

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 1st November 2018.

Those present:-

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

Also in attendance:

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 9 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

Wilma Campbell (In Italy). Cllr Joe Kelley, Graham Wylie.

100. Chairman's Address The Chair, Paul Walters opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

The Chairman announced that the Finance Working Party would meet on Tuesday, 6th November (Private Meeting), to review the future budgets and Projects. Councillors were invited to bring forward suggestions for projects for 2019 and 2020, after which the Precept for 2019 will be calculated.

101. Declarations of Interest

Jean Peacock - HCA

102. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2018.

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

103. Matters Arising

- a. **Village Security.** Mark Middlemiss reported that he had now completed his study of surveillance cameras, and concluded that the inside mounted cameras were the most suitable. The cost quotation is circa £320 per camera, and power usage is minimal. Four locations have been selected, and the Council confirmed their agreement to proceed with this project. **Action Mark Middlemiss and Paul Walters.**
- b. **Halloween Party** Mark Middlemiss reported that the party had been a huge success. All the tickets were taken (free event) within 24 hours of the announcement, and many others were disappointed, but the number needed to be controlled at 100. The children were entertained with a disco, games with prizes, a magician balloon modelling, and were given food and beverages. A great day was had by all. Many thanks to Mark and his wife who undertook the organisation of this event. The total cost was £560.

104. Public Participation

Good Evening Councillors, Thank you for the opportunity to address the Meeting on the important issues of parking. As far as I can see there are at least three

ongoing issues that get people worked up and annoyed that the Council need to address. The first is speeding, the second is dog fouling and the third is parking.

My first awareness of public parking cropped up a few years ago when, as Chairman of the Hurworth Village Hall, I approached DBC asking if it would be possible for yellow lines to be painted on the road outside the Hall, or have some other parking restrictions in place. This would be particularly beneficial for disabled parking for Hall users or visitors and users. Unfortunately DBC would not support the proposal on the grounds that it would not be possible to monitor or police the parking. Note that it wasn't the parking restrictions themselves that wasn't supported, just the monitoring and policing.

More recently that matter was raised in the recent Village Questionnaire. Questions 9, 10, 21 and 24 in particular asked residents for their views on a number of issues including parking.

Question 9: Improvements that development could bring.

Question 10: Worries about further development.

Question 21: Areas where there are traffic concerns.

Question 24: Where is parking control needed.

The responses indicated that a significant number of people regarded the issues as serious. Aspects such as pavement parking, yellow line and 'no parking' parking, and un-social parking were raised. One of the Questions, number 24, asked was a 'red question' of specific interest to the Council.

Typical responses from the Questionnaire indicated that:

Question 9, improved parking facilities was one of the biggest improvements that development could bring to the Hurworth Parish;

Question 10, lack of adequate parking in the Village was a worry about further development;

Question 21, lack of parking space gave cause for concern;

Question 24, that some form of parking control is needed in Hurworth.

And related written comments added:

Question 10, Increased demand on parking, outside the SPAR, on pavements, unsafe (parking) practices, outside schools the Grange;

Question 21 (Summary), Parking and speeding generally throughout the Village,

Need for more parking,

Parking Hurworth Place to Hurworth,

Parking outside Pubs, on pavements

Policing of Yellow Lines;

Question 21 (Concerns), many, throughout the Village;

Question 24 (Summary), throughout Village;

Question 24 (Concerns), many, throughout the Village;

Question 24 (Summary), Throughout the Village

More recently there has been a lot of discussion of the issue on social media (Hurworth Live) highlighting some of the problems that parking has caused and is causing. The issue has been raised in Council at an earlier meeting by Cllr Middlemiss, but I'm not sure how far that discussion got. I raised the question rather more recently on Hurworth Live which received a number of 'likes' and responses indicating that some people are having real problems caused by other people's parking practices.

Within the Community the PC supported by a number of volunteers have been able to take some action to alleviate some of the problems mentioned earlier. But parking seems to be more difficult. I would like to suggest that the PC should pass the issue to our Police and Crime Commissioner. Such an approach could state that the issue of illegal and unsociable parking has been raised within the community and brought to the attention of the PC (Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire among others) and they (the PC) feel duty bound to come up with some solutions. What would he advise? All too often the police say that any parking restrictions are difficult to enforce, too time consuming etc. This is true unfortunately, the police have reduced staffing levels and are buried under mountains of bureaucracy so haven't the time or the resources to tackle the issue. This is where the community step in. What can we do locally to help to alleviate the problem. Can we launch a "name and shame" scheme of regular, persistent parking offenders (rather like name and shame from the DBC of people who drop litter on High Row), can we have our own polite notices to put under car window wipers. In other words what can we do Mr Hogg to address the problem that is within the law, would have the support of the appropriate

authorities and would allow the PC to stand up and say that they have addressed the issue and are achieving positive results.

Hugh Jackson gave a presentation of his concerns about parking issues in the village. He based his analysis on the results and comments made in the Neighbourhood Questionnaire. Herewith the verbatim presentation:-

There was considerable discussion about the problems that residents faced with unsociable parking, and many specific incidents referred to. The Council agreed to study this report and to take appropriate actions to try to improve the situation, starting with the clarification of the parking laws, and inviting the police to take some responsibility in tackling the problems, and recommending solutions. **Action - The Council.**

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

PLANNING NOTES				
Date	Reference	Address	Description	Notes
27/09/2018	18/00906/FUL	Land Adjacent To 7 Croft Road Croft Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON	Erection of a detached triple garage and associated gravel driveway (Revised location)	According to report may be obscured by trees for most of the year
03/10/2018	18/00926/FUL	Rockcliffe Hall Hotel HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2DU	Erection of storage building	To rear of existing building
05/10/2018	18/00938/HR	Land At OSGR E430566 N510791 Roundhill Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON	Hedgerow Removal Notice for the removal of 6 metres of hedgerow	To be removed for site access purposes
11/10/2018	18/00953/FUL	17 Hurworth Road HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2DG	Erection of two storey rear extension incorporating first floor juliet balcony	Seems in keeping with the current property
19/10/2018	18/00980/PLU	Hurworth Primary School Westfield Drive HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2ET	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed development - erection of a gazebo to provide an outdoor classroom	Wooden gazebo, similar in style to a band stand

Concern was expressed about the removal of six metres of hedgerow at the Miller Homes estate. However, Mark Middlemiss explained that this was necessary to allow the construction vehicles to gain access. The existing entrance was limited to single way traffic and would cause serious congestion

106. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Richard Lawley reported as follows:-

The draft plan has now been hand delivered to Darlington Borough Council, so that they can conduct their verification processes and raise any questions or ask for further information.

The hand out, which will be distributed to every household in the Parish, is being prepared and it is hoped that this may be ready by the end of November. A sample of the design was handed around the Council, who expressed their approval.

It is the intention of the Council to convene a Public Meeting in January 2019, after the six week consultation period, and hand over the final Plan in early February. DBC must then conduct a Referendum, for parishioners to accept or reject the Plan. It is hoped that the entire process will be completed before the end of April 2019, which signals the end of this Council's tenure.

107. **Tree Report**

Peter Foster stated that there is nothing to report.

Due to the diligence of the Council in the past three years the trees under the Council's care are in good condition.

108. **Allotment Report** Nic Prior reported as follows:-

The skip was delivered last week and almost filled. However, it was deemed unnecessary to provide a second skip in November, so this has been cancelled.

There have been several incidents of dog-fouling on the allotments, and the evidence is available! This has occurred on three allotments.

One plot has been identified as needing more work on the upkeep; however, the tenant is agreeable to halving the plot, and allowing the other half to be converted into a turning area so that vehicles do not have to reverse down the lane onto the main road.

Nic stated that he will be doing his regular tidy up of the pathways as soon as the Guy Fawkes celebrations are over.

109. **Village Clean-Up** Dorothy Oughton reported that due to snow on the morning of the event, the clean-up had to be abandoned.
A new date will be set soon.

110. **Highways Report.** Margaret Williams reported:-

a. **Traffic**

Traffic stats summary for October 2018

Speed monitor -Otter and fish incoming

Number of vehicles 27,2728

27% vehicles over 30 mph limit

Ave speeder travelled at 33.4 mph

Max speed 65 mph on 22/10/2018 at 12.30 hrs

Speed monitor-Linden Court A167 incoming

Number of vehicles 133,530

28.3% vehicles over 30mph speed limit

Ave speeder travelled at 33.3mph

Max speed 70 mph on 22/10/2018 at 11.15 hrs

Speed monitor - Hurworth Rd opposite Academy- outgoing

Number of vehicles 76,656

39% vehicles over 30 mph speed limit

Ave speeder travelled at 33.8 mph

Max speed 75 mph on 13./10/2018 at 16.15 hrs

For some reason there were less speeding motorists recorded past the Academy during the recording window. However, the 75 mph speed recorded at 16.15 hrs in the afternoon is again of some concern, and, it again, highlights the need for traffic calming measures to be implemented at this point on the road

The 30mph traffic signs have now been re-located further out of the village on Roundhill Road past the new Bellway estate.

Mrs Sarah Smith, representing the residents of the Birches requested that a speed monitor be located near The Birches. The residents of this estate are mainly elderly people and some are no longer fast on their feet, which makes them vulnerable to speeding traffic. Sarah said that the residents were prepared to make a contribution to the cost if this was a problem. **Action council will consider this at the Finance Meeting on 6th November.**

- b. SpeedWatch** Elaine Hedley reported that one session had been carried out in October. A sample of the Police letter sent to all people logged as speeding was passed round the councillors. It is a formal Warning Notice, and is registered by the Police.

111. Matters of Interest

- a. **Social Media Policy.** Elaine Hedley read out a suggested Policy document, which she formally proposed for the council to adopt. Mark Middlemiss challenged the script, and outlines some of his concerns about the restrictions it would place on councillors. After discussion, with input from the public, it was agreed that this subject needed more consideration. Elaine withdrew her proposal, with a view to raising it again at a later date. Margaret Williams made the point that most of the points being raised were actually embraced in the Councillors Code of Conduct.
- b. **Saxon remains.** The Chairman stated that members of the Council and some residents had visited the Bellway site and seen the remains. He had been in contact with the Marketing Manager at Bellway, and it was agreed that when the remains are carefully lifted from the site, a section of the wall will be gifted to HPC.
- c. **Hurworth Grange Spring-Clean.** - Jean Peacock reported that this generous offer by the Council had been considered by the HCA Management Committee, and they came to the conclusion that, whereas this offer should be gratefully received, the money would be better used by fitting a new carpet along the upstairs passageway and decorating the passageway and staircase.

After discussion, Nic Prior summed up the Council's thoughts by saying 'The offer was made for a major clean-up and not for any other purpose'. This ended the discussion.

- d. **Hurworth Parish Plaques** - Paul Walters reported that he has spent more time researching and obtaining prices for the installation of three plaques to mark the entrance to the village. He suggested a particular design and quoted a cost of £800 for the engraving work, plus the cost of the brickwork and flowers.

The Council supported the project, and a motion was tabled by Peter Foster, and Seconded by Nic Prior that the Council should design and install three plaques at the entrances to Hurworth Village, at a cost of circa £3,600. The Council voted unanimously in favour.

112. **Police Report.** In the absence of Graham Wylie there was no Police Report.:-

113. 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 31st Octber 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hurworth School insur	103116	Insur for bus	100.00
N. Goddard plants	103117	Planter plants	51.95
M Harrison	103118		195.00
CDALC Subs	103119	Good Councillor guides	35.45
Johnston Trees	103120	Treework	765.00
Middlemiss Halloween Party	103121	Halloween party expenses	650.00
Wellers Hedleys	103122	Legal costs (Powles)	3659.40
Whitehill Direct notice bd.	103123	Comm Notice Board	1380.00
Water bill	103124	Allotments	7.06
DBC grit for bins	103125	Grit bin filling	321.53
Jewson car park project	103126	Car park costs	418.45
E Hedley trav expenses	103327	Travelling expenses	34.77
C Gray scanning	103128	Neighbourhood Plan	50.00
HACSA - award Sect 137	103129	Section 137 Award	500.00
Skipbridge Signs	103130	Community posters	330.00
Bob Iles	103131	Salary	451.12
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Group	DD	Communications	127.61
P D Allan	103132	Salary	691.20
Inland Revenue	103133	PAYE	218.20
TCS CAD	103134	PHP cartridges	179.98
P D Allan	103135	Admin expenses / N Plan	115.66
Total Expenditure for October 2018			10284.68

114. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st October 2018, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting.

Please see the Financial Report as an appendix.

115. Web Site and Guestbook.

Mark Middlemiss reported that there has been a huge volume of activity on the web site, almost entirely related to the Halloween Party.

Details are on the web site giving the method of making a reservation for the free community bus service which is in operation every Thursday evening.

116. Association Reports

Peter Foster said that he had been unable to attend the CDALC AGM meeting in Durham, due to ill health. He had submitted his apologies.

117. **Parish Walks.** Janine Forster reported that one walk had been arranged in October. It was 3.1 miles, and took one and three quarters of an hour. It was supported by three walkers.

A walk has been arranged to take place on 24th November starting at 10:30am, meeting on the Village Green. All are welcome.

118. **Association Reports.**

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

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

- a. The Clerk reported that permission has been given to a construction company who wish to launch a boat from the land opposite Croft News, for the purposes of carrying out maintenance on Croft Bridge.
- b. Dorothy Oughton expressed concern about Arriva carrying out a survey, with a view to altering the route of the Number 12 bus. The buses are finding it almost impossible to drive round the streets of Sanderson Road and Emerson Road due to parked vehicles blocking their way. **Action this will be further discussed by the Council, with a view to contacting Arriva.**
- c. The Chairman asked about the installation of a new bin between the Spar shop and the Academy. The Council have requested this four times, but there appears to be some reluctance by StreetScene to install a bin in this area. The bin near Pond House has been replaced.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm

