

# Hurworth Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 starting at 7.40pm.

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

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

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Norma Kyle (ill health), Ian Holme (holiday)

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Tony Winnett – HCA  
Jean Peacock – HCA  
Val Hughes – HCA  
Peter Foster - Trees

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014

The Minutes having been distributed were accepted, Proposed by Chris Pratt, Seconded by Peter Foster

### 4. Matters Arising,

- a. HCA Lease. The details of our requirements have been submitted to Mr Stephen Alison, DBC Legal Dept., who has accepted the brief to draft a new lease between HPC and HCA.  
He has recommended that the lease should be for seven years, rather than ten years, as there are some additional considerations and hence costs, for the ten year tenure. The council agreed unanimously to adopt the seven year period, Proposed by Tony Winnett and Seconded by Chris Pratt.  
The Clerk will instruct Stephen Alison to prepare the new lease; fees will be chargeable on an hourly basis.
- b. A letter has been sent to the Chairman of HCA advising him that the status at this time, and until the new lease is signed, is in accordance with the previous expired lease. It also requests that HCA reply to the Model Engineers, regarding their concern about the oak tree.
- c. **The Clerk needs to follow up** on the request to replace the dog litter bins at Strait Lane allotments,
- d. The Chair confirmed that at a meeting held with Guy Foster, an agreement is being put into place whereby Fosters become the council's preferred supplier. Fosters agreed to give the council a discount of ten percent on all invoices rendered.

### 5. Public Participation

Two residents expressed their concerns about the Planning Application for 6 log cabins to be erected on Neasham Road. A number of pertinent points were itemised for the council's consideration. The council was in general agreement, and advised the residents that this application will receive a full in depth consideration under the Planning discussions this evening.

The Chairman added that the CPRE had also made a strong objection, and it was noted that the residents themselves had lodged objections. Jeff Kemp advised that the date of the hearing has been postponed until 14<sup>th</sup> May.

The concerns about the speed of traffic on Neasham Road were again brought to the council's attention. This had already been discussed at length in the PACT Meeting, earlier in the evening.

## 6. Accounts for Payment

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>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fosters	102420	Treework - Lychgate 4 lime trees attended	285.00
Darl Neighbourhood Watch	102421	Donation under Section 137	200.00
J. Kemp	102422	Admin expenses - printer cartridge	15.99
Eden Landscapes	102423	Work on tree stump and clearance	60.00
G. Fletcher	102424	Internal audit fee	250.00
Bob Iles	102425	Litter Picker salary	197.60
P.D. Allan	102426	April Salary	502.54
Inland Revenue	102427	PAYE	165.00
P.D. Allan	102428	Expenses for April, postage and mileage	26.74
Brian Cooper	102429	Repairs to allotment shed	40.00
Spanglefish	102430	Web site access software licence	24.95
<b>Direct Debits</b>			
Bank charges	DD	Charges	2.30
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	12.34
TalkTalk	DD	Communications	18.60

Two additional payments were approved, viz:-

Fosters                      Tree work on dangerous tree overhanging the playground work on the tree overhanging the model railway circuit, removal of dead tree near the Grange football pitch. As per quotation, less ten percent preferred supplier discount £513.

Fosters                      Tree work at Hurworth road to clear the line of sight for the new speed monitor. This will be charged against the Speed Monitor Project Account. £382,50

## 7. Financial report

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

*Please see addendum with Report details*

2. The report from the Internal Auditor, Gordon Fletcher, having been circulated to all councillors was accepted by the council; proposed by Chris Pratt, Seconded by Val Hughes and carried unanimously

3. The Annual Governance Statement, having been distributed to all councillors, was accepted by the council, Proposed by Ken Pattison and Seconded by Jean Peacock, and passed unanimously.
4. The updated Risk Assessment having been distributed to all councillors, was accepted and adopted by the council. Proposed by John Howard, Seconded by Tony Needham and passed unanimously.
5. The papers are now ready to send to our external auditors, BDO, and it was agreed that the Clerk will now submit the accounts.

## 7. 8. Matters of Interest

1. 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**
2. Tony Winnett attended the DBC freedom of the town celebration for the Territorial Army. He met and talked to Linda Todd at this event, and raised the question of the Polling Station being located at Hurworth Grange rather than the school. The problem appears to revolve around disabled access. **Clerk to send letter to clarify and influence the process of location selection.**

## 8. 9. Planning report

Jeff Kemp had distributed the planning report, with his recommendations, to all councillors prior to the meeting. only one application required an Objection Letter, this being the application Ref 13/00968/FUL, for the construction of six log cabins on Neasham Road. The council discussed the many reasons for objecting to this application, and a letter will be send to the Planning Department with a strong and detailed objection. **Action Clerk.**

Several councillors expressed their concern about the huge barn which has been erected on Roundhill Road. Jeff Kemp confirmed to the council that planning permission has been granted, however Chris Pratt commented that normally a barn should be eighty feet from a main highway. **Clerk to query this construction location and whether or not the building is within the approved planning parameters, with DBC.**

## 10. Highways Report

Tony Needham reported:-

1. Footpath Number One is in a terrible condition. The farmers have neglected the pathways and stile and placed a lot of horses in the fields through which the right of way runs. This has already been reported to the Countryside Dept of DBC but no action or inspection has taken place. **Cllr Joe Kelley agreed** to follow this up, and volunteered to walk the pathway.
2. The DBC highways Dept has moved from Vicarage Road, and new telephone numbers will be allocated.
3. The grass has not been cut at the Primary School pathway, despite agreement by Streetscene. **Clerk and TN to follow up.**

## 11. Speed Control Units

Ken Pattison was pleased to report that the three units are operational, and trees have been trimmed to provide line of sight on Hurworth / Croft Road.

A resident has raised concern that the unit on Roundhill Road can be interrupted by a lamppost which interferes with the line of sight. DBC have agreed to fit an elbow to the monitor post, which should resolve this issue.

David Alben has agreed to process the data retrieved from the units, and to provide the council with regular reports. **Clerk to send letter of thanks for his assistance.**

## **12. Flood Action Report**

The culvert at the bottom of the Glebe has been dug out and the piping relaid. It is not clear where the water is being directed to, Bedburn Trust stating they did not know even though they did the job!! Time will tell.

Progress on Glebe Lane flooding is in limbo until DBC respond to very detailed letter of complaint to Bill Westland of DBC. The situation is being monitored by Councillors Needham and Pattison together with Borough Councillor Joe Kelley, all of whom are in closing with, and are supporting, the residents.

## **15. Tree Report**

Cllr Foster reported:-

1. All the scheduled new trees have been planted and appear healthy.
2. All the trees on the Village Green are in good shape.
3. The trees on Goblin's Wood are all now in good condition.
4. The trees in Friars Pardon are now all in good condition.
5. The tree which protrudes into the main road on Roundhill Road, which is the responsibility of DBC, has still not been attended to.

The new document for tree Guidelines has been studied, and the Clerk will prepare this soon.

## **16. Allotments**

Cllr Williams reported:-

1. All rents for 2014 have been received
2. There is a small Waiting list, but nobody is disappointed at this time
3. The shed at Strait Lane has been relocated to Brian Cooper's allotment and has been repaired.
4. Brian Cooper has agreed to cut the internal allotment paths
5. The bark has not yet been delivered, but Peter Foster agreed to arrange this soon, once the pathway is dry.
6. The two new notice boards are in the process of being made, and will be installed before the next meeting

## **17. Association Reports**

Nothing to report.

## **18. Any Other Business (Non-financial)**

1. An original Lancaster aeroplane will be flying at Tees Valley Airport this summer, date to be confirmed.
2. The Litter Picker has offered to clean the bus shelters twice a month, including all the leaves. The council agreed to this; Streetscene has agreed to take away the bags of leaves. Also the Litter Picker's area has been extended to include the pathways from Croft House to the lay-by and from the Otter and Fish to the first traffic island.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:23pm