

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 2nd January 2020.

Councillors present:-

Cllr Tony Winnett (Chairman), Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Graham Wylie.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou and 9 members of the public.

146. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Bree Stamp.

147. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

148. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett opened the meeting and welcomed the Borough Cllrs, Parish Cllrs and local residents. We now enter a new decade and he expressed his hope that it will be less volatile than the last.

149. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2019 were accepted, Proposed by Cllr Foster
Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton and passed by the meeting until after 12th December

150. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

- a. Refer to Para 132 of the Draft minutes. This para confirmed the Council's decision to give 7 working days' notice to DBC to tend to the Hawthorn tree in Sanderson Road. The Parish Clerk emailed DBC to this effect on 10th December.

He received a reply from DBC that we should not touch the tree as the area & tree belonged to DBC. Unfortunately on or around 8 December our Tree Councillor arranged for the Hawthorn to be felled. We have photos confirming that it was in dangerous state.

We have received a strong rebuke from DBC for harming their property. We have replied with our evidence that the tree was in poor order & confirming that we will replace the tree. The matter is now closed and we need to plant a replacement tree in the location of the felled Hawthorn tree.

151. Public Participation

1. A resident addressed the meeting with a proposal that the Manorfield been converted into a Tree Conservation Area. He distributed a handout outlining the suggestion, which involved planting a large number of tree on the Manorfield.

This proposal would address the preservation of our green spaces, in line with the draft Neighbourhood Plan, while still allowing facilities for dog walking, informal children's play, organised games and social events.

The resident stated that the Plan is still in its infancy, and much work is required. A Project Management Team needs to be formed, discussions with DBC, an Ecological survey carried out and a lay design drafted.

The Chairman congratulated the resident on the amount of work he had done in bringing this interesting scheme to the Council.

There was a general dissuasion, and the resident agreed to put more substance into the Plan, and arrange for further discussions with the Council

Cllr Forster asked whether this project would still allow for a children's playground on Manorfield. The resident responded that he felt that this may be incompatible with the concept of protecting the green areas and biodiversity objectives.

2. A resident enquired to Cllr Tostevin whether the 20mph restriction on Westfield Drive is being processed and further road lining. Cllr Tostevin said that the timeframe was scheduled for April 2020, and that she would follow this up. There is no definitive date yet for the chicane on Roundhill Road.
3. A resident pointed out the drainage work performed at the corner of Westfield Drive and Roundhill Road was now complete. However, the contractor had left the road in poor condition. It was agreed that Cllr Tostevin would look into this as the contractor has a duty of care to make good the road.
4. A resident commented that the new lines on Strait Lane have made a significant difference and he is satisfied with the work carried out.

152. **Playground Planning**

The Chairman introduced the topic of planning for the possibility of creating a second playground within the parish. He outlined the process which should be followed to carry out a referendum, prior to the Council making a decision.

Playground Planning 2020.

Situation.

During 2020 it is likely that HPC will be able to claim a substantial (£23,333) sum from DBC as a Section 106 contribution.

The prospect of this sum being awarded has created considerable excitement within the Parish. There has been firm interest in the area for a proper children's playground. Our village, however, has limited suitable sites for such a project.

The Manorfield area would seem to be the best likely location for a central playground but this is strongly contested by a residents group in Westfield Drive.

Work is in hand applying for a grant for an outdoor gym & Pocket Park in the Grange adjacent to the DBC Children's Area.

Objective.

The Parish needs to be committed to confirm their desires and preferred location for a playground sited and designed for the benefit of all residents.

A small vociferous minority must be given their say but not to the detriment of the majority of residents. With the advent of the new housing developments & new entrants

to the village some of the views expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan may have changed. How to gauge this eventuality?

Committee.

I suggest that we form a Parish Sub-Committee to review our planning for a Parish Playground.

A Committee of 7 persons.

Comprised of Four Parish Cllrs – L Wylie, E Hedley, Bree Stamp, and Sam Ring-Viney.
Three Residents - P Walters, J Ashton, K Sandick

The Committee to appoint their own Chair person.

Their initial task to design and produce a Referendum to go to all households in the Parish requesting whether they want a playground, their preferred location and what facilities would be required. Check with DBC whether or not the Manorfield can be used for as playing field.

Request Funds from the Parish for printing and distribution of Referendum. Use Parish website and all social platforms to publicise.

- All completed Referendum forms to be returned to Parish Office by Easter.
- Analyse returns and communicate results to Parish by same media outlets.
- If positive use the result to claim the 106 sum available.
- Apply for planning permission to DBC for playground approval.
- Apply for tenders for groundworks and equipment, arrange insurance & forward maintenance.

Cllr Amanda Oughton requested that she be included in this working party, and it was agreed that she will be included as a resident representative.

The motion was tabled, proposed by Cllr Winnett and seconded by Cllr Graham Wylie; the motion was passed with 9 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

All member designated agreed to participate.

153. **Planning Applications.** Cllr Ring- Viney gave the following report, viz:-

Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
20/12/2019	20/12/2019	19/01181/FUL	36 Friars Pardon HURWORT H DARLINGTON DL2 2DZ	Erection of two storey side extension to create garage with storage above and erection of 1.4m high boundary wall with stone piers and metal railings	No objections

10/12/2019	18/12/2019	19/01138/LBC	44 The Green HURWORTH H DARLINGTON DL2 2AA	Listed building consent for alterations to boundary wall to create vehicular access, erection of new timber gates and stone pillars with finials	No objections
18/12/2019	18/12/2019	19/01071/FUL	44 The Green HURWORTH H DARLINGTON DL2 2AA	Demolition of existing garage/garden building and erection of 1 no. dwelling with attached triple garage	Re-submission / No comments

Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
06/12/2019	16/12/2019	19/01130/LBC	Oakview Estates Limited Newbus Grange Hurworth Road NEASHAM DARLINGTON DL2 1PE	See below	No objections
Listed Building Consent to install free-standing wall cladding to areas including stairs, fireplaces and partitions fixed into the wall plaster above timber panelling. Addition of new vinyl flooring and painting of existing panelling. Replacement of doors, light fixtures. Changes to modern wall to enable lift apparatus to be set back, removal of timber panelling, internal walls, sanitary ware and creation of new internal doorways.					

154. **Tree Report** Cllr Foster gave the following report, viz:-

Cllr Foster referred to the saga of the hawthorn tree in Sanderson Road, and emphasized that the videos and pictures taken fully supported the decision to fell the tree, as it was a potential risk to the public.

He had nothing more to report.

155. **Open Spaces** Cllr Lynn Wylie reported that there had not been an EPICH Meeting in December, and that there is nothing significant to report on the Open Spaces.
The Clerk will cover the activity on the Pocket Parks opportunity later in the meeting.
156. **Allotment Report**
Cllr Crisp reported that the rent for 2020 is now due.
New Tenancy Agreements, with the revised rules, dated 2019, are to be signed by all allotment holders. This is in hand.
157. **Pathways and Rights of Way**
In the absence of Cllr Joyce Wedge there was no report.
158. **Playground and Youth Affairs**
In the absence of Cllr Stamp there was no formal report.
Notes from Cllr Stamp:-
Play-park - awaiting quotes from Dean at DBC which are due anytime now.
Priory School - no date for meeting as of yet but zigzag lines are a great addition to the Westfield drive corner in terms of kids safety
PTA were given a donation from the HPC and will be taking over the Halloween party
Talked to HCA about basketball court, updating skate-park but will need to pursue grants
159. **Highways and Traffic Report**
Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported that the No Parking on the Green notice has been removed.
Action Clerk to have it replaced
The extension of the double yellow lines at the beginning of Roundhill Road have still not been done, although most of the other lineage requests have now been fulfilled. **Action Clerk to follow up, as this is part of the HPC Parking Report.**
A replacement post is required near the start of the roadway near Lime Cottage. **Action Clerk to arrange.**
Cllr Oughton was pleased to inform the Council that the instances of dog poo had dropped dramatically, and the pavements are much cleaner.
1. **Speed Watch** One session had been held, but bad weather has curtailed more activity.
Ten vehicles were logged as exceeding the limit, (none of which were female drivers), the speeds recorded were all close to 41mph.
 2. **Traffic** Cllr Hedley circulated the Traffic statistics, which show a further improvement, with marginal drops in aggregate speed on the internal village roads. It is clear that this initiative is have a positive effect.

3. **Speed Monitor status.** One monitor is at Swarco in Richmond awaiting repair. The post at the Green is faulty, and arrangements are being made to repair it.

160. **Matters of Interest**

a. **Speed Monitor at The Birches**

We have requested the installation of the new post, through DBC Highways Department. They have not responded to date.

161. **Police Report**

Cllr Amanda Oughton gave the following Police Report:-

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES DECEMBER 2019.

ASB NUISANCE:

10/12 – Report of youths on Roundhill Road throwing objects at vehicles. Incident occurred two days previous to it being reported so no officers were deployed. Neighbourhood Police aware of incident.

ASB ENVIRONMENTAL:

19/12 – Reports of youths parked up in The Grange car park near to the scout hut. One of the cars screeched off. No officers available to attend and no further logs were made so report was closed after two hours. Profile for The Grange is still open and patrols are still being made.

HIGHWAYS:

31/12 – Report of a loose horse along Strait Lane. Officer attended and secured horse into a field.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

21/12 – Suspicious activity next to Hurworth Grange. Two males seen leaving the area at speed in a white van. Officers attended and all surrounding buildings checked and nothing was insecure. Vehicle registration has been put on the police hotlist for it to be watched in the area.

23/12 – Vehicle seen on The Chase, parking on driveways and looking into houses. Also seen on Neasham Road and Stockholm Road. Vehicle observations passed, but no trace in area at that time. Intelligence has been submitted onto the system and the vehicle will be stopped when seen.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE:

11/12 – Report of damage being caused to a green on Dinsdale Golf course over night. It seems a car has driven over the Green. CCTV has been looked at and the incident has been captured, but unfortunately no make or model of car is clear. A crime of criminal damage has been recorded.

21/12 – Reports of youths causing damage to the lights on the Christmas tree on the green. Officer attended an appointment and a crime of criminal damage was confirmed and logged. All lines of enquiry have been followed and no suspects have been identified. The crime has been closed unless further evidence becomes available.

162. **2020 Precept**

The chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk has informed DBC that the Hurworth Precept will be unchanged at £59,000. We have received their acknowledgement.

163. **Parish Walks**

Cllr Ring-Viney reported that discussions have taken place with the Mustard Tree, and that they would co-operate to arrange combined walks throughout 2020.

The Mustard Tree had arranged a walk on New Year's Eve, and approximately 26 people had participated.

Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for December 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable December 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hurworth PTA	103321	Section 137 award	500.00
HCA	103322	Newsletter	60.00
DBC Grit bin & grit	103323	New grit bin & grit	621.60
Sustainable Furniture	103324	2 benches	760.00
Wrights Office Supplies	103325	Paper	19.14
Peter Foster	103326	Trav Exs CDALC	36.60
G Johnston	103327	Treework	351.00
Internal Revenue	103328	PAYE	130.00
A Iles	103329	Litter picker salary	451.55
P D Allan	103330	December salary	702.00
WAVE water rates	103331	Allotment water	107.63
T Winnett	103332	Attending court	9.80
P D Allan	103333	Admin expenses + Defib kits	263.69
Barclays bank	DD		2.30
Total expenditure for December 2019			£4,015.31

164. **Financial report**

The Financial report to 31st December 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The table is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

A. Grant Applications.

A.1 HCA has been awarded a grant of £6,700, which is to pay for the fire detection system which is mandatory for them. As this was listed in the HPC Projects, this amount can now be taken out.

A.2 HCA, in conjunction with EPICH has applied for a grant from the Ministry of Housing – Pocket Parks project. The application is for £18,000 to cover the landscaping of Jean's Meadow, and the recreation of the Exercise Park in front of

the children's playground. If this is successful, it will free funding currently in the HPC Projects.

A.3 The Rogers Charitable Trust has not yet made a decision on the Boulle court project.

B. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

Cllr Graham Wylie reported that there has only been two hits on the web site mail box., neither required a response.

Cllr Graham Wylie, once again, suggested that the Council should create a Facebook site, as this would attract much more interaction.

The HPC web site is a mandatory requirement for parish councils so that complete transparency can be achieved. However a Facebook page could be created in addition.

A resident offered to discuss this with Cllr Wylie and they would come back with some recommendations.

166. Association Reports

There have been no meetings attended in December.

The next PC Meeting will be held on Thursday 6 February 2020.

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm