

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 5th July 2018.

Those present:-

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

Also in attendance:

Cllr Joe Kelley, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 7 members of the public.

41. The Chair, Paul Walters opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public. He reminded the Councillors that there will not be a meeting in August, as it is the annual holiday break.
The Chair congratulated EPICH and Nigel Goddard on the installation of the planters located under the community notice boards. There have been many positive comments regarding their appearance.
The Chair drew attention to the Training Schedule which was released by CDALC this week, and requested Councillors to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend any of the courses.

42. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock - HCA
Wilma Campbell - HCA and EPICH
Nic Prior – Allotment holder

43. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2018.

The Minutes were accepted, Proposed by Dorothy Oughton and Seconded by Margaret Williams.

44. Matters Arising

- a. **Outstanding Court Case.** The Chair updated the meeting with the status of this outstanding Court case whereby Mrs Maureen Powles is taking the Parish Council to court demanding £10,000 for 'injury to feelings', regarding her eviction from the Council's allotments.
The Council is defending the claim, and the Council's lawyers have completed the legal questionnaire and are insisting that the case is heard in the higher court, under the Fast Track option. The court fees, on both sides will be high, but the Council will claim all the costs back from Mrs Powles, once the case is heard. The Council's case has already been prepared and is with the lawyers awaiting a Court date. The Council is following the lawyer's advice and guidance.
The Chair has been contacted by Mrs Powles' legal representative, who was involved in the early stages of the allotment dispute, and has advised the Council that he has no further involvement with Mrs Powles and is not representing her, nor having any part in the Court Claim against the Council; he wishes the Council to be aware of this.

- b. **Speed trailer Art Exhibition.** Mark Middlemiss reported that the trailer exhibition is now complete and will be displayed at various locations in the villages.
- c. **Parking Notices.** Mark Middlemiss distributed the new notices to Councillors. These can be used to highlight parking misdemeanours, and it is hoped to better address that problems the Parish is suffering from indiscriminate parking of vehicles and vehicle congestion.
- d. **Miller Homes.** A meeting has been convened for 10th July at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish office. All Councillors are invited.

45. Public Participation

A resident raised his concern that the 'No Dogs' notices have been removed from the church gates. He pointed out that a number of dog owners let their dogs loose in the church grounds and that they debase the graves and dirty the church grounds. The Chairman responded that although the church requested the notices to try to curb this unsavoury practice, the Head Church Warden demanded that they be taken down, as they may deter people from visiting the church. Mr Askew requested that the Council write to the church expressing resident concern that appropriate action is not being taken to quell this disgusting practice of dog fouling in sacred areas. Mark Middlemiss supported Mr Askew's request and the Clerk was asked to write to the Church Wardens. **Action Clerk**

46. Planning Applications – Jean Peacock reported:-

Planning Report – 5th JULY 2018

18/00472/TF	West Wing, 4 Blind Lane	Works to TPO Trees crown lift, pruning a clearance zone around BT line.
18/00460/RMI	Banks site Roundhill Road	(17/01194/OUT) reserved matters.
18/00537/CON	Newbus Grange	Approval of condition (18/0043/LBC).
18/00534/LBC	2 Croft Meadows, Croft Road	Erection of a single storey sider extension for Bedroom/shower room.
18/00530/LBC	9 The Green	Demolition of existing conservatory to the rear and replace with single storey oak framed orangery extension.
8/00529/FUL	9 The Green	As above.

18/00563/CON

Priory School

Condition 3 attached to 18/00144/LBC.

18/00533/Ful

7 Roundhill Road

Removal of existing roof, replace with new steeper pitched

Roof to include rear gable elevation and a new

Dormer window.

Croft House-- removal of front fence and have levelled ground so dangerous fence as at last gone.

47. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party - Richard Lawley reported:-

The Housing Needs Assessment has been completed, and a letter prepared by Chris Pipe has been submitted to the DBC Housing Plan consultation team.

Richard and Nigel Goddard attended a meeting addressing the Value of the Neighbourhood Plan. A finalised and adopted Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into consideration when DBC make planning decisions in the future, once our Plan has been accepted in the Referendum. Protected areas include places of beauty, historic buildings and areas considered for preserving the character of the village.

The Plan is taking shape with Nigel Goddard taking on the bulk of the work to bring it to completion.

Nic Prior is presently compiling the section embracing the social and community facilities and amenities in the Parish.

The grant for £3,200 should be in our bank by 10th July.

A small brochure has been compiled which sets out summaries of the findings of the Parish Survey. These will be distributed to various locations in the villages, for residents to pick up and take away.

48. Tree Report - Peter Foster reported:-

He has inspected the tree in Emerson Road which is causing problems with telephone lines. It is affecting 5 telephone lines and the tree requires urgent pruning. The Council agreed for Peter Foster to arrange for the work to be carried out.

The two oak trees to be planted on the Manorfield; this work has been postponed until the current spell of very hot weather has abated.

The tree surveys will be completed in time for the next HPC meeting in September.

The lime trees which need attention on the Green; work has been postponed until the weather and the timing is more suitable.

There is a dead tree on the Manorfield near the pathway to Lime Cottage. **Clerk to report this to DBC to have it removed.**

49. Open Spaces Report Wilma Campbell reported:-
OPEN SPACES/ EPICH

DBC have responded to the letter sent last month asking them for a meeting to discuss wildlife friendly features to be included in housing developments within the Parish. Initially we have been directed to peruse Darlington Borough Draft Local Plan 2016-2036 as the main method for consultation responses are either online or on the official comments form. The consultation period ends at 5pm, Thursday 2nd August 2018. HPC will be submitting their recommendations from both the Open Spaces and Environmental perspectives.

There has been no response yet from Bellway.

There has been positive feedback from the community about the completed planters underneath the Parish notice boards situated on three approach roads into the village. Three members of EPICH have volunteered to water the plants. As a result of this floral display a request has been received for creating similar ones at the Village Hall behind the railings on each side of the entrance door.

This was agreed at the meeting. **Clerk to speak to Village Hall Committee and make suitable arrangements.**

Repairs to the village benches are still ongoing.

The War Memorial has been tidied up and replanted.

Due to DBC cutbacks it is noticeable there are certain green areas of the village that can look unkempt. As the village hosts more and more events encouraging many people to come and visit our community, I would suggest that the Council invest in a suitable grass cutter that could be used to do a quick tidy up to ensure the village always looks its best for residents and visitors.

A hardly used, second hand grass cutter is available for £350 and I propose that the Council purchase this.

Wilma Campbell proposed that the council purchase this sit-on lawn mower for £350, Seconded by Margaret Williams, the vote was 11 in favour and 1 against.

Cllr Joe Kelley informed that meeting that DBC are considering a collection service to collect garden waste. He will report further at the next meeting.

50. Highways - Margaret Williams reported:-

Hurworth Road incoming

Total no vehicles 83,347

Ave speeder 33.4 m.p.h -% over 30 m.p.h.limit 45%

Max speed 80 m.p.h. on 4/6/2018 @ 22.15

Roundhill Road incoming
Total no vehicles 53,618
Ave speeder 33.4 m.p.h.- % over 30 m.p.h. limit 14.7%
Max speed 65 m.p.h. on 5/6/2018 @ 18.30

Linden Court incoming
Total no vehicles 136,789
Ave speeder 33.4 m.p.h -% over 30 m.p.h. limit 31%
Max speed 70 m.p.h. on 2/6/2018 @ 1.45

Results show the same trends as other months - Hurworth Road opposite the Academy is the site which causes the most concerns.

Ron Hogg, Chief Police Commissioner, has been contacted regarding the continual problems with loose horses on Neasham Road and has responded that the owners of the horses will be contacted and attempts will be made to solve this dangerous problem. Ron Hogg will also be attending the Hurworth Country Fair on 15th September to discuss any issues raised by residents.

Defibrillators

Following earlier discussions, a suitable model of defibrillator, which is lamppost mounted has been identified. Sadberg PC have deployed such a unit. A quotation of two units has been obtained, total cost £2850 plus VAT. Based on this, the Clerk was asked to apply for a grant from Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust, who have expressed an interest. **Action Clerk.**

Elaine Hedley reported that four SpeedWatch sessions were carried out in June. The worst area for speeding offenders is on the main road near Elmfield Drive, where 17 offenders have been reported to the police, and will receive letters.

51. Matters of Interest

a. Hurworth Grange boilers - Jean Peacock reported that the HCA planned to install the new boilers in August.

b. Scarecrow Festival – Bree Stamp gave a report to the meeting that nearly 70 entries have been received. Maps with locations will be available from Hurworth Village Hall from 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 7th July. Refreshments will be available at the Village Hall and at Hurworth Grange. Paul Walters will be awarding the prizes for the best scarecrows at 5:00pm at Hurworth Grange.

The meeting conveyed their thanks and congratulation to Bree, for her fantastic effort in arranging this event.

c. Village security.

Peter Foster expressed concern that since PC John Angus left the village, there is very little police presence. He suggested that the Parish Council should engage a Security Company to enhance the security and help to address some of the inherent problems, such as:-

- Cars parking on the pavements and causing an obstruction

- Dog poo culprits
- Traffic calming
- Parking outside the Spar shop and Otter and Fish Inn
- Farm watch
- Skipbridge area concerns about loose horses

To this list, Mark Middlemiss added that the major problems are encountered on Friday evenings, mainly from youths and the Youth Club activities. Jean Peacock expressed her concerns about the cost of these services.

After considerable discussion a motion was tabled by Peter Foster, seconded by Nic Prior, that 'The Council should make a detailed specification for the work required and obtain some quotations to move ahead with this recommendation'

d. Grange Car Park – Mark Middlemiss had prepared a design for the new Grange car park. He passed the design around the meeting and the suggested lay-out will now be passed to the HCA Management Committee for their review.

e. Verges - Mark Middlemiss stressed the dangers of the overgrown verges on Strait Lane and Roundhill Road. The grass is so long that pedestrian can no longer walk safely on either route. Neasham Road is equally bad and the grass is now making the actual road very narrow. **Action: Clerk to press StreetScene to cut the verges to prevent the danger of a serious accident. Cllr Kelley offered to take this up at DBC.**

52. Police Report

Graham Wylie stated that unfortunately, and having made several approaches, he had been unable to obtain a report from the police for the month of June.

However, Graham is aware of incidents regarding the vandalism of bee hives in a resident's garden and also bat boxes being destroyed within the Grange nature reserve.

53. Accounts for Payment

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

Accounts for Payment as at 30th June 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CDALC Subs	103058	Annual Subscription	481.83
Nigel Goddard planters	103059	Construction of three planters	233.82
Peter Foster Exs	103060	Meeting expenses	36.60
Allotment Committee	102061	Contribution to allotment fair	200.00
Darl Assoc of Parish Councils	103062	Subscription	50.00
Chris Pipe	103063	Housing Needs Assessment Report	1000.00
Wellers Hedleys Law	103064	Legal expenses - allotment claim	720.00
Martin Harrison	103065	Bench maintenance, etc	120.00
Chris Pipe	103066	Planning consultation letter	200.00

HCA	103067	Newsletter	60.00
Water	103068	Allotment water rates	52.71
Bob Iles	103069	Salary	372.65
P D Allan	103070	Salary	691.20
Inland revenue	103071	PAYE	198.80
P D Allan	103072	Admin expenses, two months	33.27
BT Comms	DD	Telephone comms	127.14
Brian Cooper gas	103073	Gas for allotment use	28.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30

**Total Expenditure for June
2018**

4608.32

54. 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'.

Notices have been displayed on the Council notice boards, and on the HPC web site inviting the public to examine the Council's accounts and Governance Statements, in accordance with Council legislation. The public invitation covers the period from 2nd July 2018 to 10th August 2018.

55. Web Site and Guest Book - Mark Middlemiss reported:-

There has been one new Guest Book dialogue and 650 hits on the Hurworth Live web site.

56. Parish Walks - Janine Forster reported:-

Two walks had been arranged in June, but they were poorly attended.

The following parish walks have been scheduled for the next two months:-

11th July - organised by Peter Foster, five mile circular walk.

29TH July - organised by Paul Walters and Graham Wylie. This walk will include visiting local ale houses.

8th August – Janine Forster is arranging this walk.

19th August – a short walk followed by a BBQ at Huworth Grange. Peter Foster will conduct this interesting stroll

57. Allotment Report -- Nic Prior reported:-

The Council has fitted taps to the water supply at Strait Lane yesterday, at the request of David Crisp (Allotment Committee Chairman). This means hoses can be used on the allotments.

All the plots are taken, and there are three people on the Waiting List.

It is intended to hold an Allotment Meeting on 29th August.

After some discussion, the Council agreed to purchase a petrol driven lawn mower and strimmer for £70. A vote was taken with 8 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

Nic reported that he has tidied up the pathways surrounding the allotments, and they are now in good order.

The Allotment Fair scheduled for 25th August will be open to the public to visit.

58. Association Reports

There were no Association reports.

59. Any Other Business (Non Financial)

- a. Dorothy Oughton said that she intends to hold another village clean-up day at the end of September.
- b. Mark Middlemiss said that he will be extremely busy for the next ten weeks and his duties were shared among the other councillors.
- c. Graham Wylie stated that permission was now in place to use the Hurworth Academy mini bus for an evening service. The insurance aspect is being checked by the Academy and the Clerk. **Action Clerk.**

Graham's driving licence covers this type of transportation.

He hopes to start the service within the next two months.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:26pm

