

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 6th February 2020.

Councillors present:-

Cllr Tony Winnett (Chairman), Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Wedge, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Graham Wylie.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 16 members of the public.

187. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, Cllr Amanda Oughton

188. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

189. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett, opened the meeting and welcomed the Borough Cllrs, Parish Cllrs and local residents.

190. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd January 2020 were accepted, Proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie, Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton and passed by the meeting.

191. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

- a. Speed Monitor Posts at The Birches – DBC have acknowledged our request, pole not yet installed. We are confirming our request for it and look for progress in next week.

192. Public Participation

1. A resident raised an objection that the Minutes did not fully record the part of the January meeting discussion regarding the proposal being prepared that would convert the Manorfield into a wooded area, with the planning of a number of trees. This appeared to be a counter action to prevent the children of the village getting a second playground, which could possibly be located on this area. This item is to record the objection. The Chairman referred the resident to item 7 of this month's agenda, which will update the meeting on the progress of the newly elected Working Party who are adhering the playground project.
There was no update given by the residents regarding the tree project.
2. A resident who assists with the Youth Club Drop-in on Friday evenings brought a proposal to the Council. The trend at the Drop-in, which is centred on All Saints Church, has been that the youths prefer to be outside and therefore are visible to the residents. In order to ease this situation and assist in providing some supervision, the proposal includes finding volunteers who would receive a short training course of about 6 hours, and then

offer their services to help on Friday evenings. This appears preferable to an earlier proposal to engage a security company to patrol the areas frequented by the youths. The Chairman welcomed the proposal, and agreed that the Council will consider it in detail. A leaflet setting out the proposal was handed around the Councillors. **Action: The Council will study and consider the report.**

3. A resident expressed his frustration and the frustration of many residents that several parts of Hurworth still do not have high speed Broadband, and there appears to be no immediate plans for this to be implemented.

Cllr Tostevin updated the meeting with recent meetings and local policies which are addressing this situation. It appears that Darlington, for no tangible reason, is being neglected whereas many smaller parishes already have the facility. **Action : The Chairman will write to Cllr Tostevin, sending copies to Open Reach and the Tees Valley Mayor Hurworth's dissatisfaction with this situation.**

4. A resident expressed his dismay that the drains were blocked in several areas. This had caused by, in some incidences, the road sweeper which pushed tree leaves into the drains. This is an annual problem, but apparently when the resident spoke to the road sweeper, he responded that it had been 3 years since these roads were swept.
5. A resident complained that several of the benches have been neglected and one on The Green requires a plank being replaced. The Clerk informed the meeting that all the benches are serviced and re-varnished every year. The problem with the bench on The Green **is noted and will be repaired.** Also the potholes on The Green still need repair. This will be done as soon as the weather is suitable, at present this work cannot be done.

A pathway is required along Roundhill Road to connect the Bellway estate with the Miller Homes estate. This is being arranged by the two contractors, but there are one or two problems for them to overcome. **Action: Clerk to write to Bellway stressing need for co-ordination with Miller Homes.**

6. A resident raised the issue of a new planning enquiry for the construction of up to 175 houses on the land opposite the Miller Homes estate on Roundhill Road. The Proposed Residential Development has been submitted by Hallam Land Management for development of land on the west of Roundhill Road.
7. Cllr Tostevin, who is the Ward Councillor, whose duties include the DBC Planning Department responded on behalf of the Council. Cllr Tostevin stated that this is only an initial enquiry, and because the DBC Framework Plan states that there will be no major developments for the next 5 years, it will be rejected. Any further discussion would be fairly irrelevant at this stage. However, it should put more emphasis on the Parish Council completing their Neighbourhood Plan, which still need to go to referendum. **Action: Cllr Tostevin was asked to get a letter from David Coates, Head of Planning DBC, to confirm this position.**

193. Playground Planning Working Party Report

Playground Planning 2020.

Committee.

The Working Party comprises of Four Parish Cllrs – Cllr L Wylie (Chair), Cllr Bree Stamp, and Cllr Sam Ring-Viney and three residents - P Walters, J Aston, K Sandick.

Play Area Working Party Report – February 2020

Working Party Meetings

Good progress has been made already, and two meetings have already taken place (7th January and 3rd February); another meeting is planned for the 25th February

Potential Areas Being Investigated

Several ‘green’ areas have been considered and discussed with the reasons for and against as follows:

- Goblin’s Wood
- The Orchard at Lychgate
- Grassed area diagonally opposite the primary school at the entrance to Westfield Drive – potential to offer a ‘pocket park
- Grassed area on Coach Lane opposite Coach House
- Green area on Strait Lane/ Neasham Road
- Manor Field

Manor Field Covenants

- We have received confirmation from DBC advising that there are two covenants against the Manor Field – the field is split in half (going from Sycamore Close over to Coach Lane), and the covenant relating to the Emerson Road side is an ‘Absolute Covenant’ (states that no development can take place), and the half adjoining Westfield Drive is a ‘Qualified Covenant’ (no building or erection can be completed without the vendors consent)
- Further contact has been made to DBC requesting detail on acquiring a releasing/ relaxing of the ‘Qualified Covenant’, and the advice given is that it would depend on the outcome of the planned referendum; should the referendum return a positive request to the development of a play area, then planning permission would have to be sought and approved from DBC

Survey Content

- Work has started on the referendum questionnaire, and we expect to have a draft document ready for discussion at the next working party meeting on 25th February.
- ❖ The Chairman spoke to the Councillors saying that he has received complaints that Councillors have been commenting on Hurworth Live about Council matters. This is in contravention of our Council Procedures and Code of Practice. May I ask you to respect your accepted duties as members of the Parish Council.

194. Planning Applications.

Cllr Ring- Viney was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following reports:-

Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
23/01/2020	27/01/2020	20/00047/PLU	63 Woodlands Way HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HQ	Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development - erection of single storey rear extension	No comments/objections
15/01/2020	15/01/2020	20/00032/CON	Sculpture TST D4 Tees View HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON	Approval of details reserved by condition 2 (Design details) attached to planning permission 18/00556/FUL dated 20 August 2018 (Installation of 1 no. interpretive sculpture as part of the Tees Sculpture Trail)	GRANTED
13/01/2020	13/01/2020	20/00029/ADV	Field At OSGR E430267 N512371 Roundhill Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON	Display of 1. no non-illuminated tri-board sign	no comments/objections
03/01/2020	14/01/2020	20/00005/FUL	2 Evesham Grove HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2YE	Erection of single storey extension to front elevation	GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

20/12/2019	06/01/2020	19/01176/LBC	Newbus Grange Hurworth Road NEASHAM DARLINGTON DL2 1PE	Listed building consent for installation of 1 no. CCTV camera on the northern elevation.	no comments/objections
20/12/2019	06/01/2020	19/01175/FUL	Newbus Grange Hurworth Road NEASHAM DARLINGTON DL2 1PE	Erection of 3m high paladin fencing to south and east elevation, 2.1m high close boarded timber fence and installation of 1 no. CCTV camera on the northern elevation.	no comments/objections

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

Plans are in place to replace the three trees which were felled near the entrance to Hurworth Grange. Initially chippings will be laid to soak up surplus water and dampness. Three established trees will be transplanted from other parts of the Grange grounds, and planted to fill the gaps.

One tree behind the Scout hut was found to be dead and has been removed.

Cllr Foster's inspection of the other trees around the Parish allows him to confirm that they are all in good order.

A resident expressed his appreciation of the wide range of trees and species in Hurworth Grange, and suggested that the schools should be encouraged to make nature visits. Most of the trees and a register of them is available at the Grange.

196. **Open Spaces & EPICH Report**
Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

1. Open Spaces Report – February 2020

Nothing to report.

Action: It is noted that the benches need an inspection and some attention.

2. EPICH Report – February 2020

EPICH held a meeting on the 21st January, and the following were discussed:

EPICH Website

It was noted that the EPICH website is out of date, and work is underway to update it.

Bulb Planting

Following the success of the bulb planting on the green area from Emerson Road up onto Coach Lane and at Goblin's Wood (the snow drops are showing through, and the blue bells are still to follow), it has been suggested that more snow drop and bluebell bulbs are purchased to be planted along the path past the primary school (from Westfield Drive to Roundhill Road). Costs are expected to be £98 for 1000 to 2000 snowdrop bulbs and £148 for 1000 to 2000 bluebell bulbs).

DOVES/ Nest Boxes

EPICH members attended the January DOVES meeting and have received 35 nest boxes made by DOVES volunteers and will have EPICH stencilled on to them. It is intended that these will be given away in time for National Nest Box week in February; details of the giveaway will be advertised on Hurworth Live and the EPICH website.

Following the appropriate checks, EPICH hope to site some of the nest boxes in Goblin's Wood.

Working Party

A working party is required to complete pruning of the orchard at the Grange, between now and end of March - dates etc will be posted on to the EPICH website and Hurworth Live.

Also, a working party met on the 3rd February, and the brambles have been cut back at the picnic bench behind the Grange. This has not only tidied the area up, but it allowed for a lot of litter (bottles, 2 traffic cones and the remains of a metal scooter) to be collected – photos have been posted on Hurworth Live.

197. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp reported that most tenants have now paid their rent for 2020, and the Clerk is contacting all plot holders whose rent is still outstanding.

There is a Waiting List at both Strait Lane and Hurworth Grange.

One of the notice boards at Strait Lane has been damaged, and Cllr Crisp has made necessary repairs.

198. Pathways and Rights of Way

Cllr Wedge reported a number of items which require remedial action. DBC has been informed and actions put in place, as follows:-

1. The street sign for Westfield Drive, near the Manorfield is down; it was missing but has now reappeared and needs fixing.

A new sign has been delivered and will be installed within 20 working days.

2. The drains around Manorfield, on Westfield Drive and Sycamore Close are blocked with leaves and require cleaning.

We have asked our Street Scene team to clean the gullies.

3. The inspection top outside 28 Westfield Drive has become a trip hazard and requires some attention.

An order has been placed to carry out two footway repairs around utilities covers outside 28 Westfield Drive.

4. Contractors have been working at the junction of Roundhill Road and Westfield Drive. They appear to have finished their project, but have not 'made well' the road area, it is in very poor condition; I believe they have a duty to make good the area.

The contractor has carried out a temporary reinstatement and will make good in the coming weeks.

5. There is concern that there is no longer a pathway beyond the new Bellway estate, and hence no pedestrian access to the new Miller Homes estate. People are having to walk on the road, which is not so good.

DBC is aware of this issue and we are in discussions with Miller Homes regarding the provision of a footway. The attached plan shows an outline design for a footway linking to the Bellway's footway, speed reduction measures on Roundhill Road and changes to the speed limit with an extension of the 30mph limit and provision of a 40mph buffer on the approach. We will try to get these measures implemented as soon as it is reasonable practicable and will prioritise the footway

199. Playground and Youth Affairs

Cllr Stamp reported

1. **The Priory H H School** - As yet no new date has been agreed for the next meeting.
2. **The Grange Play-park** - We have now got the designs and costings which is a great step forward. We can now engage again with Groundworks and local businesses to help fund the project. Great news, as with the current infrastructure the price is not as high as previously thought so the level of expenditure is totally doable.
3. **PTA** - There is a 90's Disco at The Grange to raise money for the PTA and it would be great if we could put a poster in the notice boards as there doesn't seem to be anything competing with it at the moment.

StreetScene has quoted £32,500 for equipment to supplement the present playground at Hurworth Grange. It has been suggested that sponsors should be approached in order to raise the funds.

200. **Highways and Traffic Report**

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported

Speed Watch

Three sessions had been carried out in January.

Thirty vehicles were logged as exceeding the limit, the faster logged at 44mph.

The Police have informed us that the data is being used and a number of drivers have been sent letters.

1. **Traffic** Cllr Hedley circulated the Traffic statistics, which show a further improvement. The average speed on Roundhill Road in January 202 was 28.5mph

2. **Speed Monitor status.**

The monitor has now been repaired and is now deployed near the Otter and Fish.

The monitor post on The Green has power to the post, but there appears to be a problem between the input and the transmission to the controller to which the monitor is fixed.

Action: DBC to be informed again.

3. Cllr Tostevin informed that the 20mph limit in Hurworth is still scheduled to be installed in April 2020.

201. **Matters of Interest**

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a. **Defibrillators**

The Chairman reported – Croft location- Unit stand is now installed on the Croft Green close by the Comet Hotel. We still need to arrange for a power supply to the unit's heater and are in discussions with the Comet Hotel for a hook-up.

b. **HACSA** – A letter of request from HACSA for help to fund an additional football pitch due to growth of junior members. Asking if the £1000 they due to repay could be transferred as a donation for the new pitch work.

The Motion put to PC by Chair, seconded Cllr Graham Wylie, and was approved unanimously.

202. **Police Report**

Cllr Dorothy Oughton gave the following Police Report:-

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES JANUARY 2020.

HIGHWAYS:

07/01 – Report of a vehicle parked on Appletree Close causing an obstruction. This vehicle was brought up in the last PACT meeting. Civic Enforcement attended and spoke to the driver of the vehicle. PCSO Gregson has visited the site on several occasions but the car has never been in situ. It is believed that the car is still parking there though. Advice has been sought from supervision and they have said that the vehicle is only breaking the law if causing an obstruction. The obstruction would need to be reported as it happens and then officers would attend and deal with each individual incident.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

17/01 – Report of 2 people intruding on the Miller homes construction site. It turned out to be the site manager when officers arrived.

THEFT:

22/01 – Report that a resident of Southfield Close has had 11 charity bags taken off the driveway. They were taken by a male in a van. The actual charity van arrived ten minutes later and confirmed they had not picked them up. This incident has been classified as 'theft' but due to insufficient lines of enquiry, the crime has been closed.

203. Parish Walks

Cllr Forster reported that a walk was being planned for March, when it is hoped the weather will be improved.

Cllr Crisp regaled the meeting with a recent experience he has had with a group of people who participate in 'Walk and Talk'. This is a low profile get-together of individual who go for a walk but use the time to chat to other walkers and encourage community bonding. It was suggested that Cllr Forster may wish to look at this and perhaps incorporate it into her plans.

204. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for January 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable January 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Wylie	103334	Licences	126.41
Hurworth PCC Del newsletters	103335	Newsletter	200.00
Johnstons Trees	103336	Treework	346.50
TCS CAD Cartridges	103337	Printer cartridges	187.18
HCA	103338	Photocopying	98.32
Swarco	103339	Speed monitor repair	449.58

A Iles	103340	Salary	554.18
P D Allan	103341	Salary	702.20
Inland Revenue	103342	PAYE	129.80
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Works Loan Board	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
DBC Fitting defib power cabinet	103343	Defib cabinet power supply	687.00
BT	DD	Communications	155.66
P D Allan	103344	Admin expenses, Consolation registers	159.61

Total expenditure for January 2020

£4,057.36

205. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st January 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The table is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

The Clerk advised the council that a document addressing the adherence to **Governance**, will be circulated to every Councillor, and that a motion will be tabled at the next PC Meeting confirming the Council's adherence.

206. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

Cllr Graham Wylie reported that there were 230 hits on the web site in January. Only one required a response.

Cllr Wylie, once again, urged Councillors and community groups to send information to display on the site; this is necessary to generate interest.

The community notice boards will be getting some posters displayed within the next one week.

207. Association Reports

a. HCA

Cllr Graham Wylie reported that at the January Management Committee meeting, a proposal was passed for the refurbishment of the kitchen. The kitchen passed the hygiene tests for 'casual usage', but it is not up to standard for regular use. Eleven weddings have been booked in for 2020, and well as many other large events, which means that the kitchen must be upgraded.

The cost estimate is circa £5,500. A grant has been applied for; however if the grant application fails, the council may be asked if they will contribute.

The installation of the fire detection system is progressing well. It has meant that our handyman has not been available to do some of the Council's outstanding jobs.

The Management Committee requested the Council to arrange to replace the 3 trees that need planting at the entrance should be planted as soon as the weather permits. Hopefully within the next 2/3 weeks.

Subscriptions have dropped, and HCA are considering ways of encourage the many users of the facilities to pay their annual subscription which is only £5, and £2.50 for senior citizens.

b. Darlington Association of Local Councils

Cllr Hedley reported that she had distributed the Minutes of the DALC meeting to all the HPC Councillors.

- A presentation by Jon Carling, Acting Chief Executive, and Durham Police Crime & Victims Commissioner highlighted the funding proposed for 2020. After ten years of Government decreases, this year the Police will receive an increase, and the Police wish to increase the local Precept, so that they can address the rising incidents of cyber-crime as well as put more officers on the streets. A survey is available on the police web site and the public is urged to participate. The increase in the local Precept that the police wish to get is £10 on a Band A household, and pro-rata for other Band specifications.
- **Steve Walton (Fire Officer for County Durham and Darlington)** made a presentation.
 - The first topic of the presentation looked at the Statuary Risk Assessment plan, which is being piloted at present.
 - All councils are requesting them to get the public to respond to the survey which is being carried out, as part of the evaluation process. Stakeholder input is strongly encouraged.
 - The Financial status for this area is a breakeven budget for this year. The two future years are budgeted at deficits, amounting to £1.5 million over three years.
 - However, the budget planning has been based on a 5 percent funding cut, whereas the actual is now going to be a 2 percent increase.
 - The Fire Service is now controlled and reports to the Home Office; this has proved beneficial.
 - Many statistics were presented, with the conclusion that the new fire station locations, fire engine deployment and 24/ 7 manning where practical, is predicting faster response times. Early results are proving that these predictions are becoming actuality.
 - More emphasis is being placed on visiting vulnerable people, also to removing combustible rubbish, which could create a fire hazard.
 - Multiple false alarms from the same property will incur charges after three false alarm call-outs. These are usually the result of faulty alarm equipment or installation.
 - Please urge your residents to answer the survey, either on-line or written

c. Airport Management Consultancy Committee

Cllr Winnett reported Teesside Airport – New flights have been announced with Eastern Airways that will offer some 37 flights including a link to London City Airport. There has been excellent press coverage on this new development. There will be an Air Show on Sunday 24th May.

The next PC Meeting will be held on Thursday 5th March 2020.

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm