

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 7th March 2019

Those present:-

Margaret Williams, Elaine Hedley, Peter Foster, Paul Walters, Dorothy Oughton, Richard Lawley, Graham Wylie, Wilma Campbell, Nic Prior, Janine Forster, Bree Stamp and Tony Winnett,

Also in attendance:

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Joe Kelley and the Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 11 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: None, all Councillors present.

Declarations of Interest

Wilma Campbell - HCA & EPICH
Nic Prior – Allotments

163. Chairman's Address

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

The Chairman drew attention to the forthcoming election, when all current councillors who wish to stand again, must make a formal application.

Several councillors will not be standing for re-election, so it is important that new residents are encouraged to put their names forward.

The election timetable is:-

- 18th March – Publication of Notice of Election
- 18th March – Publication of Nominations- Candidates application forms will be available from the Town Hall
- 3rd April – Withdrawal of Candidates
- 3rd April – Appointment of Election agents
- 4th April – Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated
- 12th April – Last Date of Registration
- 18th April - Receipt of Postal Vote Applications
- 2nd May – Day of Poll

The Chair asked Cllr Joe Kelley to introduce his guests who will be addressing the Council to update the status of Super High Speed Broadband in Hurworth.

Representing TVCA: Keith Wilson

Representing DBC: Jochen Werres

Keith Wilson TVCA talked through the process of rolling out High Speed Broadband infrastructure throughout the Tees Valley with public funding to accommodate 98.1 % percent premises in each Tees Valley Local Authority including Darlington. Adequate funding has been set aside by the Tees Valley Combined Authority to accomplish this

matched by government funding of Broadband Delivery UK.

However in November 2018 BT Openreach and BDUK who were earmarked to deliver the 98.1% coverage in rural and urban Darlington including Hurworth h and Hurworth Place concluded that for the future infrastructure upgrades have to fulfil future proof Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) technology and ruled out on Value to money reason envisaged and modelled roll out in Darlington via Fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) technology.

Those Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband provision make dense urban locations more attractive to serve than smaller density rural communities.

Hurworth and Hurworth Place and other rural locations in Darlington have been ruled out to be connected by the full fibre solutions due to cost and lower take up figures which effect viability.

Tees Valley Combined Authority and Darlington BC are keen to achieve the 98.1 % coverage in Darlington and through different technical solutions and budget would like to achieve this by end of 2020 to cover minimal speeds of 24Mbits. This would be delivery a year later than planned (target was Summer 2019) and would not guarantee Gigabit or 5G enabled speeds. But TVCA may have resources in reserve to accomplish through a rollout process of superfast Broadband in Hurworth and Hurworth Place.

Following a question from a resident, it was confirmed that the schools already have high speed broadband access through dedicated lines. As in Urban areas rural residents connected to broadband are required to pay for their broadband connectivity but current speeds would be enhanced to a contemporary standard which would enable streaming and use of modern digital applications.

Cllr Kelley ended the discussion on a positive note saying ‘Faster Broadband will be coming and enabled in Hurworth and Hurworth Place’

Cllr Kelley ended on a positive note saying ‘it is coming’.

165. Public Participation

- a. A resident enquired if there was any progress on the plans to enhance the children’s playground.

Bree Stamp responded, informing the meeting that good progress has been made which includes:-

- A group of interested residents has been formed
 - A survey has been prepared and will be distributed this week
 - The survey will be put on Facebook, inviting comments, ideas and support
 - Posters will be put up advertising the scheme and canvassing support
 - A budget is being prepared
 - Grant opportunities have been identified, and once support is quantified, applications will be made.
- b. A resident drew the attention of the council to a housing application to build a house at the top of coach lane. The lane is very narrow, and the entrance form the main road

is not conducive to traffic. A few vehicle use the lane, but problems could occur if another two vehicles will be using it on a continuous basis.

Cllr Peter Foster informed the meeting that Coach Lane is actually designated as a bridal path and not a road. The surface is not constructed for vehicles as it was laid to accommodate horse drawn vehicles.

The Chairman thanked the resident for bringing this to the council's attention. Cllr Tostevin said that she will make further enquires.

166. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2019 were accepted, Proposed by Dorothy Oughton, Seconded by Eli Hedley

167. Matters Arising

a. Hurworth Parish Entrance Plaques

Paul Walters reported he had held a meeting with Bellway, and that their bricklayers will install the three plaques.

The locations have now been selected, one at the village entrance on Roundhill Road, one on the grass area coming into Hurworth from Neasham, and the third beside the parish notice board near the Comet Inn.

The material selected for the framework will be Chelsea Smoke Brick.

A senior bricklayer from Bellway will be overseeing the installation, and will use their current Apprentice Scheme to participate and thus reduce the cost to the council.

Bellway will make the planning application for the plaque placings.

168. Planning Report.

Richard Lawley reported as follows:-

Date	Reference	Address	Description	Notes
Mon 04 Mar 2019	19/00191/FUL	21 Belgrave Terrace HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2DW	Removal of existing garage and erection of two storey extension to the side and enlargement of existing single storey extension to the rear	
Tue 26 Feb 2019	19/00172/FUL	Cricket Club Rockcliffe Park HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON	Erection of single storey garage and batting practice nets following removal of 4 No. shipping containers	
Thu 21 Feb 2019	19/00155/FUL	44 The Green HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2AA	Demolition of existing garage/garden building and erection of 1 no. dwelling with attached triple garage	
Mon 11 Feb 2019	19/00123/FUL	Springfield Farm Croft Road DARLINGTON DL2 2SD	Erection of a detached double garage with pellet store	

Richard drew attention to the application which was discussed during Public Participation, which involved the construction of a dwelling in Coach Lane.

The Council further discussed this application, particularly highlighting Cllr Fosters observations about it not being a designated road.

It was decided that the council should lodge a formal objection. **Action Clerk and Council.**

Cllr Tostevin offered to make further enquiries regarding the status of Coach Lane.

169. Neighbourhood Plan

Tony Winnett reported:-

Following the Public Meeting held on 31st January, the comments were evaluated and appropriate changes made.

A meeting has been held with the DBC Planning team who are validating the Hurworth Plan.

A number of modifications were suggested, and these have now been made, and a revised Green Area map has been prepared.

The revised report has been sent to DBC, and the next step is a further meeting to try to finalise the Plan.

Following this, we need to send details to all businesses, utility operators and other stakeholders, providing them with an Internet link, so they can read our Plan. This involves a six week consultation period.

On completion of this, DBC need to perform several additional processes prior to them sending out the Referendum to all Hurworth residents.

It is a long, somewhat tedious program, and it is now likely that the Referendum will not go out until June 2019. We understand that DBC have not actually completed a single Neighbourhood Plan as at this date.

170. Tree Report

Peter Foster commented that Hurworth has a huge amount of beautiful, well-established trees. However, some residents have made complaints that the trees are potential dangers to their houses. The trees in question have been there before these people purchased their houses, so it could appear that they were fully aware of any potential risk when they received their house survey, prior to agreeing a contract.

Peter Foster reported that he has made his customary inspection of all the trees in the village again in February and the trees are in good condition. One branch had to be removed a tree in Hurworth Grange.

171. Open Spaces report

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

a. OPEN SPACES

The Open Spaces audit has been updated and completed. It will be available for perusal on HPC website.

From a concerned resident.

“As Open Spaces person on HPC I would like you to request that this topic is placed on the agenda for the next meeting with a view to HPC subscribing. The reason is that it is an excellent local wild life magazine and there is nearly always a project(s) worth considering, initiating and supporting. For example, in the recent issue No. 24 there is an article given over to a farmer who utilises 10% of his land for flora and fauna. HPC could take the lead locally in such an enterprise and approach local farmers with the example and information. Joining Tees Valley Wildlife Trust would, I think, set a good example locally, many good ideas could be gleaned and many initiatives could be taken with a degree of local authority, It would be a good example of how HPC is looking after the welfare of the parish.

There’s also the RSPB, the National Trust, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Woodland Trust, all of which produce excellent magazines with many good articles, many of which could be considered for local use. For very small membership fees I think it would be an excellent example of how HPC are trying to be aware of initiatives which can help the local environment and flora and fauna in particular.

It would be nice to get a realisation from HPC that it is their responsibility, particularly in this day and age, to recognise the importance of such projects, apply them parish wise and hopefully prod the likes of DBC, especially when they are poised to chop down another 83 trees at the Blackwell Meadow development, even after the furore last year. At least HPC have planted two oak trees, meagre as that seems in comparison, but are still to be congratulated.”

b. EPICH

We have had lots of positive feedback from residents regarding our planting of bulbs around the village. Thanks to All Saints churchgoers who are responsible for the lovely display of bulbs on the Green.

At the Grange, EPICH cleared the area around the cherry tree close to the picnic tables.

Our thanks to Cllr. Foster who coordinated with DBC for the Community Working Party to clear the raspberry canes on the east side of the football pitch enabling daffodil bulbs and other native wildflowers to flourish.

As the step over apple trees grow they are being trained across the wire.

The bird hide feeders are being replaced as required.

Over the next few weeks some fruit trees in the Heritage Orchard will be pruned.

EPICH bees have survived the winter and the colonies are building up. Hopefully there will be lots of our local honey for sale at the Hurworth Festival on Sat. 15th June.

c. Giving nature a home.

All swift boxes have been sold to village residents.

We hope to place bat and bird boxes in Hawkswood area before the start of summer.

We have been given the opportunity to acquire 6 crab apple trees which are an excellent food source for birds over winter. We hope to find suitable areas to plant these.

172. Hurworth Festival

The Chairman informed the meeting that a festival was being organised to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Hurworth Community Association. Peter Allan, Chairman of HCA was invited to address the Council.

Peter described how the intention is to bring all the community groups in Hurworth together to stage a festival which will take place on Saturday, 15th June and will cover the village from Hurworth Grange to the Otter and Fish Inn.

The event will incorporate the Scarecrow Festival and re-create the Strawberry Fair, which sadly met its demise two years ago.

Two bands, two dance troupes and a variety of entertainment is being organised, with seven community groups participating, each organising their own exhibits or fund raising events. There will be no entrance charge and parking will be £1, parking will be at the Grange and possibly also the Manorfield. Disabled parking is available at the Priory Hurworth House School.

In order to help to fund the festival, the Council were asked to award £2,000 under the Section 137 allowance. The Chairman tabled the motion to make a £2,000 award, Seconded by Tony Winnett, and the motion was passed unanimously.

173.Allotment Report

Nic Prior reported that

He has done a tidy up on and around the paths surrounding the allotments at Strait Lane. There was some evidence of dog poo.

There are three allotments vacant at strait Lane and one at Hurworth Grange. These will be allocated to the applicants who are on the Waiting List.

Highways and Traffic Reports

Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

- a. Highways report for February 2019 - HPC 7th March meeting minutes

Lindon Court incoming

Vehicle count 94,858

Max speed 60 mph on 9/2/2019 @ 22.45

Ave speeder travels at 33.00 mph in the 30 mph limit

% drivers over 30 mph limit =21%

Hurworth Road incoming

Vehicle count 61,937

Max speed 80 mph on 9/2/2019 @ 22.45 (probably same vehicle recorded as travelling from Lindon Court area on that day and time)

Ave speeder travels at 33.1 mph in the 30 mph limit

% drivers over 30 mph limit =41.8%

Roundhill Road incoming

Note :- there has been traffic light control on the road on approach to the monitor for some days in February

Vehicle count 43,363

Max speed 60 mph on 15/2/2019 @ 05.15

Ave speeder travels at 32.9 mph in the 30 mph limit

% drivers over 30 mph limit= 13.3%

Again the speed monitor showing the highest values is the one outside Hurworth School on Hurworth Road! This is reported every month and does not change.

Broken “no parking on the Green “signs have been repaired and replaced.

The edges of the verges on the Green are showing considerable damage caused by delivery drivers, contractor’s vehicles and inconsiderate parking on the internal roads in spite of these notices!

b. SpeedWatch

Elaine Hedley reported that two sessions had been held in February and ten percent of the vehicles clocked were over the 35mph limit, (which is the criteria to which they operate). The registration numbers have been passed on to the police. Bad weather had restricted the monitoring to only two sessions.

The Clerk raised a question regarding an outstanding item, when the Council requested that we install concrete bollards along the roadside from the Mustard Tree towards the Grange. He expressed concern about the need for parking in this area, and doubted the wisdom of making a permanent blockage, when damage is only done to the grass area during the winter when the weather is very wet.

Graham Wylie suggested tarmacing the verge area.

Wilma Campbell expressed her concerns that if the grass area is removed and effectively the pathway would extend to the busy road, it would become dangerous for young people and people tending young children.

The meeting decided to give the matter more consideration and to put on hold the installation of concrete bollards. **Action: Further consideration.**

174. Matters of Interest

a. Insurance Claim

Margaret Williams advised the meeting that the Council has received notice of a possible claim for two very old and well maintained oak trees sucking water from under a resident’s house. The Council have passed the details to Zurich Insurance, and will be contesting this possible claim.

b. Installation of a defibrillator

Tony Winnett reported:-

A training session was held at Hurworth Grange on 28th February. This was well attended by almost thirty people, all who now have a reasonable understanding of the purpose and operation of a defibrillator.

The second defib unit is about to be ordered and will be situated next to the bus stop outside All Saints Church. DBC are going to install a post, and this will provide power for the unit. A ‘guardian’ for the new unit has been appointed, and will oversee that the unit is kept operational.

A third defibrillator, which is to be purchased by Rogers Hurworth Charitable Trust will be located near the Croft Club and Comet Inn.

c. No Cold Call Zones

Wilma Campbell made the following address to the meeting:-

“NO COLD CALLING” ZONES

Public Survey - Doorstep Traders/Callers

(Report by Trading Standards Institute 2003)

This survey of the public’s attitude to cold calling at the door was conducted by questionnaires, which were delivered to several thousands of households across the UK. Close on 9,000 questionnaires were returned providing statistically significant results.

The findings indicated that only one in a thousand respondents indicated that they welcomed doorstep sellers and 95.7% said that they do not want doorstep sellers calling. Sixty-one point five per cent said they had been visited at least once in the previous 12 months and 22.6% reported being called upon 3 or more times. Energy selling and double glazing came out highest, followed by house wares.

Ten point five per cent of respondents specifically said they had a bad experience with doorstep sellers during the previous 2 years, but a follow up question asking what type of product/service people had problems with suggested that this figure might be much closer to 26.6%. Only 1 person in 6 who reported a problem reported the matter to the authorities.

When respondents were asked if they could think of any benefit which doorstep sellers bring to you or householders in general, of those who answered the question 96.2% replied and emphatic “no”.

No Cold Calling Zones

If your street suffers from the nuisance and criminal consequences of rogue traders knocking at yours and your neighbours’ doors you should get together with them and approach the council’s Trading Standards department to see if they can assist in setting up a No Cold Calling Zone. A No Cold Caller Zone is a designated area where the resident community declare they no longer wish to accept traders calling at their homes without an appointment. They operate in some parts of the UK and the designated area is marked with street signs that tell doorstep traders that they are not welcome. They clearly indicate to the trader that the residents are aware of their practices and look out for each other. Evidence from a number of councils who operate the scheme suggests that people feel more confident about saying “No” to cold callers in a No Cold Calling Zone and more importantly the number of cold calls does reduce. Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for each other, use crime prevention measures at the door and report details about cold callers working in the zone to the local trading standards and police

Trading Standards worked in partnership with Durham Police to set up No Rogue Trader Zones within Darlington.

A No Rogue Trader Zone is a clearly defined area where residents have expressed a view that they would prefer not to be cold called at home by traders selling goods and services door-to-door. The aim of the zones is to give residents the confidence to say NO to uninvited salespeople and to warn rogue traders and cold callers that they are not welcome.

Darlington has three zones covering the following areas:

- High Coniscliffe
- Fryer Crescent

- Barnes Road, Barnes Close, Kew Rise, Mowden Hall Drive, Conyers Avenue, Conyers Grove and Chester Grove

Due to the continued complaints from residents about doorstep cold calling, I think HPC should look into this matter with DBC's Trading Standards in more detail, consult with residents to identify areas of concern within the Parish and then decide on the action needed.

This would be a project for the new council to take forward. **Action: Further discussion.**

d. Friends of Rockliffe Court

The Chairman read out a letter from the Friends of Rockliffe Court requesting some financial assisting for their project of maintaining the gardens at the home. It was agreed that this cause should be supported, and a motion was tabled by Tony Winnett, seconded by Wilma Campbell, that a Section 137 award of £300 be made. This was passed with 11 votes in favour and one abstention.

175. Police Report

Dorothy Oughton gave the following report:-
Hurworth Crime Figures, Feb 2019

ASB

04/02 – Westfield Drive – youths throwing snowballs at properties near to the field – youths spoken to by an officer

11/02 – Neasham Road – Off road bike on a main road heading towards Darlington – area search no trace

Criminal Damage

17/02 – Blackwell golf club – damage cause on the 5th green to the turf

25/02 – Westfield Drive – damage to callers roof as youths climbed it.

Theft

15/02 – Blackwell golf club – theft of golf balls from the driving range

18/02 – Blackwell golf club – theft from a vehicle – building site vehicle has been broken to overnight

Suspicious

13/02 – Hurworth moor (farm) – report of a suspicious white van driving past callers farm multiple times looking for some cabins, caller thought the males in the van were up to no good – van drove off whilst caller was on the phone, vehicle noted by the beat team

20/02 - The Wayside – suspicious male found in a back garden, when spotted the male ran into neighbours garden and back onto the main road, the caller was worried the male was trying to break into sheds. Area searched no trace for the male.

176. Parish Walks

- a. Janine Forster stated that the next walk would be on 21st April, and another was being arranged for 9th May.

Details of the walks will be posted on the HPC web site next week.

- b. Graham Wylie reported that he had held a meeting with Steve Petch, DBC Countryside, and he has now completed the draft brochure covering the Hurworth and district walks. Graham distributed copies of the draft brochure, and the meeting agreed it is an excellent document. Graham has not 'walked' every one of the walks covered, and recommended that Janine Forster does check the details and directions which are embraced in the brochure. Once the accuracy has been verified, the council intend to print 200 copies and make them available in the parish. The Chairman thanked Graham for his single-handed work on this project.

177. Parish Chronicle

Elaine Hedley reported that all the information was now to hand, and the newsletter was being compiled. It should be ready for proof-reading and taken to the printers early next week.

It will be delivered along with the Church Newsletter before the end of March.

178. Accounts for Payment

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

Accounts for Payment as at 28th February 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HGSC	103173	Buffet N Plan Public Meeting	200.00
P D A Ilan	103174	Defib pads, refreshments Public Meeting	273.41
Brit Heart Foundation	103175	New defibrillator	600.00
G Wylie	103176	Licence fees	39.93
HACSA	103177	Section 137 donation	1000.00
Johnston Trees	103178	Tree work	310.50
J Mann Allot bond refund	103179	Bond refund	30.00
Signs of the Times	103180	Village entrance plaques	2932.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Public Works Loan	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
HCA	103181	Newsletter	60.00
Bob Iles	103182	Salary	372.65
P D Allan	103183	Salary	735.20
Inland revenue	103184	PAYE	63.76
P D Allan	103185	Saws for community workers, & postage	93.17
Wellers Hedley	103186	Legal fees - allotment case	2328.00

Total Expenditure for February 2019

9299.74

179. Financial report

The Financial report to 28th February 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting.

BLUE=Allocated	Financial Report				Financial Report as at 28th February 2019						Ring fenced funds £12,687				
Green = Committed	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Total	To date	Budget
Revenue															
Precept	54000												54000	54000	54000
Other Litter Pick & VAT	2572			2140	2719							2910	10341	7431	10600
Ren, Interest, other			33					50	129			240	452	212	340
Grants				3200						5000		500	8700	8200	9200
Allotment rent	140		20		20					720	140	120	1160	1040	1140
Total Revenue for month	56712	0	53	5340	2739	0	0	50	129	5720	140	3770	74653	70883	75280
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI	1360	1263	1263	1459	1262	1263	1361	1262	1265	1494	1172	1300	15724	14424	15600
Gen. Admin Expenses	693	699	1310	162	371	323	352	65	180	138	108	400	4801	4401	4900
Trees	0	750	234	0	0	3352	765	0	1035	599	310	400	7445	7045	7500
Open Spaces	503	0	0	513	325	130	212	900	0	404	60	300	3347	3047	4000
Section 137		2852	0	0	445	0	1150	-90	40		1662	300	6359	6059	4000
Projects		90	0	600	1100	9101	1599	0	0		2443	2200	17133	14933	23200
Legal Costs		0	0		1100	0	3050	1682	2021	1711	1940	1200	12704	11504	2000
Neighbourhood Plan		0	1200			193	115	4	1464	324	326	300	3926	3626	3500
Newsletters	60	60	60			60	275	843	200	60	60	950	2628	1678	3400
EPICH Support (S137)							0	0				1000	1000	0	3050
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail/ Train			0			80	35					400	515	115	500
Allotments	24	40	280	346		362	7	255	332	240	30	150	2066	1916	1100
Highways & Floods	175	70		165			303	0	0				713	713	1000
Handyman	30	566	120		150	0	0	0	0	50		100	1016	916	1000
Country Fair & Concert										0	0	6000	6000	0	4000
Capital Expenditure & Training					259						258		517	517	518
VAT	84	65	141	144	289	1800	1061	390	404	342	931	120	5771	5651	2250
Total Disbursements	2929	6455	4608	3389	5301	16664	10285	5311	6941	5362	9300	15120	91665	76545	79718
Revenue less expenses	53783	-6455	-4555	1951	-2562	-16664	-10285	-5261	-6812	358	-9160	-11350	-17012	-5662	-4438
Funds in hand less ring fenced	48,483	102266	95811	91256	93207	90645	73981	63696	58435	51623	51981	42821	31471		
Revenue less epenses	53,783	-6,455	-4,555	1,951	-2,562	-16,664	-10,285	-5,261	-6,812	358	-9,160	-11,350	12,687	Ring fenced	
Balance Forward	102266	95811	91256	93207	90645	73981	63696	58435	51623	51981	42821	31471	44158		

The Chair asked the meeting to approve the appointment of the Internal Auditor. He recommended Gordon Fletcher, who has been our auditor for the last five years. Dorothy Oughton tabled the motion, seconded by Tony Winnett, and the motion was carried unanimously.

180. Web Site and Guestbook.

Graham Wylie reported that there has been no activity on the drop box. He believes that people are using Hurworth Live to make comments and raise questions. However, as this is not a Council web site, only questions which require an answer from the Council, need to be addressed to the Drop Box.

181.Association Reports

Peter Foster had attended the CDALC Meeting and reported as follows:-

The main discussion at the meeting was the new initiative to construct a large and impressive monument in South Durham, not too dissimilar to the 'Angel of the North'.

This will be called the 'Railway Engine'. It will be constructed by Cleveland Bridge Company, using railway lines as the main material.

It is to be situated near Aycliffe, where it can be prominently seen from both the main line railway and from the A1 main road.

182. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- a. Dorothy Oughton drew attention to the large pothole on the internal Green roadways.
- b. Also the bollard on Emerson Road has rotted and needs replacement.

Action Clerk.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that this will be Cllr Wilma Campbell's last meeting. Wilma will be away for the April meeting and will not be standing for re-election. All the Councillors thanked her for the excellent contributions which she has made during her tenure as a Parish Councillor.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:25pm

