

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes**

of the Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 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, Norma Kyle.

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

#### **198 Apologies for absence:-**

Martin Swainston, Jill Russell (work) Jeff Kemp (holiday)

#### **199. Declarations of Interest:-**

Tony Winnett, (personal interest in (Hurworth Community Association).  
John Howard and Val Hughes – allotments  
Norma Kyle – Strait Lane parking problems

#### **200. Minutes of the Meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013,**

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

#### **201. Matters Arising**

- a. Our application for Chris Pratt to attend the Queen's Garden Party has been unsuccessful.
- b. A new appointment has been made for Ian Holme and Jeff Kemp to meet Priory Hurworth House School, on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.
- c. Two people have expressed interest in the Credit Union. It was agreed that the council will wait a little longer, before making a decision.
- d. A new 'no Parking' sign has been concreted in on the grass area at Blind Lane.
- e. There is still a concern about the large trees at Hurworth Grange. The council is awaiting the report from Phil Haynes, DBC.
- f. Other items will be addressed within this meeting's agenda.

#### **202. Public Participation**

The meeting was attended by several members of the public.

1. Mrs Lynn Wylie, who has been a resident of Strait Lane for 17 years, outlined the problems facing residents at the river end of Strait Lane. Most families now have two cars, and there are insufficient parking places available.  
The thirteen properties own twenty six vehicles. This is further aggravated by visitors parking for the Otter and Fish.  
The residents have had discussions, and would like to suggest that an area of the grass is replaced by '**grasscrete**', which preserves the green, while providing a hard standing. Photographs to illustrate this were circulated.

Mr Anthony Jones handed in a petition, with the names of residents, who are supporting this suggestion. It was agreed that Mr Jones will be the official contact for this matter.

John Howard agreed that the parking here is a big problem, and supported the grasscrete suggestion.

Tony Needham said that he had inspected the area, and that it is getting considerably worse.

Peter Foster suggested that plastic squares, which allow the grass to grow through, should be considered.

Ken Pattison said that the area should not be altered, as it could create an unacceptable precedent. This being the previous decision of HPC. (For ref see Minute 175.4 Jan '13 Minutes).

Ian Holme said that the grasscrete would be a good solution, and that if work needs to be done, it must be done professionally.

A motion was tabled by John Howard, Seconded by Tony Winnett recommending that the project should be fully evaluated, cost quotations obtained, and a decision made when all the facts had been examined. The motion was carried, with one abstention.

Action: The Clerk to make arrangements with DBC for the study, and liaise with Mr Jones.

### 203. Accounts for Payment

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

<b><u>Payment of Accounts</u></b>			<b><u>Feb-13</u></b>
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
TCS CAD	102270	Printer cartridge	19.94
Jeff Kemp	102271	Planning costs	6.50
Inland Revenue	102272	PAYE	57.20
Sue Webster	102273	February salary	403.00
P.D Allan	102274	February salary	561.24
Eden Landscapes	102275	Allotment expenses	185.00
FOTC	102276	Open Spaces projects	1000.00
J. Lawrence	102277	Notice board refurbishment	161.17
MT Print	102278	Spring Newsletter	553.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank Charges	4.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	18.60
Talk Talk	DD	Comms	12.76
Public Loan Board	DD	Loan repayment	258.62

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

## 204. Financial Reports

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

## 205. Highways

- a. A resident is very concerned about the large vehicle transporters parking on Neasham Road at Eurojag, to load and unload cars. The transporters are so large, that it makes it dangerous to try to overtake. Also the damage to the road verges is getting worse.  
Tony Winnett reported that the plans for Eurojag to move to larger premises have fallen through.  
The following actions were agreed: The matter will be raised at the March PACT Meeting, and Tony Winnett will visit and discuss the matter with Mr Robertshaw at Eurojag.
- b. A resident has drawn attention to the damage being caused by large vehicles accessing Garden House Farm, opposite the entrance to Westfield Drive. **Actions: Clerk to write to Mr Walton at the farm, and to DBC to see whether they will install bollards.**
- c. Peter Foster recorded that the footpath between Neasham Rd and Burma Road needs clearing. Tony Needham agreed; this is the main footpath to Darlington. He will talk to Malcolm Thompson at DBC.
- d. Tony Needham drew attention to footpath 14, where two stiles have been blocked off, and the pathway is partly blocked with corrugated iron.
- e. Peter Foster reported that the traffic sign between Neasham Road and Strait Lane on the Skipbridge route requires repairs. **Action Clerk**
- f. Jean Peacock reported that security vehicles entering Croft House were making a terrible mess, and spoiling the appearance of the entrance to the village, also the wall between the road and the property had deteriorated badly.  
It was agreed that the PC will invite Mr Malcolm Thompson to attend the next council meeting, to discuss various village pathway matters. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

## 206. Matters of Interest

- a. We have received a positive response from DBC, allowing us to upgrade the Grange playground. Val Hughes will address this.
- b. We have received a response from DBC regarding clearing the roadside verges at Hurworth Place, near Linden Court. This is only performed once a year, in the summer.
- c. Hurworth PC has requested DBC to increase the amount for Public Liability cover to £10 million. This is a group policy, and DBC are contacting other councils, to get their views.
- d. We have received a reply from DBC Highways, directing us to their web site, which schedules all work which they intend to carry out in the next few months. This is an excellent help to us.
- e. A resident is concerned that a tree stump remains on the Green, which could cause an accident; **John Howard will investigate.**
- f. Rockcliffe Park Cricket Club requested a letter of support, to help them with a grant application. This has been provided.
- g. The council has received two more Freedom of Information requests from Mr Ian White. Responses have been sent. Mr White sent an E Mail, as Representative of Church Row Flats Residents, complaining about tenants keeping bees on Hurworth allotments. An invitation was sent to Mr White inviting him, and his group to attend the PC Meeting this evening. The Chairman placed the item on the Agenda, and set aside time for them to

address their concerns. Mr White, once again, declined the invitation, and nobody from the group attended the meeting.

At this point Ken Pattison announced that the FOTC has received a grant of £3,000 in support of establishing apiaries in the parish.

- g. A letter to the Head Office of the Spar Group has been sent, and it has been forwarded to their Transport and Delivery services. Also we have requested, again, DBC to consider applying double yellow lines at Roundhill Road, close to the Spar and Primary School.

## **206. Flood Action Update**

Ken Pattison reported that progress was slow, but the lady from Stockton Council had been co-opted onto the DBC team, for this project.

The Glebe problems appear to have been resolved, but the solution has caused an infestation of rats in the immediate vicinity. Joe Kelley has been made aware of this and has initiated action. Action: Clerk and Ken Pattison to report this to DBC, and request urgent attention.

## **207. Croft Club.**

Jean Peacock gave the following report:-

### ENQUIRY – PATH 20 CROFT CLUB FOOTPATH

The enquiry started on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 with all of the DBC witnesses giving their statements. (10.00 – 5.30)

On Wednesday all of the Croft Club Witnesses gave their statements. A Site visit took place late on Wednesday afternoon. (10.00 - 5.00)

Thursday The Thornaby Fishing Club gave their Witness statement followed by the summing up statement from Mr. Catteral (Croft Club Solicitor) followed by Mr Carr (DBC Solicitor).

Mr Michael Lowe the Inspector closed the enquiry - the results of which will probably take between six weeks and six months according to Mr Carr.

## **208. First Aid Course**

The First Aid Course is organised and will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March in the Hadwin Lounge, Hurworth Grange. All twelve places have been taken up.

## **209. Playground Enhancement**

Val Hughes confirmed that we have permission to install new equipment in the playground at Hurworth Grange. DBC will allow us to install new items; they must be installed by the supplier, and DBC will carry out a check, before they are put into use. DBC has also confirmed they will maintain the new units, thereafter.

The council confirmed that a budget of £4,000 had already been allocated, and Val Hughes will select appropriate equipment, obtain quotations, and make her recommendations at the next meeting.

Additionally, Val Hughes informed the meeting that the chippings have been delivered to the playground, and DBC will be positioning them imminently.

## 210. Land and Property

Ken Pattison reported as follows:-

- a. Land at Grange Estate: the legal work is completed, and we are awaiting final completion from our lawyer.
- b. Lych Gate. This is concluded, with HPC having taken custodianship of the land.
- c. Friars Pardon: Shepherds' the land developer appears to have mislaid one of the documents, and we are awaiting completion.
- d. Village Green: Notification will be circulated via the DBC web site, informing the public that HPC have the custodianship of the Village Green.

All the small pieces of land in front of the houses on Grange Estate are believed to be under the ownership of the residents.

## 211. PACT Report

Ian Holme who was Chairman at the February meeting gave the following report:-

### **Hurworth Police and Communities Together: Meeting 28/2/2013**

Hurworth Methodist Church Hall

**Attendees:** PC Paul Foley

PCSO John Angus

Road Traffic Officer

Ian Holme (Chair)

10 members of the public

### **Police Report:**

Crimes: 1 Burglary - Contents of gaming machines at the Station pub.

Crimes: 7 burglary "other" - 3 sheds broken into but nothing stolen

3 bicycles stolen

1 Energy drinks stolen

Individuals arrested and charged.

1 thefts from vehicles, - Wheel stolen

1 Anti-social behaviour, youths playing "chicken" on the green.

No Speedwatch as yet, but due to commence as soon as weather improves.

### **Discussed**

Concerns about parking, particularly outside schools, were followed up.

Site meeting has taken place at Hurworth school with the Police, DBC and The Headmaster in attendance with following actions agreed;

- Possibility of using cones was discussed, whilst the school was initially prepared to put them in place on a daily basis, they could not take on board the potential liability of any subsequent incidents that may result from their implementation.
- Yellow lines opposite "zig-zags" are preferred but will take considerable time to implement. Until then it is hoped that white lines can be put in place. Whilst not enforceable they have proved an effective in deterring inappropriate parking elsewhere. DBC are looking at undertaking the white lining.
- The schools and Police are undertaking joint Action Days, where children will be involved with highlighting the hazards of poor parking with parents and other road users.

The Police were thanked for their prompt action in addressing the spate of shed burglaries/bicycle thefts. They reminded the public to be aware of the risk to sheds particularly at this time of year.

### **PACT Priorities**

The parking issue is to be addressed with a "common sense" approach where inappropriate parking causes a significant obstruction/danger together with addressing concerns over speeding traffic in the village. (Speedwatch to be re-introduced when safe to do so)

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th March, 6.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall

Ian requested that we encourage more support for these meetings.

Joe Kelly commented that the PACT Meetings now clash with the DBC Council Meetings, so he will not be able to attend.

## **212. Hurworth Youth Club Project**

Val Hughes addressed the meeting, reporting that the equipment used in the Hurworth Youth club, based at All Saints Church, was over five years old, and was tired.

The club is run by volunteers, and is open to all.

Val suggested that HPC should allocate £1000, to the club, to purchase new equipment.

The council asked Val to obtain a Wish List from the club, and it will be considered at the next PC Meeting.

## **213. Speed Control**

Ken Pattison reported that we are still waiting for DBC to finalise the sites. They are currently very short staffed.

## **214. Allotments**

Norma Kyle reported as follows:-

### **HPC Allotment Holders Meeting Notes**

Held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.00pm. The Hadwin Lounge, The Grange, Hurworth

Chaired by NK and attended by:

MP, JM, TK, TH, BC, LW, GW, BW, JH, BS, HD, JH, TS, VH, VW, IP, MH, GL.

Housekeeping and meeting format was addressed. Topics of discussion were requested from all attendees. The following pointers were raised in order of suggestion:

### **1 Bees**

Allotment holders also sought clarification on funding with regard to bees. It was made clear that HPC have not funded a community project and do not have plans to do so at this time.

Any costs relating to bee keeping would be down to the individual.

Some allotment holders expressed concerns that everyone may want to keep bees. One member asked for a consensus of opinion to be sought on whether allotment holders favoured or objected to the keeping of bees on Strait Lane site. Allotment holders sought clarification on rules and regulations regarding the keeping of bees on allotments and were referred to the Tenancy Agreement

distributed at the start of their tenancy (if new) or provided at the time of the updated version of the rules dated 1/12/2011. The rules do not refer to bees or the keeping of bees on the allotments. Meetings were held in the village in 2012 regarding this subject and the majority of attendees were in favour.

## **2 Toilets**

The subject of toilets at Strait Lane site was mentioned once again. This has been discussed previously and the PC has looked into financing. It is a costly exercise and the PC is unable to access grants for this (although an allotment association could apply). At this point GL advised the group that he had recently independently formed an Allotment Association and was currently recruiting members at a cost of £2 pa. Discussion regarding this followed. One allotment holder asked if the PC were outsourcing this. The group were reminded that a ballot was conducted in 2012 to establish if tenants wanted to form an allotment association. The result of the ballot was that only a minority were interested at that time and insufficient wanted to go ahead with one. Therefore it did not proceed. The PC have not outsourced.

## **3 Footpaths**

Members are reminded to close the gates on entry AND exit to the allotments and a sign was suggested for each gate to this affect to read: '*Private Property, HPC, Please close the gate on entry and exit*'. Clerk to action signs suitable for both gates and erect. Members mentioned the state of the footpaths leading to the allotments as being both extremely muddy, and with foliage overhang from surrounding residences preventing access (in places). This has been noted and passed onto HPC clerk to report to Street Scene at DBC. Please note that anyone can report directly to Street Scene at DBC to draw attention to the condition of said paths around the Parish.

## **4 Representatives 2013**

Grange: T. Sayer, Strait Lane: Following the meeting I. Palmer volunteered to represent.

J. Middlemiss kindly offered to be responsible for grass cutting at SL. Many thanks.

## **5 AOB**

Lids / grids for HPC water troughs was mentioned. Should any allotment holder wish to source a suitable attachment please forward to the clerk for consideration.

It was suggested that letters of appreciation and thanks be sent to G. Crilley who has significantly improved the fencing at the Grange site, and also to John Edwards who had tirelessly cut the grass until recently and offered advice, nurtured and welcomed newcomers to the SL site. Many thanks to both. Clerk to action.

Next meeting date: TB

**Actions: Clerk to send 'thank you' letters to John Edwards and George Crilley for their long-term assistance at the allotments.**

Val Hughes tabled a motion, Seconded by Norma Kyle – to amend the Allotment Rules to include the following clause:-

'Allotment holders who wish to keep bees must have attended, completed and obtained a Certificate, to keep bees.' (DBKA Certificate)

Ken Pattison tabled a counter proposal, Seconded by John Howard, - that the council should not alter the existing rules.

The counter proposal was taken first and carried by 5 in favour, 2 against, with 3 abstentions.

**The Clerk was asked** to arrange to get ant have erected two signs at Strait Lane Allotments stating 'Private Land'.

**The Clerk was asked** to contact DBC about the condition of the grass pathway through the land next to Strait Lane allotments.

Ken Pattison recommended that, should any tenant wish to keep bees, they should be provided with “Good Practice” documents covering risk assessments, contact numbers and general advice. Such documents had already been drafted and could be made generally available.

**Ken Pattison agreed** to compile a general Risk Assessment for the allotments. Norma Kyle offered to assist.

Ian Holme confirmed to the meeting that hens could not be kept on Hurworth Allotments, and anybody wishing to keep hens, should find an alternative venue.

## **215. Tree Report**

John Howard reported:-

- a. He would investigate the concern over the sapling outside 7 The Green.
- b. He would investigate the tree stump outside Mrs Ames house, on the Green.
- c. He would monitor progress with Phil Haynes, DBC concerning the large trees on Hurworth Grange.

## **216. Planning Applications**

In the absence of Jeff Kemp. Ian Holme reported on the February applications:-

- a. The chalet at Skipbridge has been refused.
- b. John Howard stated that he had forwarded councillor’s comments regarding gypsy site developments to David [Coates](#), Planning Officer, DBC.

Chris Pratt has visit the site at Snipe Lane, and was surprised by the size it has become.

### **Plan. No. 13/00067/FUL**

Change of use at Snipe Meadows, Snipe Lane.

*Observation only* - the council are concerned about the escalation in the number of vehicles using the slip road, and entry to and from the A66 major road.

### **Plan. No. 12/00790/FUL**

Extension at 58 The Green, Hurworth

**No Comment**

### **Plan No 13/00005/FUL**

Solar panels at 10 Church Row, Hurworth

**No Comment**

### **Plan. No. 13/00113/FUL and 13/00131/LBC (Listed building)**

43 The Green, Hurworth

Demolition of garage and construction of double tandem garage.

**No Comment**

### **13/00073/FUL**

**Blackwell Moor Farm, Snipe Lane.**

Change of use to private gypsy site

*Observation only* - the council are concerned about the escalation in the number of vehicles using the slip road, and entry to and from the A66 major road.



## **217. Newsletter and Web Site**

Tony Winnett said that the newsletter had been printed, but too late to catch HCA delivery of their newsletter.

He thanked all the councillors for their assistance in delivering them throughout the parish. However, it appears that certain streets have not been covered, including the Grange estate. Tony will make arrangements to rectify this.

It was agreed that Tony will establish a closer liaison with the centre Manager, so that arrangements can be made in future.

Tony requested that articles for the next Newsletter should reach him by 30<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that there will be three Newsletters per year.

## **218. Association Reports**

There had been no meeting, so nothing to report.

**219.** Tony Winnett proposed that the council should erect a plaque on the Village Green to commemorate the 1500 souls who died in the plague in 1665, and are buried under the Green.

The meeting agreed in principle, and asked Tony to get costs and other information, so a decision can be taken. Also an article should be included in the next Newsletter, informing residents of this intention.

## **220. Any Other Business – Non Financial**

Ken Pattison informed the meeting that Val Smith is undertaking a project to restore the Victorian pond, in the Grange grounds. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.