

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 5th September 2019

Those present:-

Elaine Hedley, Peter Foster, Dorothy Oughton, Graham Wylie, Tony Winnett, David Crisp, Joyce Wedge, Lynn Wylie, Sam Ring-Viney, Bree Stamp.

Also in attendance:

Lorraine Tostevin, Nicki Gregson (PCSO), Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 8 members of the public.

58. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Tony Winnett opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

We are now back in session after our summer break. Hence the Agenda is long and I would ask you, please, to keep your comments to the point so that we have a good timely meeting and don't lose focus.

59. Apologies for Absence: Amanda Oughton, Janine Forster. Cllr Christy Chou,

60. Declarations of Interest

David Crisp – Allotments
Bree Stamp - HCA

61. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2019 were accepted, Proposed by Elaine Hedley, Seconded by Dorothy Oughton.

62. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

a. Defibrillator Installation –

The unit at All Saints Church is now installed and operational. The website has uploaded an article on the unit.

As regards the third planned unit destined for the Croft area, we will shortly have a quote from DBC for a suitable powered location.

Modifications have been made for access to the Hurworth Grange unit.

b) **The Councillor Peter Foster** commemorative service seat is now installed on The Green close to the Parish Flag Pole. The seat is inscribed rather than fitted with a brass plaque. The website has uploaded details of the seat.

63. Public Participation

- a. A resident expressed his criticism that he and his wife had gone to participate in a Parish walk, but nobody turned up. There was no notice

of cancellation, so after twenty minutes they abandoned it. Janine Forster was not present to give an explanation.

- b. A resident asked if Bellway were still going to pass the Saxon artefacts to the Grange to put on display. Paul Walters, who was attending with the public, responded informing the meeting that he has recently talked to Bellway, and this project is still open and will happen shortly.
- c. A resident emphasised the importance of the 20mph speed limit being implemented at the school entrances. Cllr Tostevin said that this is in the DBC Plan and that she will follow it up. The latest news was that this is scheduled for February 2020.
- d. A resident expressed her deep concerns about parking at and around the Priory sports field. There are now many events being held there both at weekends and in the evenings during the week. There is a planning application submitted for the construction of a hard standing area within the field, which will be used for parking. The resident stated that the application was inaccurate and she would be making an objection. Sam Ring-Viney agreed to discuss this with her.

64. Planning Report.

Sam Ring-Viney informed that there had been a few applications, but none appeared to require comment from the Parish Council. Please see details below:-

Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
07/08/2019	07/08/2019	19/00754/PLU	1 Emery Close HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2EJ	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed development - erection of single storey extension to side elevation	Currently no objections

19/08/2019	19/08/2019	19/00786/TF C	1 Blind Lane HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2JB	Notification to carry out works to trees in a designated Conservation Area - Works to 1 no. Walnut Tree crown lift to 2.4 metres above ground level and crown reduction to left hand side of the Walnut Tree by approximately 1 metre	Within Hurworth conservation area. Currently no objections
28/08/2019	28/08/2019	19/00815/FUL	School Playing Field Accessed From Crossfield Close HURWORTH DARLINGTON	Change of use of from existing hard standing to overflow car park for up to ten cars in connection with Hurworth House School (Retro)	N/A retro application.

With regard to the application being made by HACSA, for car parking area on the Priory Sports filed, he offered to make contact directly with Mrs Ann Smith to examine this further

65. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported;-

All the trees in the parish are in good condition at present.

However, due to high winds the tree in the Grange grounds, which was reported as leaning, was further disturbed and became dangerous, it was accordingly removed.

The two newly planted oak trees on Manorfield which have died will be replaced in October.

The Christmas tree on the Green is in poor health, but cones have appeared near the top of the tree, which indicates that it is likely to recover.

66. Allotment Report

David Crisp reported that the Open Show Day held at Strait Lane allotments was a great success. Many people visited and enjoyed their look at the allotments, and purchased fresh produce. The day raised £168, which will be used by the Allotment Committee on the grounds.

An Allotment Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, 26th September starting at 7:00pm. All attenders are invited to join the BBQ with the Parish walkers at the Grange at 8:15pm.

67. Open Spaces Report

Lynn Wylie reported:-

Open Spaces Report – September 2019

This was completed during August; after the 5th September HPC meeting, I will post the audit report on the HPC website.

As detailed on the audit report, there are a number of areas which require attention, and I have emailed/ discussed with, the appropriate people to have them looked into.

Following comments on ‘Hurworth Live’ about this, rather than wait for the report to go in, and then have a further wait for someone to be able to do the work, Graham and I decided to clear the overgrowth covering the sign at Knell Gate which was obscured by the sycamore tree in that location (the original tree was cut down, but it has sprouted new growth)

The majority of any required work is mainly in relation to the benches; I have only managed to locate 31 of the supposed 39 benches, so any help locating the others would be great!

The bench report has been passed to the Clerk so that the required remedial works can be arranged, if the Councillors are in support of this?

EPICH Update – September 2019

With Wilma Campbell, Judith Redfern and Peter Allan stepping down from their EPICH roles, there were concerns about the future of EPICH, but news received ahead of the EPICH AGM (Tuesday 3rd September) is that volunteers have come forward, and I hope to have more news on this at the HPC meeting.

Update from EPICH AGM – Chair is now Pat Simpson with support from Wilma Campbell for the next 12 months, Vice Chair is now Judith Redfern, Secretary is now Ken Pattison with support from Judith Redfern and Treasurer remains with Peter Allan.

Funding request, for the ongoing EPICH projects received; this has also been sent to the Parish Clerk from EPICH.

A motion was proposed by Lynn Wylie, Seconded by Tony Winnett granting EPICH an award of £500, to fund their latest project. The Clerk confirmed that this is in the budget.

At the last EPICH meeting (31st July), the subject of grass verges was raised. DBC have cut back some of the grass verges coming into Hurworth, and there are concerns over the impact of this on wildlife. A number of authorities (Hartlepool Borough Council being one of them) have recently changed their verge cutting policy to allow areas to become wildlife havens (taking into account road safety), so can I ask our Ward Councillors Dr. Christy Chou and Lorraine Tostevin if they are aware of what is DBC's grass verge policy? Can I ask for the Councillors support on opening discussions with DBC on highlighting the importance of grass verges to wildlife and whether DBC are happy to introduce a reduced/ no cutting plan to help support the wildlife around Hurworth?

Matter raised at the EPICH meeting on the 3rd September – EPICH member has been approached by a resident of Strait Lane regarding concerns about potential loss of hedgerow along the field belonging to Strawberry Cottage, which runs alongside Strait Lane opposite the row of houses up from the Otter and Fish. They have asked if it is possible to protect a hedgerow, and if it is possible, how you would go about getting protection against it being removed i.e. in the event of permission being granted to develop the land for housing.

The disabled friendly pathway through Hurworth Grange is in need of some remedial work. Two quotations have been received, with similar costings, of circa £450. The meeting agreed that this work is necessary and the contract will be given to Urban Eden, who already provide regular maintenance. **Action Clerk.**

68. Pathways and Rights of Way

Joyce Wedge reported that she has now met Steve Petch, DBC Rights of Way Manager, and they have agreed to co-operate with each other in monitoring the RoW's and keeping them open and in usable condition.

Joyce also reported that she has been in touch with DBC regarding the tree in Emerson Road which is causing a hazard, and that they have promised to rectify the problem.

69. Parking Working Party Report

Tony Winnett reported:-

The Working party has met twice and will shortly be able to submit a report and suggestions for consideration by the PC.

70. Playground and Youth Liaison

Bree Stamp made the following report:-

a. A new piece of equipment has been installed in the Grange playground, and has been well accepted. It still requires an additional safety feature, and DBC will be

fitting this soon. More equipment is expected to be installed presently, as a larger budget becomes available.

Bree said that details of children's activities which are being organised are now being advertised on Hurworth Live. This includes activities especially for children at the Hurworth Country Fair on 14th September,

Bree also made reference to a 'Buffalo project', which will attract the younger generation.

b. Priory School

The meeting scheduled at Priory School was postponed because the Principal needed to be out of town. The meeting will be rescheduled now that the school term has resumed.

The school did hold a BBQ in their grounds and several councillors attended.

The Chairman made reference to the BMX cycle path which some residents have requested the council to consider. Progress has been made on this suggestion and HACSA are considering constructing the cycle path within the perimeter grounds of the Priory sports field. One person has experience of constructing a cycle path and has agreed to take on the project.

The Chairman informed the meeting that HACSA have written to the Council requesting some financial support to enable them to continue to organise community activities. He tabled a motion as follows:-

'The Council will make a payment to HACSA of £2,000, of which £1000 is a Section 137 award, and the other £1000 is to be repaid to the Council in January 2020'. The motion was Seconded by Graham Wylie and the vote was unanimous in favour. **Action Clerk**

71. Highways and Traffic Reports

Dorothy Oughton reported:-

- a. The bollard at Coach Lane has still not been replaced. **Action Clerk**
- b. There are a number of large potholes on the road through the Village Green. It was agreed that the Clerk will obtain a quotation to repair this. **Action Clerk**

A member of the public reported that the bollard near the Yorvik estate near Croft Bridge has not been replaced. This will be investigated and reported to DBC.

SpeedWatch

Elaine Hedley reported that they carried out nine sessions in July and August. The details were passed to PCSO Gregson. The statistics showed that 21 percent of the vehicles were travelling over 30mph. The sessions included sessions held at peak time at 9:00am.

Elaine then circulated the detailed figures of traffic and speeds which were taken from the speed monitors. The figures are encouraging and showed that a high percentage of drivers are keeping under 35mph, this being the police cut off speed, based on 30mph plus ten percent plus 2.

The details of stats can be found on the Council's web site. **Action Graham Wylie.**

One of the speed monitors requires repair. The cost of a call out from Swarco is very high. Also the pole on the Green has lost its power, and DBC are addressing the this repair.

The Chairman thanked both Dorothy and Elaine for their work and dedication.

72. Matters of Interest

The Chairman reported as follows:-

a. Court Case Report.

The court case was held at Middlesbrough Court on 28th August for two days.

There will be no judgement until approx. mid-September.

The work load caused by this case has been tremendous. I would like to commend our Parish Clerk and the four Councillors involved for their hard work and input producing evidence to support the Parish case.

Graham Wylie added his thanks for the effort which Margaret Williams and Peter Allan had put in to prepare for the trial, it had taken many hours of work.

b. Hurworth Country Fair.

The Ninth Fair is being held on 14th September. I hope that all Councillors will attend the event. Keith Sandick the Fair Manager will welcome your help on the day.

As usual the proceeds from the Fair will be split between the Community Association and our chosen charity – in this case St Teresa's Hospice

c) To this end we have received a letter from **St Teresa's** requesting financial help. Our Fair contribution will obviously be put to good use by the charity.

d. Green Party.

We received a request from the Green Party (Richard Lawley) asking if we would contribute funds to their employment of a consultant to scrutinise the Darlington Local Plan... As this was for funding outwith the Parish the request was declined.

e. There will be a **Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning** on Saturday 28th September at The Emerson Arms Pub starting at 11am to be opened by The Mayor of Darlington. This has been arranged by Michelle Edwards and all are welcome.

73. Police Report.

In the absence of Amanda Oughton, Dorothy Oughton made the following report:-
The crime figures below for July and August.

July 2019

Criminal Damage : 04/07/19 – Report of pellet gun used on Strait Lane. The pellet has been shot through a sign causing a hole. Police attended and a crime was logged. There was no scope for CCTV or House to House so the crime has been closed. This can be reopened if any evidence comes to light.

11/07/19 – Car damage outside Priory school. Police attended and a crime was logged. There was no scope for CCTV or House to House so the crime has been closed. This can be reopened if any evidence comes to light.

ASB: 06/07/19 – Group of youths causing a nuisance at Rockcliffe Hall. Particularly towards staff. Officers attended and names were taken and passed to the ASB team. Youths were also given a warning to stay away. Regular patrols are now being carried out around the area.

07/07/19 – Group of youths causing a nuisance at the Spar shop. Officer attended but youths dispersed. Names were taken from caller and these names have been passed to the ASB team.

29/07/19 – Reports of a male attending an address on Westfield Drive, asking if they would like their trees cutting. House owner refused but the male got quite aggressive. Registration of vehicle was passed to police but it came back as no trace. Police attended and conducted an area search but there was no trace of the male. There have been no further calls about the male but officers are aware and will be patrolling.

Animals/Wildlife: 13/07/19 – Reports of two males possibly poaching deer in a field on Roundhill road. Officers attended but no sign of any persons or blood for the deer. Rural officer is aware of report.

22/07/19 – Reports of two loose Rottweiler dogs on Roundhill Road. Officer attended but dogs had already been dealt with by the dog warden.

27/07/19 – Reports of a dead cow in the river near to Croft bridge. Officers attended whilst the farmers brought machinery to remove the cow. No issues.

August 2019

HIGHWAYS – 02/08. Reports of lots of traffic and pedestrians around the Stadium. Reports of cars doing wheel spins. Police already in attendance due to the music concert being held there. It was continuously monitored until the area was clear.

26/08. Reports of a vehicle blocking a driveway on Church Row. Initially it was thought that it may have been a stolen vehicle which had been dumped. This was not the case and the owner was located and the vehicle was moved.

ASB (motorbikes) – 04/08. Motorbikes on golf course at Rockcliffe Hall. Police attended but bikes made off. Nobody was identified.

06/08. Off road bike driving through Hurworth Village. Dark silver bike with two riders. Officers attended but bike made off. Nobody was identified.

11/08. Report of possible off road bike on Hurworth Road. Police attended and spoke with rider. Rider all above board, but was warned about his manner of driving.

ASB (Nuisance) – 21/08. Male youths had gained entry onto the football pitch at Middlesbrough FC. Officer attended and conducted an area search but there was no

trace of the youths. A request has been made for any CCTV to be made available, in the hope that a positive ID can be made of the youths. Home visits will be made if we get an ID.

RTC (Damage Only) – 05/08. Collision on Hurworth Moor. 4 cars involved. Police attended and carried out all relevant checks and cleared the road.

06/08. Car hit a parked car on Hurworth road. Exchange of details made and all was in order.

WILDLIFE - 05/08. Reports of 6 young cows coming through the hedge on Hurworth Place. Police attended but cows had made their way back into the safety of their field.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE – 08/08. Theft of tools from a vehicle on the Green. CSI attended this incident, and there is an ongoing investigation.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY – 16/08 + 22/08. Male seen trying to stop traffic on Hurworth Moor. It is thought that the male was asking for cash. Only description we have is a male wearing a red jacket. Please be vigilant and report any more sightings.

BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL – 05/08. Theft of a quantity of cables from one of the new house plots on Roundhill Road. Police attended and a crime has been filed. Ongoing investigation.

Dorothy reported that she has held discussions with the Police and they have agreed to recommence the monthly PACT Meetings. The meeting agreed that the PACT Meeting should be held at Hurworth grange immediately before the Parish Council meeting each month, starting at 6:30pm.

74. Litter Picker.

The chairman addressed the council, saying - We have been very fortunate with our dedicated Litter Picker Mr Bob Iles for the last few years. Sadly Mrs Iles is now not in good health and Bob is having to relinquish his post to look after her.

Bob has a 40 year old son, Andrew who has assisted Bob with Parish picking over the last couple of months. Due to a serious accident some years ago Andrew is classified as disabled and is unable to find suitable employment. We have documents from the Medical Centre stating that Andrew is fit enough to handle picking duties.

I would like to ask the Council to approve the employment of Andrew Iles to take over the role from his father. Your approval will create a win-win situation whereby the Council fill the vacancy. A young disabled man is given work. The Council creditably employ a disabled person.

The Chairman tabled a motion for the Council to employ Andrew Iles as the Litter Picker and requested a Secunder. Every hand went up to Second the motion, Dorothy Oughton became the Secunder and the vote was unanimous in favour. **Action Clerk**

75. Neighbourhood Plan.

We have received suggestions from DBC Planning Dept as to how to proceed with our Plan. Work on this will be placed in hand with a view to development in January 2020.

76. Parish Walks

In the absence of Janine Forster, there was a general discussion which included observations from the public.

Although a number of walks have been arranged, they have either been cancelled due to inclement weather, or through lack of support. Peter Foster suggested it could be because residents who had participated on other occasions were doing the walks on their own.

More publicity is required so people are aware on the dates and times.

A walk is being arranged for Thursday, 26th September, starting at the Grange at 6:30pm. This will be followed by a free BBQ at 8:15pm. The walkers will be joined by allotment holders who are also holding a meeting the same evening at the Grange.

77. Accounts for Payment

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable August 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
D Crisp	103260	Strimmer for allotments	133.20
MT Print newsletter	103261	Parish Chronicle	723.00
M Harrison EPICH	103262	Grass cutting (Tfr)	195.00
G Johnston trees	103263	Treework	495.00
M Harrison	103264	Installing bench, etc	90.00
Urban Eden	103265	Pathway maintenance	160.00
Bob Iles	103266	Salary	420.15
P D Allan	103267	Salary	702.20
Inland Revenue	103268	PAYE	161.20
		Legal Exs &	
HCA	103269	Newsletter	126.60
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Public works payment	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
Parklane Plowden			
Chambers	103270	Legal fees	7800.00
		Legal exs and admin	
P D Allan	103271	expenses.	90.47
Total payments August 2019			11357.74

78. Financial report

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

BLUE=AllocatedBLUE=Allocated		Financial Report to 31st August 2019									Ringfenced funds £12,096					
	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	#####	#####	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Year	Total	Budget	
Revenue													to date		2019-20	
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000	
Litter Picker & VAT refund				5727		2850					2850		5727	11427	10600	
Rent & Interest			130			20	100		20			20	130	290	340	
Grants, etc				2085									2085	2085	500	
Allotment rent	20		80							1140			100	1240	1140	
Total Revenue for mon	59020	0	210	7812	0	2870	100	0	20	1140	2850	20	67042	74042	71580	
Expenditure																
Salaries & NHI	1386	1283	1284	1386	1284	1320	1460	1320	1320	1460	1320	1320	6623	16143	15600	
Gen. Admin Expenses	792	1169	391	165	11	750	300	250	312	300	300	400	2528	5140	4900	
Trees and Open Spaces	0	504	508	76	495	500	1500	500		1200	400	250	1583	5933	7500	
Open Spaces	672	61		0	250	500	400	300	200	200	200	400	983	3183	4000	
Section 137		300	82	0			750	300		150		500	382	2082	4000	
Projects & Hogweed	505	2000	60	1054		400	1650	650	2000	900	1200	1000	3619	11419	12300	
Legal Costs & training	835		28	1914	6648	3000	50				50		9425	12525	6000	
Newsltrs & notices	50	120		0	783		160	360	910	60	160	910	953	3513	3400	
EPICH Support S137)										1000			0	1000	3050	
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail	190					200					300		190	690	500	
Allotments			51	200	133	100		300			200		384	984	1100	
Highways	66							200	300	100	200	200	66	1066	1000	
Handyman			35	135		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	170	870	1000	
Fair, Concert,Etc												4000	0	4000	4000	
Capital					259					259			259	518	518	
VAT	236	17	34	411	1300	600							1998			
Total Disbursements	4732	5454	2473	5341	11163	7470	6370	4280	5142	5729	4430	9080	29163	69066	2250	
Revenue less Expenses	54288	-5454	-2263	2471	-11163	-4600	-6270	-4280	-5122	-4589	-1580	-9060	48834	4976	71118	
															462	
Funds in Hand less ring f	36,323	90611	85157	82894	85365	74202	69602	63332	59052	53930	49341	47761		38701		
Revenue less epenses	54,288	-5,454	-2,263	2,471	-11,163	-4,600	-6,270	-4,280	-5,122	-4,589	-1,580	-9,060		12,096	Ringed	
Balance Forward	90611	85157	82894	85365	74202	69602	63332	59052	53930	49341	47761	38701		50797		

79. HPC Web site

Graham Wylie reported that there was only one comment on the web site, and 300 hits. Conversely there were 1,300 followers on Hurworth Live. Graham suggested that a link should be put in place to allow access between the parish web site and Hurworth Life; this should encourage more comments to be routed to the council.

There was a debate about the benefits and concerns about the council getting into the social media arena, which some councillors fearing abusive comments randomly placed on Facebook.

Joyce Wedge said that she was having difficulty putting posters up in the community notice boards. Graham Wylie offered to take this over as from today.

It was decided that for the time being the link should not be implemented.

- 80.** The Chairman informed the meeting that he and the Clerk are going to carry out a review of all the Council's Procedures. They had had a meeting with David Coates, Head of Planning at DBC, and gained some details about how they handle tree and open spaces duty of care procedures. It is hoped that our council can better control these activities.

81. Association Reports

Hurworth Village Hall

David Crisp reported that the Village Hall was very successful now, and that is being used for many events. The Sunday film shows will commence again this week and all are encouraged to attend.

They have installed WIFI, and a new boiler has been installed which supports remote control. This will be a big boon to regulating the heating in the hall.

The hall had received many visitors at the Hurworth festival, when the displayed an excellent collection of pictures on Hurworth at the beginning of the 19th century. They had received £400 in donations, which was shared £250 to the Air Ambulance and £150 to the Village Hall funds.

David expressed his appreciation of the tremendous effort Lynne and Bill Drumm put into the running of the Village Hall, it is now an excellent, well utilised venue.

Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

None.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm