

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 2nd October 2018.

Those present:-

Margaret Williams, Graham Wylie, Elaine Hedley, Peter Foster, Janine Forster, Paul Walters, Dorothy Oughton, Jean Peacock, Mark Middlemiss. Richard Lawley.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 14 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

Nic Prior (At work), Wilma Campbell (In Italy).

The Chair, Paul Walters opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

80. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock - HCA

81. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2018.

The Minutes were accepted, Proposed by Peter Foster and Seconded by Richard Lawley.

82. Public Participation

- a. A resident from Grange Avenue stated that two large trees in the old part of Grange Avenue, outside houses number 1 & 3 and 2&4 were interfering with their properties and also the broadband reception. It was determined that these trees are the responsibility of HPC, and that Peter Foster will visit the site and arrange for the trees to be cut back. **Action Peter Foster**
- b. A resident referred to the item in the Northern Echo regarding an upcoming Court Case involving allotments and asked for more details, please.
The Chairman stated that this refers to a claim raised by Mrs Maureen Powles claiming £10,000 for personal 'Injury to feelings', over the decision the Council had made in regard to the allotment she used to have. Effectively she is claiming that the residents of Hurworth should pay her £10,000 because her feeling have been hurt. The Council has made several overtures to Mrs Powles to appease her but all of these she has rejected. The Council has incurred over £4,000 in legal costs and have received an estimate of further costs of £2,000 for Court fees. The Council has insisted that this is heard in the County Court, so that if the Council wins the case, all costs will be claimed back from Mrs Powles. The Council's specialist lawyers and the National Association of Allotments have both reassured the Council that they have acted in accordance to the allotment rules and are confident that we will win this case.
- c. A resident asked whether Miller Homes will be preserving the hedgerow along their stretch of Roundhill Road. Cllr Kelley said that in the planning regs, the ash tree will be removed, but there has been no request to remove the hedges.

He will investigate further. It appears at present that the only committed entry to the new estate will be a shared entrance with the Bellway estate.

83. Matters Arising

- a. **Outstanding Court Case.** This has been already addressed.
- b. **Village security** Mark Middlemiss reported that he has obtained suitable quotations, which indicate a cost of £420 per camera, and we will require three cameras. The camera to be installed at Neasham Road, Croft Road and Roundhill Road. The insurance has been investigated and is available. Some models of the cameras do not require access to the building, and these may be preferred. Mark will continue with his research. **Action Mark Middlemiss**
- c. **Defibrillators.** A grant has been obtained for part of the cost of the unit which the Council is to purchase, while the second unit will be funded by the Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust. A quotation has been obtained and the overall cost including a cabinet and installation will be circa £1200. DBC have been requested to allow HPC to install this unit on the lamppost near the Otter and Fish and to use the power from the lamppost.
- d. **Subsidence Claim.** The tree report has been received from our arborists and forward to Zurich for their attention. The matter is now being handled by Zurich Insurance Company.

84. **Planning Report.** Richard Lawley reported as follows:-

PLANNING NOTES				
Date	Reference	Address	Description	Notes
28/09/2018	18/00914/CON	2 Croft Meadows Croft Road DARLINGTON DL2 2SD	Approval Of Details Reserved By Condition 3 (External Materials) And 4 (Window Details) Attached To Planning Permission 18/00534/Lbc Dated 4 September 2018 (Listed Building Consent For The Erection Of A Single Storey Side Extension To Form Bedroom/Shower	
24/09/2018	18/00894/PDTF	16 Friars Pardon HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2DZ	Tree Preservation Order/Conservation Area Enquiry	Someone adding a tree to their property, permission not required.

12/09/2018	18/00843/TFC	7 Croft Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2HD	Works To Trees Protected Under Tree Preservation Order (No 4) 1968 (Woodland 3) - Felling Of 4 No. Pine Trees	Tree felling/Pruning in conservation area. HPC already approved this.
10/09/2018	18/00831/ADV	The Tawny Owl Neasham Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON DL2 1QE	Display Of 1 No. Double Sided Timber Post Illuminated Sign, 3 No. Set Of Sign Written Housename Letters, 1 No. Double Sided Timber Post With Double Sided Panel, 1 No. Single Sided Aluminium Car Park Sign, 1 No. Signwtritten Logo Plus Lighting (4 No. Up/Do	From the pictures I can see nothing to object to, seems very much in keeping with the current style of The Tawny Owl
06/09/2018	18/00822/TFC	55 The Green HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2JA	Notification To Carry Out Works To Trees In A Designated Conservation Area - Felling Of 5 No. Lawson Cypress Trees; Felling Of 6 No. Apple Trees; Prune 2 No. Apple Trees; Prune 1 No. Sycamore Tree; Prune 1 No. Ash Tree; Prune 1 No. Oak Tree	Trees are dead or in bad condition where being removed. Pruning required to help trees to thrive.

85. Neighbourhood Plan. Richard Lawley reported as follows:-

The draft plan has now been vetted and accepted by the Council. The appendices are to be scanned and added to the document.

The full draft document will be sent to DBC for them to make the following assessments.

- Meanwhile we need to prepare a small brochure which will summarise the Plan and this will be distributed to every residence in the Parish. **Action Richard Lawley.**
- There will be a six week period for residents to peruse and comment on the Plan.
- A public meeting will be held before the end of this year, when the Plan will be presented and comments invited.
- The final Plan is expected to be completed by 31st December and submitted to DBC for their approval.
- DBC will hold a Referendum, hopefully in February, requiring a Yes or No vote for acceptance of the Plan.

86. Tree Report

Peter Foster reported that all the trees on the Green have now been treated and their canopy levels heightened.

A tree in Emerson Road is leaning badly, and he recommends that this should be felled as soon as possible. The Council agreed. **Action Peter Foster.**

The tree surveys have been completed and will be available to the council this week.

The planting of the two oak trees at Manorfield is awaiting action by Johnston Tree Surgeons; the order has been submitted to them.

87. Highways Report. Margaret Williams reported:-

a. Highways

Monitor - Roundhill Rd incoming

50,800 vehicles

% over 30 mph limit 13.9% Average speeder 33.0 mph

Max speed recorded 60 mph on 2/9/2018@19.30 hrs

Monitor -Hurworth Rd incoming opposite the Academy

80,452 vehicles

% over 30 mph limit 42.7% Average speeder 33.3 mph

Max speed recorded 75 mph on 3/9/2018 @ 00.15 hrs

Monitor Lindon Court incoming- A167
127,554 vehicles
% over 30 mph limit 27.0% Average speeder 33.4 mph
Max speed recorded 60 mph on 13/9/2018 @ 00.15 hrs

Same trends are showing as previous months - outside the Academy giving the highest readings and main concerns!

Please note that the position of the 30 mph speed limit signs on Roundhill Road are going to be moved and the 30 mph restrictions will extend past the Bellway building site. This restriction will begin on 8th October and last for 18 months

- b. **SpeedWatch** Elaine Hedley reported that two sessions had been carried out in September. Other sessions were not appropriate due to the bad weather. The sessions were carried out on Croft Road and Roundhill Road. A high number of vehicles were travelling at between 38 and 39 mph, and these have been logged.

88. Matters of Interest

- a. **Social Media Policy.** Elaine Hedley referred to the CDALC Policy document which she had circulated to all councillors at the September meeting. Elaine moved that this recommended policy be adopted by HPC. Mark Middlemiss said that this particular document was not appropriate to HPC as we were operating without a Facebook or Twitter site. It was agreed that the council should implement a Social Media Policy, and that Mark and Elaine would get together to modify the genetic CDALC policy to better suit to needs of HPC.
Action Elaine Hedley/Mark Middlemiss
- b. **Hurworth Country Fair 2018.** The Chairman commented that this year's Fair had been excellent and well attended. The Fair had raised approximately £10,000, which will be shared between Hurworth Community Association and St Teresa's Hospice. He complimented and thanks all the councillors and members of the public who had assisted in this venture. Peter Foster added his praise saying that feedback has been very good and that our Fair is now taking the place of the large event which DBC used to host in South Park.
- c. **Saxon remains.** The Chairman stated that members of the Council and residents of Westfield Drive had been invited to visit the Bellway site and view the Saxon remains. Durham University has performed a six-week survey of the site and logged their findings. Arrangements have been initiated for Hurworth to take possession of part of the remains and to create an attraction, to display our history.
- d. Paul Walters introduced his suggestion that Hurworth should have a welcome to Hurworth plaque at the village entrance at Croft Road. He distributed suggested plaques from which we could design our own. The council fully supported this recommendation, and suggested that there should be four plaques, one at each of the village road entrances. It was agreed that Paul will undertake further research on this project. **Action Paul Walters**

- e. **Village Clean-Up.** Dorothy Oughton reported that the date for the Clean-Up has been postponed until 27th October, people to meet at the Green at 10:00am, equipment will be provided. **Action Dot Oughton**

89. **Newsletter.** Elaine Hedley reported that the newsletter is almost complete, and just waiting for a few last articles and pictures.

90. **Police Report.** Graham Wylie reported as follows:-

Crime Figures Hurworth, September

Theft

01/09 – Hurworth Road – Theft of a chicken shed

16/09 – Hurworth Road – Theft of building materials from Yorvik Homes building site

ASB

04/09 – Croft Road – High volume of fly-tipping – reported to the street scene who will deal

24/09 – Blackwell Golf Club – suspicious vehicle parked on the carpark and left the place leaving a lot of small bottles behind – believed to be illegal highs – this is being looked into

28/09 - Rockliffe Hall/MFC grounds – youths causing some ASB near the AstroTurf – refused to leave when challenged by the security on site – youths left on police arrival

Criminal Damage

26/09 – Rockliffe Hall/MFC grounds – damage to the fencing around the pitch

Suspicious

07/09 – Church Row – suspicious vehicle driving up and down the road (large Peugeot in blue)

08/09 – Ashville Drive – two males acting suspiciously around the allotments – area search no trace

21/09 – Woodlands Way – Males going door to door asking if some vehicles are up for sale (even though not advertised to be for sale)

Animals/Wildlife

09/09 – Roundhill Road area – report of a stray dog – area search no trace for the dog

10/09 – Believed to be the same dog has been caught and RSPCA dealt with the situation.

29/09 – Skipbridge garage – stray dog – no trace of the dog, however the caller possibly knows who the owner is – owner to be contacted

91. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment having been distributed to all councillors has accepted by the meeting.

Accounts for Payment as at 30th September 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HGSC Buffet	103101	Parish walks BBQ	80.00
Peter Foster Expenses	103102	CDALC meeting	36.60
Phil Dodsworth lawn mower	103103	Allotment mower	70.00
Phil Dodsworth grass cutting	103104	Strait Lane allotments	267.10
Paul Walters honorarium	103105	Honorarium	100.00
G. Johnston	103106	Treework, Hawkswood & surveys	3352.50
Rochester Plumbing boilers	103107	Hurworth Grange boilers	10800.00
K. Sandick insurance	103108	Insurance - car park work	101.00
M Harrison	103109	Open spaces work	155.00
Bob Iles	103110	Salary	372.65
P.D Allan	103111	Salary	691.20
Inland revenue	103112	PAYE	198.80
P.D Allan Expenses	103113	Admin expenses	117.31
HCA	103114	Neighbourhood Plan printing	222.14
HCA	103115	Photocopying and newsletter	97.12
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Total Expenditure for September 2018			16663.72

92. Financial Report as at 30th June 2018

The Financial report, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The Detailed Report is in the Minutes Annexe, and on the web site under 'Financial Reports'.

93. Web Site and Guest Book - Mark Middlemiss reported that there has been 76 hits on the web site in the last month.

He has put details of the Halloween Part on Facebook and received sale of 80 tickets the same evening and a further 40 the following day. This is now a sell-out.

Everything is booked for the event, which will be free to all who attend. Mark requested that the Council extends the budget by £200 so that a Children's Entertainer or animal balloon entertainer can be booked. The Council agreed unanimously.

Mark said that he was disappointed that some of the Community notices had not been put up in the notice boards and emphasised that he needed more information about future events and should be given the details four weeks in advance. He also said that having spent £45 on a Facebook promotion for the Fair, we had 53,000 hits!

94. **Allotment Report** -- Graham Wylie reported:-

One allotment was reported as overgrown, and the Chairman of the Allotment Committee, David Crisp has spoken to the tenant. The lawn mower has been returned to Hurworth Grange and the second mower for Strait Lane has been purchased for £70. A skip has been booked for 26th October at Strait Lane and a second skip will be booked for 9th November.

It has been agreed that a supply of manure will be held near plat 1a, so that the tractor need not drive through the allotment and break up the internal pathway.

David Crisp reported that a brick had been thrown at the greenhouse on plot 10a, breaking four window panes and damaging the framework.

95. **Parish Walks** - Janine Forster reported:-

Two walks had been arranged in July and August.

96. **Association Reports**

Peter Foster has attended the CDALC meeting in Durham, all the details will be circulated through the Parish Clerk.

The Chair referred to a letter from Derek Dodswell regarding the non-attendance of council representatives at the Darlington Association of Parish Councils. The last meeting had to be abandoned due to having no quorum.

The Chair made it clear that Association representatives have a responsibility to attend the meetings and should make arrangements for a substitute to attend in their absence, or in the worst case at least put in their apology.

The letter asked whether this Association should continue. After discussion the Chair asked for a volunteer to be the representative, and Elaine Hedley offered to accept this role. The Council agreed.

97. **Parish Walks.** Janine Forster reported that the next walk will be on 21st September starting at 3:00pm at Snipe Lane entrance.

98. **Association Reports.**

Peter Foster confirmed that he will be attending the CDALC AGM at Durham County Hall later this month.

99. **Any Other Business (Non-Financial)**

- a. Dorothy Oughton reported a broken bollard on Coach Lane. **Action clerk will investigate.** Also there is no bottom on the litter bin near Pond House. **Action Clerk.** Also please chase up the request for a litter bin between the Spar shop and Hurworth Grange. **Action Clerk.**

- b. Mark Middlemiss suggested that the Grange building should have a 'spring clean'. Although the superficial areas are clean and tidy, the more remote parts, high areas, windows etc need a blitz. He suggested that commercial cleaners are contracted to carry out a clean-up. The Chairman of HCA said that he welcomed this suggestion, provided the council would pay for the work. It was agreed that three quotations will be obtained, prior to a decision being made.
- c. Mark Middlemiss said that he was concerned that one of the councillors was not fully participating in the tasks and workload of the council. He felt that all councillors who were elected by the residents should pull their weight. Several councillors said that the councillor named did participate and did work at the allotments to keep them tidy and functional and clearing the public footpath at the edge of the allotments. Peter Foster stated that Councillors needed to attend a number of Council Meetings as their obligation, although other tasks were not a commitment.
- d. Graham Wylie said that he has now finalised the arrangements with Hurworth Academy for the use of the bus, and the insurance has been paid. The service will start on Thursday 25th October and be available every Thursday evening. The schedule will be as follows:-
 - 5:50pm Pick up at Hurworth Fisheries
 - 5:55pm Pick up at the Mustard Tree
 - 6:00pm Pick up at the Comet Inn.

The return will be Pick up at Grange Road, Darlington at 10:00pm.

The details will be posted on the HPC web site, and reservations should be made in advance, as the minibus is limited to 14 persons. Wheelchairs cannot be accommodated, due to the limitations of the bus

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:25pm

