

Hurworth Parish Council

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

Councillors present:-

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

Also in attendance:

5 members of the public.

124. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou,

125. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

126. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public; he reminded everybody that the Council is still in Purdah,

127. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2019 were accepted, Proposed by Cllr Stamp, Seconded by Cllr Ring-Viney, and passed by the meeting until after 12th December

At this point, Cllr Hedley stated that she did not agreed with the comments relating to the Section 106 award, and objected to the council constructing a second playground.

This refers to a question from a resident who was asked to put his query in writing. On 4 Nov the question was submitted by email. The Chairman stated that unfortunately he was unable to answer the query in detail as he was not on the Parish Council at the time of the survey, and will ask the Parish Vice Chair to respond.

The subject relates to the Council's plans for a second playground. The Vice Chair was asked why she is objecting to a second playground, and she responded that she does not want it on the Manorfield.

After an exchange of views, the Chairman drew a halt to the discussion, and stated that the Council will be holding a detailed review, and will consider the; need; and also the most suitable location.

128, Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

- a. Defibrillator Installation** Defibrillator – Croft Unit – DBC will shortly be providing and siting power cabinet on the green area at Croft. Defib unit and storage cabinet have been delivered to Grange. We need to arrange power supply to complete installation.
- b.** One bench has been installed upon Manorfield. The base for the second bench is in place and the installation will be completed within a few days.

129. Public Participation

A resident asked for details of the outcome of the Court Case

The Chair responded,

130. **Court Case report.** The Judgement was issued on 29th November. The Claim against the PC was dismissed in its entirety & costs awarded in favour of PC. The size of any costs award is to be determined by the Judge at a separate Hearing which is unlikely to be determined before the New Year.

The Chairman commended the work of Parish Clerk and all Cllrs past & present in providing crucial evidence over the last two years and attending court appearances.

131. **Planning Applications.** Sam Ring- Viney gave the following report, viz:-

Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
04/11/2019	04/11/2019	19/01030/FUL	48 Friars Pardon HURWORTH DARLINGTON N DL2 2DZ	Erection of extension to rear of garage to facilitate partial conversion to habitable room and erection of replacement porch to front elevation	No objections
25/11/2019	25/11/2019	19/01097/AD V	Field At OSGR E430267 N512371 Roundhill Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON	Display of 1. no non-illuminated tri-board sign	No objections

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

Cllr Foster had performed his usual monthly inspection of the trees in the Parish, and was pleased to report that they are in good order.

The tree in Sanderson Road continues to be of great concern, and despite many request to Phil Haynes, at DBC, they have refused to remove it.

The meeting decided that if DBC does not remove it after a final seven days' notice, then the Parish Council will take it down. There is serious concern that it is a danger to the public.

133 Open Spaces and EPICH.

Cllr Wylie gave the following report:-

Open Spaces Report – December 2019

The Grange ‘All Weather’ Path

Following the completion of the work on the ‘all weather’ path, at the Grange, Urban Eden have completed several inspections and the problem areas have remained free of water/ mud accumulation.

Urban Eden have offered to continue with the any further maintenance, of the path, if and when needed.

Manorfield Benches

A bench has already been installed at the Sycamore Close side of the Manorfield, and a further bench will be installed near to the cut through to Manorfields.

The locations were chosen as they are in nice sheltered and (importantly) sunny positions. It is hoped that they will offer a welcome (and dry) place for people to sit and enjoy the Manorfield whether watching their children and dogs play, or just a nice place for a good natter.

EPICH Report – November 2019

Pocket Parks Grant

At the December EPICH meeting, improvements to Jean’s garden were discussed and it was suggested that we apply to the ‘Pocket Parks’ for a grant to help fund this work; £2000 has already been agreed and allocated by the HPC to fund improvements to Jean’s garden.

To be eligible for a Pocket Parks grant, there are several requirements that an applicant must meet, and as the improvements are to be focused in and around the Grange, Peter Allan kindly offered to apply for the Pocket Park grant through the ‘Hurworth Community Association’.

Initial thoughts and ideas include improvements to the existing outdoor gym equipment, situated near to the Grange play area, as well as improvements to Jean’s garden making it much more accessible and beneficial to the community, along with easy maintenance too; these ideas would satisfy the criteria in being eligible to a Pocket Park grant.

The deadline for grant applications is the 31st December, so I will hopefully be able to provide an update on our success early in the New Year.

Working Party There are several jobs left over from the Autumn and it is hoped, weather permitting, for a working party to meet at 10am on the 3rd January at the Grange; any willing volunteers, hoping to work off any Christmas excess, are welcome to come along to help.

Bug Hotel The hotel has now been fully completed with all the shelves filled with suitable materials for hibernating insects and has been enclosed with a fine mesh chicken wire.

It is hoped that a further 2 bug hotels can be built, to be located at Goblin’s Wood and the Lychgate Orchard; we are open to further site suggestions too, and hoping to include the involvement of local schools/ groups with filling the new bug hotels!

Cllr Wylie reported that the group had discussed the opportunity to make an application for the Pocket Parks grant scheme. The intention would be to embrace the landscaping of Jean’s meadow and purchase equipment to enhance the exercise area. **The Clerk is looking into this.**

Cllr Foster informed the meeting that the plaque at Lych Gate states that the lime has dug from this place. This is incorrect as the lime was taken from the area near Lime Cottage. The Council agreed to move this plaque and place another with details of the farm which used to stand in Lych Gate. Action: **Cllr Foster will provide the text for the new plaque.**

134. **Allotment Report**

Cllr Crisp reported that all the allotments are occupied. One plot had become available and a new tenant has already taken it over.

New Tenancy Agreements will be presented to all tenants for 2020, together with the updated 2019 Rule

135. **Pathways and Rights of Way**

In the absence of Cllr Wedge there was no report.

136. **Playground and Youth Affairs**

Cllr Stamp reported:-

- a. Now that the first house on the Miller Homes estate has been occupied, Bree said that the Section 106 funding should be made available fairly soon. She is continuing to work with the Friends Group and is working on grant opportunities. Bree referred to the Pocket Parks grants which are available, and will discuss this with the Clerk to see whether an application would qualify. **Action Cllr Stamp & Clerk.**
- b. Cllr Stamp has also had discussions with the local Youth Leader, and a further meeting has been arranged. It is hoped that a new direction can be formulated where the youth segment of the village can participate in projects and activities.

137. **Highways and Traffic Report**

Cllr Oughton reported that resident favoured tarmac to replace the grass verges on Emerson Road. Parking is very congested, and the grass verged are now just mud patches. The area from Bryans Close to Sanderson Road is the worst area.

The Chairman reported that we are waiting for the feedback from DBC with regard to the suggested Parking suggestions. This could be added for consideration.

The potholes on the The Green are still a problem. Arrangements have been made to fill the holes, but this is not a long-term solution, just a short-term fix.

1. Speed Watch Two sessions have been held, but bad weather has curtailed more activity.
2. Traffic Cllr Hedley circulated the Traffic statistics, which show a further improvement, with marginal drops in aggregate speed on the internal village roads.

138. **Matters of Interest**

a. **Protocol for QE passing**

The Chairman talked through the arrangements which the council need to make in preparation for the demise of either the Queen or the Duke of Edinburgh. The Council will be making these arrangements, and Parish Clerk to send out text to all Cllrs for use when event occurs.

- b. Speed Monitor at The Birches. The residents from The Birches have again raised their concern about speed control on Strait Lane. The Council has been awaiting a speed monitoring report from DBC, which although promised several times has not come to pass.

[illegible]

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable November 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
			1000.00
All Saints Church Appeal	103309	Church Roof Appeal	0
A C Metals	103310	Skip hire - allotments	240.00
M Harrison	103311	Installing benches	172.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Viesse HP cartridges	103312	Cartridges for HP Printer	115.20
			1500.00
Hurworth Village Hall	103313	Section 137 award	0
MT Print newsletter	103314	Printing Parish Chronicle	601.00
Urban Eden	103315	Pathway maintenance	160.00
M Iles	103316	Litter picker salary	451.55
P D Allan	103317	November salary	702.20
Inland Revenue	103318	PAYE	129.80
HCA	103319	Litter bags	44.40
P D Allan	103320	Admin expenses	63.11
			5181.56
Total expenditure for November 2019			6

The Chairman reported that has been an urgent request from Hurworth Primary PTA for £500 funding. This was to help fund their Xmas functions.

The Chairman asked for ratification from PC, and a motion was tabled by Cllr Ring-Viney and Seconded by Cllr Stamp. The motion was passed unanimously.

143. Financial report

The Financial report to 30th November 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The table is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

144. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

Cllr Wylie reported that there now pictures of the sculpture which is to be placed near Croft Bridge, displayed on the web site.

The web site has a new look and has been enhanced, however more interesting items are required so that it attracts more visitors and access.

145. Association Reports

- a. The Chairman announced the Tees River Authy Forum on 13th Dec at The Grange. All are welcome, he, himself will be attending.
- b. Cllr Foster told the meeting that he had attended the CDALC meeting at Durham County Hall. The full details of the meeting will be distributed by the Clerk when the Minutes are received.

- c. Cllr Hedley has attended the Darlington Association of Local Councils and the Durham Smaller Councils Forum. The Minutes of both meetings are available from the Clerk.

The Chairman wished all present a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year. Next meeting Thursday, 2 January 2020.

The meeting was closed at 8:30pm

