drain into the surface water drains, when it reaches a pre-determined height. The soakaway, pipe, and dyke will allow the excess surface water to flow into the surface drains. In the event of the fire brigade being required, the same solution would have been obtained. It has been stressed that this is a unique situation, initiated because of the distance from the troubled areas to the river. There is still an unsolved problem at the bottom end of Blind Lane, and it is planned to put dye into the drains to trace the course. Also a camera will be used to try to identify the blockages.

The chairman thanked Ken Pattison and Tony Needham for their diligent work in helping to resolve these very serious problems.

186 First Aid Course

Tony Winnett reported that all the arrangements have been made for the First Aid Course, through Jill Russell. Posters have been placed on the notice boards, and the details are on the Parish web site.

Six people have already enrolled, and other will be welcomed from the public.

187 Queen's Garden Party

The council have been asked to nominate a councillor to attend the Queen's Garden Party this year. Chris Pratt accepted the council's request to be the nomination, and the **Clerk will notify DALC.**

188. Playground Enhancement

Val Hughes reported that very little progress has been made since the last meeting despite her and the Clerk's efforts.

1. The trees have been cut back, and the rotten tree has been removed.
However it appears the trees should be cut to a higher level, to make room for the swings. **Action: John Howard agreed to inspect the area** with Val Hughes, and then talk to Phil Haynes, DBC.
2. Streetscene has inspected the ground within the play area, but have shown total reluctance to undertake any work. Apparently the treated chippings cost £1000 per ton.
3. There is thick moss in the play area, and this may cause an accident. Further action is required.
4. There is only one swing remaining; two have been either destroyed or taken away. **Action clerk to seek replacements.**

Val Hughes commented that she had been kept on hold for 50 minutes, when trying to talk to the DBC department.

189. Land and Property Review

Ken Pattison reported the progress on the land registrations.

1. Grange estate land – An official search has been requested, and it is expected that when the results are in hand, the transfer of this property to HPC can be completed.
2. Friars Pardon – Everything is in order, and HPC is waiting for Shepherd's to finalise their documentation to complete the transfer.
3. Lych Gate – This area of land is now under the ownership of the State. When the developers, Hills, went into liquidation, they left HPC as custodians, which allows the council to maintain and control the area, but the Council cannot obtain actual ownership.
4. Village Green – This has been concluded. It is confirmed that an error had been made by Durham County Council in 1970, when All Saints Church requested ownership of the mineral rights, this being the area under the surface. This request was made to ensure the sanctity of the bodies buried there in the seventeenth century. DBC agree that Hurworth Parish Council is the effective owner, although no deeds exist. HPC will now become the owners but on a custodian basis.

We have discovered that many of the old records, particularly in the years 1922 -24 are still at the Durham Records Office and were never transferred to Darlington. Ken Pattison and the Clerk have undertaken to survey these records and extract appropriate information.

190. PACT Report

John Howard who was Chairman at the January meeting gave the following report:-

The meeting was attended by PC Foley, John Angus, and Kevin Slater (Cleveland Durham Traffic) representing the police, and sixteen members of the public, including Cllr Derek Dodswell, representing Neasham Parish Councillor.

Crime Statistics for December and January combined:-

Total crimes 10

Incidents:-

Burglary 0

Burglary other 3

Newbus caravans 4

Rockcliffe Farm 1

Hurworth School 1

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Motor Vehicles | 4 |
| Anti social | 0 |
| Thefts | 3 |
| Violent | 0 |

The Chairman emphasised the problems which the village was suffering from parking congestion, including parking on pavements and on both sides of roads. Roundhill Road near the Spar corner is a massive problem, and the police have suggested that we can place traffic cones to deter vehicles parking in this area. Similarly cones could be deployed outside the Comprehensive school.

The delivery vehicle that delivers to the Spar was described as similar to a juggernaut, and totally unsuitable for villages, and the narrow roads.

Ian Holme reported that he had used the new 101 Service, and was impressed by the speed of response.

Peter Foster reported his concern about the number of loose horses which are on the main road on Neasham Road, particularly at night. These could cause a serious accident. The police are aware of this problem, and will intensify their effort to track the owners and get the horses secured.

It was noted that DBC Highways had been active and have marked many potholes, which will be repaired in due course.

The next meeting will be at the same venue on 28th February starting at 6:30pm

It was agreed Ian Holme will take the Chair at the February meeting, as Jeff Kemp will be on holiday.

191. Highways

In the absence of Tony Needham, Ken Pattison reported as follows:-

1. DBC have made a recent inspection and marked many potholes for repair. Some of the holes, which HPC had identified, are apparently not deep enough to meet the DBC scale, and hence do not warrant repair at this time.
2. There is still concern about parking near and around the Spar shop; also the size of the delivery wagon, which is huge. The council agreed to press for double yellow lines to be introduced at the Spar shop end of Roundhill Road. **Action clerk to initiate again. Also a letter to the Spar Head Office** stating that the size of their delivery vehicle is not in keeping with the village and is causing major problems and potential risk.
3. Several places where the road condition is 'unacceptable' were mentioned; Peter Foster suggested that the deterioration was probably caused by the gritting vehicle and the salt dispensed. John Howard stated that the repairs were poor, as soon had been done when the ground was wet and not conducive to a permanent repair.
4. Strait Lane – HPC has received a response from DBC Highways regarding the serious deterioration of the grass area at the bottom of Strait Lane. This has been caused by vehicles parking on the grass enough to cause damage although the ground is very wet. DBC recommend that cut tree trunks be placed on the grass area to prevent inappropriate parking and to preserve the green area.

Norma Kyle asked for time to discuss the parking problems with the residents of Strait Lane, and to report back to the next meeting, with their input and suggestions. The council agreed. **Action Norma Kyle.**

192. Speed Control

Ken Pattison reported:-

1. We are waiting For Andy Casey, DBC Engineering, to commit to the installation of the four posts, and provide the power sources.
2. The supplier of the units has agreed to extend the expiry date of the quotation by three months.
3. Neasham Council have shown an interest, and suggested that they may wish to rent a unit from time to time. Peter Foster reported that several other councils had also displayed interest in Hurworth's initiative.
4. Action Clerk to contact Neasham P.C to arrange for Ken Pattison to share information with them, and discuss the possibility of increasing the HPC order to include a unit for them.

192. Allotments

Norma Kyle reported as follows:-

1. There is still trimming to be carried out at Grange allotments **Clerk has this in hand, pending suitable weather.**
2. George Lawman has informed the council that he has formed an unofficial Allotment Association, which he hopes will encourage more allotment holders to join and become involved. At present this has no legal standing.
3. An Allotment Working Party Meeting will be held on 28th February at the Grange, starting at 7:00pm in Room F2. Action Norma and the Clerk will send out letters and put up posters advertising the meeting. These letters are not to include any reference to the AA.
4. Two complaints have been received about the increase in rent from £10 to £15 per annum.

193. Tree Report

John Howard reported that Phil Haynes (DBC Arborist) had completed his survey of the trees on The Green, and that he had received the report. The Clerk has requested a copy of the Report, and will circulate to council members.

JH has contacted Mr Redfern and explained the circumstances appertaining to his letter of complaint. He has also tried to contact Mrs Whitaker, and will seek to resolve her problem. **Action John Howard.**

JH has requested Phil Haynes to prepare a survey and report on all the trees in Hurworth Grange; this has been started.

Peter Foster reported that the old cedar tree near the Bay Horse Inn has shoots, and needs to be killed off before it interferes with the newly planted tree at Alan Gibson's memorial.

Ken Pattison stated that he still intended to talk to DBC about their success with the Big Tree Plant, whereas Hurworth had demonstrated a lack of interest.

194. Planning Applications

Jeff Kemp reported on the January applications:-

Application No 12/00413/FUL

Erection of Chalet Type building/Bungalow at Skipbridge Neasham Road Hurworth Moor.

We had previously objected to this development and again at a DBC planning meeting and the proposed

Approval was put on hold subject to a site meeting to consider our major objections and reconvene on 13th Feb 1.30 pm at which time we will be represented.

Plan. No 12/00620/FUL

Refusal of Demolition of garage and build extensions to Roundhill Road Hurworth, (refusal to remove tree to widen opening)

Plan. No. 13/00007/FUL

Erection of two storey front and side extensions. 1 West End Hurworth (end of terrace house)

No objection(as most will be concealed by trees)

Plan. No. 12/00564/FUL

Minor Modification to roof line and garage of previous application

No objection

Plan. No. 13/00016/FUL

Loft conversion and erection of six dormer roof windows. Black Banks Farm Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor

No objection

Plan No 13/00032/FUL

Car Park Extensions to Hurworth School Croft Road Hurworth

No objection

Plan No 13/00052/FUL

Erection of a replacement Cricket Pavillion, Rockcliffe Park Hurworth

Val Hughes drew attention to planning notices near School House, for which HPC had not received notification. Jeff Kemp volunteered to investigate this.

Action Jeff Kemp

195. Newsletter and Web Site

Tony Winnett stated that the Newsletter was ready to go to the printers, except for an update from HMS Hurworth and another from Hurworth Methodist Church. He thanked everybody for their contributions.

The article about Hurworth footpaths will be postponed until the next edition. He thanked Peter Foster for the information and pictures which he has provided from his personal archives.

A page displaying details of the council Surgery Roster has been added to the web site.

The council agreed that the article and coverage in the Northern Echo was admirable, and thanked Tony for his work in compiling this.

196. Association Reports

1. Peter Foster reported that he had attended the DALC Meeting in Durham. The main topic was about dog fouling, and a scheme for council to provide low cost or free poop bags. The council agreed not to pursue this. (14000 for bags for £100).

2. Peter had also attended the Darlington Association of Parish Councils. The main topic was the DBC campaign to provide more affordable housing. As this comes under Planning, **Jeff Kemp agreed to monitor this project.**

196. Any Other Business – Non Financial

1. Tony Winnett informed the meeting that CPRE were preparing a BBC 2 documentary on villages that had a specific project which they are championing. The council agreed HPC would not participate in this.
2. Tony Winnett suggested that the council should consider erecting a plaque on the Village Green to commemorate the 1500 bodies which are buried there at the time of the Great Plague in 1665. This will be placed on the next Agenda.
3. Ken Pattison acquainted the meeting on the new structure of the FOTC, and outlined their 2103 objections and Mission Statement. He requested this be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

4. Val Hughes informed the meeting about the churches Youth Warden project, and how five areas were contributing to employing a full time Youth Warden. This will be placed on the meeting Agenda.

197. Annual Appraisals (held in camera)

The public and the Clerk withdrew while the council discussed the annual appraisals of the Clerk and the Litter Picker.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.