

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 6th February 2014 starting at 7.00pm.

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

Also attending: Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Martin Swainston, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk). Alexa Copeland (Press)

138. Apologies for Absence

Chris Pratt - (Away), Norma Kyle - (Leave of absence),

139. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA
Jean Peacock – HCA & Village Hall
Val Hughes - HCA & allotments
Ken Pattison – HCA
Ian Holme - HCA

140. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9TH January 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster Seconded by Val Hughes.

141. Matters Arising,

- a. The new form for Donation / Award Applications has been introduced.
- b. A new Litter Picker, Mr Bob Iles has been employed, and started on 1st February. The council expressed thanks to Sue Webster for her diligence during the time she worked for HPC.
- c. The council has received a letter from the Hurworth Friendship Club. The Award application form has been completed and vetted. The council awarded them £500, to assist in their community activities.
- d. The council has received another decision letter from the ICO. The ICO has confirmed that the council acted correctly, and fully in accordance with the regulations of Data Protection pertaining to SAR requests.

142. Public Participation

There was a large turnout from the public.

1. Croft House Planning Application

Sue Williams, speaking on behalf of the residents near Croft bridge raised objections to the new development plan, making the following points:-

- Sue started by thanking Tony Needham and the council for arranging for the use of the storage area for their flood defences.
- Sue made the point that Croft House has a distinguished history, and that although the building is not listed, many people thought it should be preserved.
- The issue of flooding is again a concern to the residents close to this proposed development.

- There appears to be a lack of detailed information available, to allow for a full analysis of the potential risks.
- The scale of the proposed development indicates that the water displacement will be higher even than the previous Yuill plans.

Sue Dell added to these points stating:-

- The new houses will be in a Zone 2 flood plain.
- The plans indicate a lot more surplus water than the previous plans which were rejected.

The residents confirmed that they had already made their personal objections, and requested the council to support them.

Cllr Martin Swainston stated that the application will receive a full committee panel hearing.

Payment of Accounts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DBC Legal fees	102387	Land registration fees - see file in office	380.00
Sue Webster	102388	January salary (Final)	266.50
P.D.Allan	102389	January salary	508.24
Inland revenue	102390	PAYE Jan 14	110.20
Viking	102391	Printing paper	47.76
P.D.Allan	120392	Expenses see addendum	75.43
Fosters	102393	Tree work see addendum	1215.00
Bank charges	DD	Admin Exs	4.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.60
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	13.29
Total			<u>£2,639.62</u>

Funds received

Allotment rents	330.00
Allotment bonds	60.00
Litter Picker refund	2580.89
	<u>£2,970.89</u>

In addition, a cheque was signed for EPICH, in accordance with the budget, for work on Open Spaces. They are about to start a new project to clear an area behind the Scout Hut, and provide an amenity area with seating. An amount of

£2,250 has been ring fenced for the purpose of such projects and due consideration would be given to suitably detailed and costed projects.

2. Trees on the Green.

Mr Hanson, representing several residents of the Green, asked for more details about the proposed tree planting on the village green.

Peter Foster stated that there would be three trees, and that they would be sited where the old trees have been removed. The trees will be slow growing species, which will add colour to the area. The trees under consideration are one silver birch, one rowan, and one blossoming cherry tree.

Action: clerk to write to the interested residents.

143. Accounts Payable

The schedule having been distributed to all councillors, was approved by the meeting.
Details as follows:-

It having been agreed, more detail was provided on the Accounts Payable schedule, and the following addendums had been circulated:-

a. Fosters Account

<u>Invoice</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Work done</u>	<u>Amount</u>
010/14	Friars Pardon	Take down large chestnut tree and remove waste.	570
012/14	Friars Pardon	Test beach tree with risistograph	25
	Roundhill Road	Test beach tree with risistograph	25
011/14	Lych Gate	Take down double stemmed lime tree	285
019/14	Goblin's Wood	Fell and remove dead sycamore tree	165
018/14	Linden Drive	Crown and lift 3 horse chestnut trees, Prune one huge chestnut tree, and remove all waste	145
Total payment due			£1,215

b. Administration Expenses

Name P.D.Allan	Date 31/1/2014	Amount	
Details of expenses,	Please attach all bills.	Inc VAT	
Rymans	Display folders and labels (ICO response)	8.99	1.50
Rymans	Paper clips and stationery	5.58	.93
Post Office	Recorded delivery letter to ICO	9.10	
B&Q	Hand truck for Hurworth Place flood protection	22.48	
Mileage	Santander, Northallerton – corporate bond. Bank twice, Darlington Local calls, notice boards, etc	29.28	
<i>Signed</i>			
Total		£75.43	

144. Finance Report

1. The Financial Report for the 10 months to 31st January 2014, having been previously distributed to all councillors, was agreed and accepted.

Please see addendum with Report details.

3. Bank Bond.

The Clerk explained that the long term forecast to 31st March 2016, indicated that the council would have its statutory funding requirement of £20,000, after all budgeted expenses for the next two financial years. He recommended that £20000 should be placed in a 12 month bond with Santander at an interest rate of 1.2percent, this being the highest currently being offered on a business account. The council voted unanimously to proceed with this – Proposed by Ken Pattison, Seconded by Val Hughes.

Action: Clerk to make appropriate arrangements

145. Matters of Interest

- a. The council has received several letters highlighting the problems with dog dirt not being picked up by their owners. DBC has installed one replacement bin and two new litter bins. They have also put up a new notice beside the bridge at the Otter and Fish, and their warden will be patrolling the village to try to identify dog owners who are disregarding the courtesy of keeping the village clean.
Tony Winnett agreed to put another article in the next parish newsletter.
- b. The council has received a letter from Hurworth Village Hall requesting financial support for a new event. This is for an outdoor concert to be held at Hurworth Grange on 19th July, to raise funds for both the Village Hall and Hurworth Community Association. It is intended to become an annual event, but some assistance is required in the inauguration year.
Mr Hugh Jackson, Chairman of the Village Hall addressed the meeting, and outlined the concept of the event. They requested a cash donation, and for the council to underwrite the event. After considerable discussion, the council adopted a proposal made by Ian Holme and Seconded by Val Hughes that the council should make an award of £2000, but decided not to underwrite the event. This motion was carried by nine votes in favour, with one against.
- c. Peter Foster recommended that all councillors should be given a yellow safety jacket, which should be worn when councillors are involved with flood alerts and outdoor surveys, etc. This was agreed, and the **Clerk was asked to procure them.**
- d. **Responsibility for the trees at Hurworth Grange.** The Clerk had advised the council that the five year lease between the council and HCA would expire on 28th February 2014. Hence this is a most convenient time to make a decision regarding the trees, and also to decide on the future tenure of the lease agreement.
- e. Stan Holme, Chairman of HCA was invited to speak, and stated that the running costs of the Grange for the last 5 years had exceeded £420,000. He said that the trees were in need of more attention, but all emergency work had been done. He also said that a longer lease may help them in obtaining further grants; HCA has received grants amounting to about £40,000 in the last 5 years.
A proposal was tabled by Jeff Kemp, Seconded by Margret Williams that the trees should be removed from the responsibility of the lease, also that the lease should be for ten years. The motion was carried unanimously, and the new lease will be drawn up. **Action Clerk.**

145. Planning report

Jeff Kemp, having circulated his report, gave the following report:-

- a. **Subject: Planning Report for January 2014 HPC meeting**

Erection of 16 ground floor mounted solar panels to front/side of dwelling.
No 1 West End Hurworth. Mounted at an angle on the corner of the field at the front of the property.

The size of the panels will need an area of 11ft

Wide x 26ft Long x 1ft

High

They will be out of view from the road but may just be seen from the property across the field and adjacent terraced house

Suggest No objection

Plan. App. No 13/00042

Erection of single storey side and rear extension and garden store to the rear of property.

4 Collyers Close Hurworth

Suggest no objection

Plan. App. No. 13/10001

Development of Croft house Grounds to build 6 new dwelling houses and demolishing of existing Croft House.

The development is a vast improvement on the last application with 6 very nice looking properties.

Concern still exists as to security from flooding although the proposed dwellings are at the highest end of the land where the existing Croft House is situated. It would have been nice to incorporate the existing property.

No doubt financial constraints exist.

This development will be subject to strict compliance with Environment Agency

standards and the report is not very encouraging. The Agency is now in direct consultation with the developers.

Should the consultation reach a satisfactory conclusion it is recommend no objection.

Separate letter will be sent to DBC generally supporting the residents concerns and requesting more detail in order to properly assess the matter.

Plan App. No. 13/00044

Erection of single storey side extension.

40. Woodlands Way Hurwoth Place

Suggest no objections.

Plan. Appl. No. 13/00792 and 3

Re application for 2 number dwelling properties by conversion of existing out buildings and replacement of demolished house to modified drawings
Black Banks Farm Snipe Lane.

Suggest no objection other than the dangerous entrance exit to the A64 on a bend.

Plan. Appl. No 13/01032

Minor Variation to out buildings conversion of Hill Top Farm approved earlier in 2006.

Suggest no objection

Plan Appl. No 13/010033

Variation to Plan. App. No 13/00514 for erection of approved 2 storey side extension to Nags Head Farm to enable a change of chimney design.

Suggest no objection

Plan. App. No. 13/00979

Installation of 2 wind turbines 23.9m to hub and 30.4m to tip of blade..
Mowden Rugby Club Arena Neasham Road.

The turbines will be approx. twice the height of the Stadium. However they would be positioned well away from it. There are a number of these industrial type turbines throughout the town near various industrial buildings.
The feeling was that the turbines will blend in with the modern design of the Stadium.

Action: Jeff Kemp and Tony Winnett will draft and send separate letter outlining our concerns.

Plan. App. No. 13/00842

Conversion of paddock land behind the wayside to extend the length of gardens.

Suggest no objection

b. Croft House Development

Further to the comments made by residents under Public Participation, the council decided to compose and send a letter to the Planning Department, expressing some concerns, particularly at the lack of detailed information being provided. The salient points to raise will be:-

- There has been no prior contact or consultation from the Applicants with either the Parish Council or local residents.
- We feel that that this is extremely disappointing and the applicants have missed an important opportunity for local engagement.
- The Parish Council feel the current application is inadequate in that it fails to provide any of the following;

- Context illustrations and sections showing the proposals in their setting, illustrating proposed scale, height and mass in relation to both the existing and surrounding properties.
- Only by the provision of this information will it be possible to fully assess the impact of the proposed development at this location which forms part of the approach to the village.
- In addition we must concur with the concerns raised by the Environment Agency regarding the flood risk associated with this site and development.

Action Ian Holme and Clerk to compose this letter.

146. Highways Report

Cllr Needham reported as follows:-

- DBC are planning a cycle / footpath link from Darlington to Hurworth, via the newly developed nature reserve.

The route includes public footpath 16 the A66 underpass and pathway 15 past Stressholme - Blackwell Golf Club along pathways 12 to 14 and connecting with Roundhill Road. More details will be published soon.

Cllr Kelley expressed his support for this project, quoting that 500 children from Darlington attend schools in Hurworth, and there is no safe route for them at present. It is also part of the DBC Core Plan.

Peter Foster expressed his support for the plan, while some other councillors were a little more circumspect.

- Footpath 11 which will provides the circular route via the Middlesbrough F.C is ready for signing. However it requires approval of St John of God, who is the actual owners of the freehold land.
- The chicane on Roundhill Road has been repaired, but has again been damaged.
- The bus shelter has now been repaired.
- Some street nameplates have been lost, and DBC is replacing the ones which have been reported.
- It is understood that DBC intends to install log bollards on Strait Lane, to preserve the grass area, which is being badly damaged by motorists parking on the grass.

147. Speed Control Units

Ken Pattison updated the meeting -

Two of the units have now been connected to the power source, and the others should be ready by 28th February.

The supplier, Swarco, will install the speed units as soon as all the posts have power connected and are cleared for operation.

148 Flood Action Report

A meeting has been arranged for 5th March 2014, between DBC, Northumbria Water and residents. Cllr Joe Kelley and Ken Pattison to review the recommendations and to plan the actions which are to take place. Tony Needham will be abroad when this meeting takes place.

148 Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported:-

- He, on a voluntary basis, had pruned the trees in the Heritage Orchard. (It is noted that at this time these trees are the responsibility of EPICH).
- The tree work at Friars Pardon and Goblins Wood has been completed.

- The overhanging tree on Roundhill Road, is the responsibility of DBC, and awaits there correction work.
- We are still awaiting approval to cut back the trees at Lych Gate, pending the Planning Department application.
- Some trees have been trimmed at Linden Drive, following a request from the residents.
- There are two trees which require attention in the old churchyard. **Clerk to request DBC to attend.**
- The council agreed that the Clerk should continue to take decisions and make arrangements, where urgent work was needed on trees.

149. Allotments

Cllr Williams reported that most of the allotment rents for 2014 have been collected. Five plots have been vacated, and are being reassigned in accordance with the Waiting List. The Waiting List should be reduced to three at Hurworth Grange and almost clear at strait Lane, except for allotment holders who have requested additional plots.

150. Association Reports

Peter Foster reported that he had attended the Darlington P.C Association meeting in January. The main topic was the proposed changes in the Planning Application policy, which has now been postponed by Cllr Bill Dixon, HPC are already conversant with this activity.

Jeff Kemp said that he would be attending the meeting of the Small and Medium Council next meeting.

151. Request to allow Proxy Voting

The Chairman read out a letter from DCCALC which clearly ruled that proxy voting is not permitted within parish councils. This ended the issue.

152 PACT Report

Tony Winnett, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Ian Holme, reported:

Police and Communities Together: Meeting 30/1/2014

Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

Attendees: PCSO J Angus Tony Winnett (Chair)

9 members of the public, + 3 apologies

Police Report for Two Months – December 2013/January 2014

All Crimes 14

Crimes: 0 Burglary

1 Violent Crime station report Fight – 1 person arrested

8 burglary "other" – Strait Lane – child's bike stolen. The Green – empty house tools stolen. Oxen le fields- shed entered nothing stolen. The Green – shed entered- bike left outside

nothing stolen. Hurworth Road – shed entered, bike frame stolen, bag found at end of lane. Cedar Mews – items removed from shed but left outside. Hurworth Road- shed entered tools stolen. Shed entered – steam cleaner stolen.

2 thefts from vehicles- Rockcliffe Court – Hedge cutter & engine parts stolen from a vehicle The Green – Ipod stolen overnight.

0 Theft of motors vehicles

2 Thefts Stable Cottage – Kerosene stolen from Tank. Croft WM Club- JCB Diesel fuel stolen

1 Criminal damage – Fence damaged by persons at 11 Cedar Mews

0 Anti-social behaviour

2 Vehicle Crime – Hurworth Road – car scratched. Hurworth Road – car scratched.

Speedwatch - none undertaken due to weather

Usual complaint regarding speeding vehicles on Neasham Road and lack of ability of police to take action & DBC refusal to allocate speed limit.

Parish funded Speed Monitors expected to be operational in next few weeks. Police will be operating radar gun speed checks in the near future.

It was recognised that new lining/signage at the school plus the forthcoming speed monitoring should have a beneficial impact

Open Discussion

Further concern was raised re parking on the pavement at Rockcliffe Surgery, which will be looked into.

Residents commented on the increase in shed crime. PCSO Angus stressed need for sheds to be locked securely.

Discussion was held regarding the village Neighborhood Watch. Apparently there are 134 members of NW in Hurworth, but unfortunately members do not attend PACT meetings. Suggested that in view of low attendance figures at PACT meetings that consideration be given to reverting to previous practice of inviting local Police to monthly Parish Council meetings to present police statistics and matters to a larger number of village residents.

Yellow lines and hatching areas outside schools to be repainted in the near future.

PACT Priorities

Visual Audit in the vicinity of the church following the Youth Club plus parking Speeding and parking.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27 February, 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall

The Clerk advised that he had talked directly to Chief Inspector Chris Reaves, who had verbally agreed to revert to the council incorporating the monthly PACT meeting into their monthly PC Meeting. **Action Clerk to confirm in writing.**

153. Any Other Business (Non-financial)

- The council is required to hold an Annual Assembly, and also an Annual Meeting, between March and the end of June. It was agreed that the council will hold these two events immediately before the regular PC Meeting on Thursday 1st May 2014, starting at 6:30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm