

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 6th June 2013 starting at 7.00pm.

Those present: Tony Winnett, Tony Needham, Val Hughes, Ken Pattison, John Howard, Jeff Kemp, Peter Foster, Jean Peacock

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

23. Apologies for Absence

Ian Holme (Business, Chris Pratt (Family commitment)

Norma Kyle did not attend.

23. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett - HCA

25. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd May 2012. The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster, Seconded by John Howard.

23.

24. Matters Arising,

a. It was agreed that we try to arrange for Malcolm Thompson DBC Countryside to attend the meeting in July.

b. The bus shelter window has been repaired but further work is required.

Action Martin Swainston will follow up.

c. The speeding problems on Neasham Road have been brought to the attention of the police at the May PACT Meeting.

d. Phil Haynes should be contacted, again, to carry out the survey of the oak tree on the Grange.

23. Public Participation

Mr Jones asked if there was any progress with the parking difficulties at Strait Lane.. He provided three options of mesh solutions, with illustrations and cost estimates.

Tony Needham advised Mr Jones and the council that DBC will not allow any mesh solutions on their property due to the amount of insurance claims which have been made where mesh has been deployed. The matter will be discussed further in the Finance Committee meeting.

28. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of accounts for payment having been previously distributed to all councillors, was accepted by the council:-

Payment of Accounts

Name Cheque No Details

DALC 102297 Subscription

Gordon Fletcher 102298 Internal audit

Xentrall - DBC 102299 Shared insurance

Sue Webster 102300 May salary

P.D Allan 102301 May salary

Inland Revenue 102302 PAYE

P. D. Allan 102303 May admin expenses

Peter Foster 102304 Travelling expenses

Barclays Bank DD Bank Charges

Talk Talk DD Comms

Talk Talk DD Comms

23. **Financial Report**

The financial Report to 30th April 2013, having been previously distributed to all councillors was adopted by the council. The following items were presented to the meeting by the Clerk, and agreed as follows:-

a. The application for the new signatories Tony Winnett, Ken Pattison and Peter Allan (Clerk) has been submitted.

b. **The Internal Auditors report** was accepted, Proposed by John Howard and Seconded by Jean Peacock

c. **The Annual Governance Statement**, signed by the Internal Auditor was endorsed, proposed by John Howard, Seconded by Jeff Kemp

d. **The Asset Register**, having been updated with the cost values was accepted, Proposed by Ken Pattison and Seconded by John Howard

e. **The final accounts for submission to BDO**, our external auditors were approved by the meeting; proposed by Val Hughes and Seconded by Jeff Kemp

f. **The variance report**, having been perused, was approved by the meeting.

g. The **Public Notice** was displayed on the notice boards in accordance with the auditors instructions.

29. **Matters of Interest**

1. The chairman announced that Jill Russell had resigned from the council, due to the pressure of work. He expressed the council's thanks for the contribution she has made to the parish, and praised her for her motivation and enthusiasm.

2. Ten parishioners have formally requested an election, although only one person has expressed an interest in becoming a councillor. This election will cost the parish £1500, and is likely to take place in July. The Clerk is to write to DBC to try to ensure that the Primary School is not closed for the day when the election is held.

3. Croft House has been put onto the market, with advertised planning permission for 19 houses. It appears that Yuill's no longer intend to pursue this development.

4. War Memorial – A letter has been received suggesting that the parish refurbish the cenotaph memorial to recognise the outbreak of war in 1914. The British Legion will not celebrate the outbreak of war, 4th August 2014, but will offer advice, if approached. Jeff Kemp has undertaken to obtain quotations for the refurbishment of the cenotaph, and the council approved the concept, pending details of the work and cost.

5. Freedom of Information; All the questions have been answered, having also been reviewed by the HPC Vetting group. We are awaiting the outcome of the ICO complaint and our counter action. HPC have passed the portfolio of FoI material to DBC lawyers for their perusal and advice. The Standards Board complaint against four councillors was reviewed and it was decided it was fatuous and discarded.

6. The friends of Rockliffe Court has requested an award to help with their work.

This will be considered at the Finance Committee meeting.

7. The council has a letter from DBC informing us that a planning application to cut down an ash tree has been rejected, 3 Chase End, Hurworth.

8. Cllr Foster organised a parish walk through Cold Comfort Farm, and the boundary of Hurworth, Middleton St George and Neasham. One of the stiles on this defined RoW has been fenced off, so that dogs cannot pass through. This will be reported to Neasham council for their attention.

9. The stile at Hurworth Grange has been blocked to prevent dogs passing through. This will be investigated and a drop down shutter installed.

30. PACT Meeting

Pact report as follows;

Hurworth

Police and Communities Together: Meeting 30/5/2013

Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

Attendees: PC Paul Foley

PCSO John Angus

PC Leon Ushar

Andrew Hancock DBC (neighbourhood resolution)

Ian Holme (Chair)

14 members of the public

Police Report:

Crimes: 0 Burglary

0 Violent Crimes

Crimes: 3 burglary "other" - 1 shed, Neasham Rd - tools and cable

1 Strait Lane - bicycle stolen

1 Snipe Lane, garage roof broken through but nothing stolen

2 thefts from vehicles, - Spare wheel and Wheel trims stolen

1 Theft of motor vehicle from Stressholme golf club

3 Thefts- 1 Westfield Drive- Phone stolen

1 Rockliffe Hall- golf clubs stolen

1 Emerson Rd- cash taken- arrest made

1 Criminal damage- Hurworth rd- window smashed on 4x4

2 Anti-social behaviour- Elmfield rd- youths upsetting dog

Rockliffe Hall- Loud music associated with wedding

No Speedwatch due to lack of volunteers; subsequently two members of the public at this meeting put their names forward to volunteer.

Andrew Hancock - DBC Neighbourhood Resolution

Mr Hancock briefed the meeting on this new initiative due to commence in September 2013. Two/three Trained volunteers from the community would work alongside the criminal justice system to address low level crime at a local level.

The intent is to bring together victims and offender or those involved in neighbour disputes and attempt to mediate/ resolve differences.

Mr Hancock requested that potential volunteers contact him by the end of June to express their interest.

Information leaflets are currently being produced which will be passed to the Parish Council for inclusion on their web-site.

The meeting discussed the potential of this initiative and thanked Mr Hancock for his presentation.

Open Discussion

Pcso Angus advised that the Neighbourhood Watch team would be in touch with those who had advised of their interest in joining the scheme.

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

Police to follow up.

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 Tawny 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 would look at this concern and may be supportive of a Parish Council approach to DBC in this regard.

In the same area, it was noted that there were no signs warning of the many horses using this road and the lack of a footpath near the Roundhill Rd junction, something which has been requested from DBC over many years.

HPC to follow up with DBC

PACT Priorities

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

Next meeting

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

31. Highways

Tony Needham reported that the work on the village green internal roads has been delayed due to the work being carried out by BT laying their high-speed broadband cables.

32. Land and Property

Ken Pattison reported as follows:-

- a. HPC are now officially the custodians of the Village Green.
- b. The land at Grange estate will be finally transferred to HPC by the end of this month.
- c. The land at Friars Pardon will be finally transferred to HPC by the end of this month.
- d. It is confirmed that the toilet block at Hurworth Place is owned by DBC.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Pattison for the work which he has done on these properties.

33. Allotments

An Allotment Meeting has been convened for Thursday 13th June, for delegates only.

An Agenda has been circulated.

34. Flood Action

Ken Pattison reported that there has been very little progress.

A proposal has been put forward by Stockton council to Bill Westland for a grant application, but HPC has not received a copy. Part of the problem appears to be in the area opposite the Spar shop, where three pipes converge.

Tony Needham reported that Northumbrian Water has spent £3000 constructing a coral at the Glebe, which is a temporary fencing. He wonders if this is necessary.

Action Clerk to write to Bill Westland requesting details of pending grant applications.

35. Planning

Jeff Kemp reported:-

No new planning applications.

We have received a reply to our FOI letter regarding the seemingly unfair number of gypsy/ traveller site extensions new and old in and around our Parish. Also specific questions in this regard

We have received a letter and report in response to our request. Valuable information is contained therein for future reference.

After review of the statistics contained therein it appears that DBC obligations re gypsy plots have been met for the next 5 years with the recent approved expansion of the DBC site on Neasham Road (behind football stadium) 20 plots, Snipe Lane, 2 plots, and Roundhill Road 3 plots.

The summary prepared by them confirms this but concern exists for the period after 5 years when consideration is being given for another 3 plots Burma Road, and Skipbridge old brick works 5 to 15 plots along with other areas in and around Darlington

A letter is being prepared by the Parish Clerk and Cllr Kemp to confirm the above and clarify some other parts of DBC letter and report.

We have received a decision report from DBC that the recent application for further expansion on Snipe Lane which we objected to has been refused.

John Howard referred to a private meeting he has had with the Planning Department with regard to gypsy site planning. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Kemp should go ahead with the letter to DBC outlining the conclusions of the Report, and seeking confirmation that no new sites will be required in Hurworth for five years. This was proposed by Val Hughes and seconded by Jean Peacock; motion carried with one vote against.

36. Trees

Peter Foster agreed to look at the tree which is disturbing a resident near the Comet Inn. **Action Peter Foster.**

A tree is causing problems in Bank Terrace; Martin Swainston is attending to this.

Action Cllr Martin Swainston.

37. Any Other Business (Non financial)

A. Peter Foster advised the council that he has been asked to represent Durham County on the Airport Consultative Committee. This makes room for an additional representative from HPC. Jeff Kemp offered to take this position.

Tony Winnett also put forward his name, and it was decided that Tony Winnett would undertake this.

B. The pathway alongside the Primary School is in a disgraceful condition. Streetscene has not accepted responsibility and it is being neglected. **Action**

Martin Swainston has agreed to resolve this.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm