

Hurworth Parish Council

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

Parish Councillors present:-

All the Councillors were made aware of, and had the opportunity, to contribute to this first Virtual Council Meeting. The Council comprise the following Councillors:-

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 Bree Stamp, Cllr Joyce Wedge, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Graham Wylie.

Also

Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk)

230. Apologies for Absence:

None

231. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

232. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett, opened the meeting.

Welcome to our drastically changed world. The UK is now abiding by the most stringent rules of behaviour ever.

Our village has suffered and recovered from pandemics before. The Black Death devastated the village in the 1600's. At that time there were no phones, internet, broadband, TV, wireless, Skype and self-help groups. We should be thankful for the helpful modern day amenities that we have in these crisis days that we can use to help those afflicted.

May I thank all the local volunteers who are looking after the needs of the old, infirm and disadvantaged. The better side of human nature is coming to the fore.

Parish and Annual General meetings & newsletters are currently postponed. Please use the Parish website to keep up to date with current events.

Stay at home & keep safe.

233. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2020 were accepted by the Chairman and endorsed by Cllr Dorothy Oughton.

234. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

- a. **Broadband** – Our letter of complaint has had recognition from our MP and Tees Valley Combined Authority. The issue of roll-out is under review but no positive news as yet.
- b. **Defibrillators** – We look to re-site the third defibrillator at the Mustard Tree in the near future. A better location where the unit can be well placed, if necessary, to save the elderly clients of the Mustard Tree when it is back in operation. Agreement with the church is expected by 10th April.

235. Public Participation

As this was a Virtual meeting, there was no public representation.

Most questions which raised at the last meeting are answered within these Minutes under their appropriate headings.

236. Playground Planning Working Party Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

Due to the Virus lock-down it had not been possible to hold any meetings. It has been decided by the Group, and agreed by the Council, that this project should be postponed until the current crisis abates.

237. Hurworth Youth Project

At the last PC Meeting the Council agreed, with a formal motion, that a Section 137 Award would be made to support the proposal made by Mr Stand. However, the Youth Club has been closed until further notice, and the Council has agreed to postpone the payment of £2620 until the Youth Club reopens.

238. Planning Applications.

Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report:-

HPC Planning applications 05/03-02/04		
Reference	Received	Validated
20/00196/FUL	09/03/2020	17/03/2020
Address		
Land at Neesham Road & Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON		
Proposal		
Hybrid application for demolition of existing farmhouse and outbuildings and erection of 305 dwellings, including 150 affordable dwellings, with associated landscaping; access and parking (in detail) and up to 144 affordable dwellings with all matters reserved apart from access (in outline)		
Comments		
None		

Reference	Received	Validated
20/00211/ful	12/03/2020	20/03/2020
Address		
19 Belgrave Terrace HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2DW		
Proposal		
Conversion of Office (Use Class B1) to 2 No. three bed dwellings (Use Class C3) including repositioning and alterations to windows and doors and new hipped roof over existing flat roof.		
Comments		

None		
Reference	Received	Validated
20/00236/FUL	19/03/2020	31/03/2020
Address		
The Wheelhouse Hilton House Farm Neasham Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2BA		
Proposal		
Erection of greenhouse in rear garden		
Comments		
None		

Reference	Received	Validated
20/00210/OUT	11/03/2020	11/03/2020
Address		
Land West Of Roundhill Road Roundhill Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON		
Proposal		
Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except access for residential development of circa 175 dwellings		
Comments		
Eight separate comments with Objects only.		

No decision should be made on this application until the current Coronavirus situation has been resolved & any relevant public planning meetings are able to go ahead. At the 2019 public consultation on the Local Plan held at The Grange, Hurworth, the residents of Hurworth were promised by the architect of the Local Plan that no more developments of this size would be given planning permission in Hurworth . This statement was given to urge residents to agree to the Local Plan & aid its progress.

In response to several resident's queries and for general interest, the Council, through our Ward Councillor Tostevin, asked the Head of Planning at DBC to make a definitive statement, which could help us to clarify the Outline Planning Application made to construct 175 house on Roundhill Road.

We received this statement from the Head of Planning, Viz:-

The site in question is located outside of the established housing development boundaries for the Borough of Darlington and is classified as Countryside. As the Council can demonstrate a healthy 5 year supply of housing permissions, there is no need to consider sites such as this one as a development site at this time. Furthermore the Council is moving forward with a new Local Plan which it hopes to have in place late this year. The plan does not include this site as an identified site for development for the foreseeable future .

We hope that this statement will satisfy any queries on this subject.

239. Tree Report

No report was submitted

240. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

a. Open Spaces Report –April 2020

The Heritage Orchard has been pruned under the supervision of Cllr Foster, and is looking in good shape.

The contract for the maintenance of the Grange pathway has been postponed, and the Grange staff will monitor it.

b. EPICH Report –April 2020

A meeting was held on 11th March, salient points recorded included:-

Extracts from the EPICH Meeting:-

New / Ongoing Projects - Pat Simpson

~ **Jean's Garden** - £2000 available in HPC budget for landscaping. There was discussion in the meeting regarding this and the general feeling is that EPICH doesn't have the knowledge or expertise or man/woman power to undertake this. It was suggested that members might wish to approach various garden centres and ask for free advice.

It was also suggested that a meeting with the HPC might be useful to understand what they are hoping to do with the area. Peter Allan will ask for definite ideas from the council.

~ **Lychgate Tidy Up** - on Tuesday 7th April at 1.30

Wilma Cambell will leaflet the residents to see if there are any volunteer helpers.

Cllr Peter Foster would like to replace the tree smothered in ivy on the grass "island" at the front of Lychgate with a non fruiting pear tree.

~ **Bulbs "in the green"** - Judith Redfern.

This has been temporarily put on hold because of the potential referendum on the green spaces and second play area but the meeting decided to go ahead with the plan to plant along the footpath past the primary school between Westfield Dr and Roundhill Rd. This area is owned and maintained by DBC, Pat Simpson will contact Street Scene to see if there are any problems/objections.

~ **Bee Report** - Tony Needham

Unfortunately we have lost one hive. This is in line with general expected winter losses.

The Bee Group think this is down to possibly the hive didn't have enough numbers to maintain themselves or the Queen could have failed during the winter meaning that no replacement eggs/bees were being laid/born.

However the other hives and one in particular appear strong and the bees are often to be seen out on sunny, milder days. The Bee Group are considering a spring treatment for varroa and Pat will research the available information.

241. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp reported that the one vacant allotment has now been taken.

The allotments are open at both Hurworth Grange and Strait Lane, and plot holders are encouraged to take advantage of the lock-down, to get exercise at the allotments.

All allotment holders. Registered Helpers and visitors must adhere to the Government rules and keep well apart, and there should be no more than two people on any one site.

242. Pathways and Rights of Way

A number of pathway repairs are still awaiting attention, and they will be addressed as soon as resources can be assigned.

The designated pathways are all open, and now that the rain has stopped they have become accessible.

Residents are encouraged to walk the pathways, and report any blockages or problems that they encounter.

Remember no more than two people together, no groups, and keep your distance, please.

243. Playground and Youth Affairs

The schools and all youth club facilities are closed for the foreseeable future.

244. Highways and Traffic Report

1. Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported that a number of tasks are still outstanding and will be addressed as soon as resources are available.

a. Dog Bins

DBC has informed the Council that dog bins will not be emptied during the crisis, due to lack of resources.

This means that dog owners must pick up, and take home their dog bags.

Cllrs Graham and Cllr Lynn Wylie have locked down all the bins and placed notices on them and at other locations, requesting dog walkers to heed the council's request to be responsible and 'pick up and take home'.

b. Speed Watch

Due to the lock down, no sessions were held.

2. **Traffic**

The volume of traffic since the lock down has dropped dramatically. Also is noted that, with a few exceptions, the speed levels have also dropped. There is a general lack of urgency.

245. Matters of Interest

a. Parish Logo.

Would all Councillors please submit their designs to the Chairman, and encourage any residents to submit suggestions.

The closing date for submissions will be 30th April 2020.

b. Risk Assessment

The updated Annual Risk Assessment has been updated and circulated to all Councillors. This document forms part of the Governance declaration, and is a mandatory document. All Councillors are required to accept the document and have been requested to contact the Clerk if they have any queries or are not prepared to accept the wording.

246. Police Report

Cllr Oughton submitted the following Police Report:-

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES MARCH 2020.

HIGHWAYS:

02/03 – Parking issue reported again on Hawkswood. Officer attended but no obstruction at the time. Officer has sent a referral to the Civic Enforcement team for them to assess the situation.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

09/03 – A resident on Lychgate has reported a male going door to door selling fish products, but did not show any I.D. Description given as white male approximately early 30's with mousey brown hair. Please be aware and ring the police if you are approached.

BURGLARY:

16/03 – A resident on Friars Pardon reported that overnight, someone has attempted to gain entry into the garage by removing tiles off the roof. This was an unsuccessful attempt and was recorded as attempt burglary. There have been no lines of enquiry as there were no witnesses and no CCTV. This crime has been closed, but can be reopened if any evidence comes to light.

VEHICLE THEFT:

24/03 - Report of a vehicle being taken from Pilmore Mews. Officers have attended and confirmed a crime of vehicle theft. This is an ongoing investigation.

26/03 – Report of a vehicle being taken from The Green. Officers have attended and confirmed a crime of vehicle theft. This is an ongoing investigation.

Cllrs Amanda Oughton and Cllr Dorothy Oughton have contact numbers for the police, and residents can contact them if they have difficulty in connecting with the police departments.

247. Parish Chronicle

The April edition of the Chronicle has been postponed, as distribution would be difficult and not recommended in the current circumstances.

248. Parish Walks

Parish walks have been put on hold, in accordance with the Government crowd restrictions.

249. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for March 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors has been accepted as no Councillors has raised a query.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable March 2020			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
T Winnett	103356	Printer cartridges	31.50
G Wylie	103357	Posters	10.00
HCA	103358	Photocopying	36.00
Darlington Youth works	103359	Cheque withheld	0.00
HCA Country Fair award	103360	Section 137 Award	2000.00
P Walters	103361	Travelling Expenses	31.72
EPICH	103362	Section 137 Award	500.00
HCA Kitchen award	103363	Project funding	4000.00
Hurworth Village Hall Outdoor Concert	103364	Cheque withheld	0.00
HCA Newsletter	103365	Newsletter	60.00
David Parker	103366	Open Spaces work 12 month	486.00
Graham Wylie	103367	Posters	20.16
A Iles	103368	Salary	451.55
Inland Revenue	103369	PAYE	129.80
P D Allan	DD	Salary	702.20
M Harrison	103370	Pothole materials and work	195.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Comms	DD	Communication Expenses	156.72
Total Expenses for March 2020			8812.95

Please note:-

1. The Section 137 Award to the Hurworth Village Hall to sponsor the annual Outdoor Concert has been withheld, as this function is unlikely to be staged this year.
2. The section 137 Award to Darlington Youth work group has been withheld. As the Youth Club has been closed for the foreseeable future.

250. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st March 2020 having been circulated to all Councillors, and there being no queries, is deemed to have been accepted.

The formal Annual Accounts have now been prepared and will be submitted to the Internal Auditor in mid-April.

The Management report for March 2020 is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

251. Project Review 2020

The Council is entering into a new financial year starting 1st April, so a review of the Projects scheduled for implementation has been carried out.

It is appropriate, at this time, to report to the residents a Schedule of the Projects.

Projects Report 2020-2021

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
1	Second playground or playground upgrade	Upgrade of Grange playground. Dependent upon Section 106 funding	0
2	EPICH projects	Awarded on project basis	1000
3	Neighbourhood Plan	Completion of the Plan	400
4	Parking notices and actions	Actions coming for the Parking Work Group awaiting DBC consultation report.	500
5	Halloween Community Event	in Section 137 Support for PTA event	500
6	Firework Display at HACSA	in Section 137 Support for HACSA event	750
7	Village History Plaque	Design and install history plaque 3 Plaques	1400
8	Additional benches	Three new benches to be installed.	900
9	Defib units	Rogers Trust funded another unit £2085 received	0
10	Welcome to Hurworth	Dependent upon Bellway support	0
11	Exercise Equipment	and Playground upgrade	2500
12	Scarecrow Festival	in Section 137	
13	Speed Monitor pole at Birches	Awaiting DBC approval and supply	1200
14	Installation of number plate recognition units (2)	Abandoned - too expensive at this time	0
15	River clean up - Giant Hogweed & Himalayan Balsam	Support Tees River Trust	1000
16	Petaque court at Hurworth Grange	Second court, half funded by Rogers Trust	650
17	Web site upgrades		500
18	Bike trail on Priory field		500
19	Change of logo and flag		200
20	Landscaping of area of Grange woodland.		2000
	Total		£14,000

This agreed Project schedule will be reflected in the next Financial Report, within the

252. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

The website has improved further over the last month, as it has been linked to Facebook, to work together between the residents and the councillors. A lot of residents didn't know about the Parish Council's site, and realise there's information about walks, meeting groups, the Parish Minutes etc.

The notice boards have been used for good effect, advertising the help available from volunteers that are willing to shop, or pick up needy items for the vulnerable, or people that are self isolating. Liv Baker has set up a fantastic group of volunteers, and can be contacted on 07801560498

livbaker73@gmail.com

There has been one message from an angry resident in the comments section, and this probably happened Friday 20th March.

Just to let you know I have just walked up Westfield Drive to find someone has stolen all but three of the wallflowers from the planter under the noticeboard. They'll be nothing to replace them with for a while. How can people be so selfish and spoil other people's enjoyment of what was a lovely display that has survived all winter and were just beginning to really come into their own.

Sometimes I really despair of the society we live in

253. Association Reports

Due to the Government instructions all Association and Group meetings have been cancelled.

1. **HCA** The AGM was cancelled at the last minute, and it is envisaged that the 2019 Management Committee will continue until a Virtual Meeting is convened.
 - Hurworth Grange is now locked down, but all the tenants still have access and can carry on their businesses.
 - There will be one staff member in the premises every weekday between 10:30am and 12:30noon.
 - The Grange Bar is closed.
 - The annual Classic Car Rally has, sadly after 14 years, been cancelled for this year, due to the lock down.
2. **HACSA** The Association is in lock down, and all sports events, including practice sessions have been cancelled.

These Minutes have been approved by the Chainman
Cllr Tony Winnett on 5th April 2020

