

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 3rd October 2019

Councillors present:-

Tony Winnett (Chairman), David Crisp, Janine Forster, Peter Foster, Elaine Hedley, Amanda Oughton, Dorothy Oughton, Sam Ring-Viney, Bree Stamp, Lynn Wylie, Graham Wylie,

Also in attendance:

Cllr Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou, Parish Clerk (Peter Allan), and 4 members of the public.

82 Chairman's Address

The Chair, Tony Winnett opened the meeting and welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

83. Apologies for Absence: Joyce Wedge

84. Declarations of Interest

David Crisp – Allotments
Bree Stamp - HCA

85. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2019 were accepted, Proposed by Elaine Hedley, Seconded by Dorothy Oughton.

86. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

- a. Court Case Outcome – The Council has not received notice of the Court's decision yet; it is expected imminently.
- b. The new Litter Picker, Mr Andrew Iles, having signed a contract started work for the Council on 1st October. This is subject to a six-month probationary period.

87. Public Participation

A resident asked if the Council will install a bench seat at Manorfield. Graham Wylie responded that there are three benches in the budget, and that he will arrange with the Clerk to purchase and install two at Manorfield, at agreed locations. **Action Clerk.**

There was a discussion about the bus route, and Cllr Tostevin stated that the new route is likely to become permanent, although Neasham are carrying out a village survey to try to gauge possible usage numbers.

88. Planning Report.

Sam Ring-Viney informed that there had been a few applications, but none appeared to require comment from the Parish Council. Please see details below:-

Rec'd	Val Date	REF	Address	About	Comments
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Date					
22/08/2019	23/09/2019	19/00802/FUL	16 Belgrave Terrace HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2DW	Erection of single storey rear extension to form utility and sunroom	no objections currently
04/09/2019	11/09/2019	19/00845/FUL	Oakwood Farm Roundhill Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON	Change of use of land to form extension to existing private gypsy site to accommodate 2 No additional pitches for use by Gypsy families (2 No. chalets, siting for 2 No. caravans and creation of hardstanding area)	no objections currently - expansion of hard standing area with additional living quarters
16/09/2019	24/09/2019	19/00891/CU	1 Pilmore Mews HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2BQ	Change of Use from dwelling house (Use Class C3) to office (Use Class B1)	no objections currently - change of use from residential to office space
18/09/2019	19/09/2019	19/00901/FUL	1 Emery Close HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2EJ	Erection of single storey side extension	no objections currently - single story extension
Currently no applications validated for October					

89. Tree Report

a. Peter Foster reported:-

DBC has reported that the tree which is dead located at Sanderson Road, is being monitored. However, Cllr Foster confirmed that it actually dead and needs to be removed. **Action Clerk to contact DBC again.**

b. Upon request the Council has arranged to trim back the seven lime trees near 14 The Green, also the tree which overhangs the telephone box.

c. The Council has issued an order to fell the two dead trees in the Grange nature reserve.

- d. The Council has received a complaint about the pine trees in the nature reserve disturbing the patio area in the neighbour's property. As these trees are the subject of TPO's, no work can be carried out.

Cllr Foster reported that over 40 people, who participated in the Parish walk, admired and praised the trees in the Grange.

Sam Ring-Viney asked if the tree which overhangs the scout hut could be trimmed as the branches are touching the roof. **Action Clerk.**

90. Allotment Report

David Crisp reported that the Allotment Committee has held a meeting, which was well supported.

The meeting had been most constructive and the mood of the allotment holders has reverted to good humour and constructive suggestions.

A skip was delivered 27th September and filled very quickly, he requested that another one is delivered at the end of October, so that the allotments can be kept in good order. **Action Clerk.**

91. Open Spaces Report

Lynn Wylie reported:-

Open Spaces Report – October 2019

- ! Update from Open Spaces Audit - apart from 2 benches, all of the required remedial works have been completed, hedgerow along Westfield Drive is to be cut and tidied sometime this month.
- ! One bench is to be installed in Goblin's Wood.
- ! Point raised, last month, by Peter Foster (to Judith Redfern) about height of hedgerow in the middle of the model railway. This has now been cut.
- ! It has been reported that the pathway, along the Strait Lane allotments perimeter, required cutting. This has been passed to StreetScene to complete.
- ! A contract, for maintenance works to the all-weather path at the Grange, has been awarded to Urban Eden at an agreed cost of £460

EPICH Report – October 2019

- ! Ken Pattison has been working with the Priory on making hedgehog houses and swift boxes. Progress has been hampered due to waiting for staff being trained on how to use the machines.
- ! Judith Redfern attended the recent DOVES (Darlington Open Spaces Volunteer Environmental Scheme) and found it very interesting; relevance to EPICH and attendance of the DOVES quarterly meeting is to be discussed at the next EPICH meeting (16th October)

- ! The wild flower area in the centre of the miniature railway has been cut by DBC, (as a favour).
- ! Can I ask Cllr Tostevin if there is an update on the grass verges, and protection of hedgerows (Strait Lane) as was discussed in the 5th September meeting?

Cllr Tostevin reported that she had raised the matter, but is still waiting for a response from DBC.

92. Parking Working Party Report

Tony Winnett reported that the working Party has held two meetings. The deliberations and suggestions of the group are being finalised for presentation to the Council.

A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 8th October with Andrew Casey, DBC Highways Department

93. Playground and Youth Affairs

Bree Stamp reported:-

- a. Attempts to find a date which was appropriate for the Halloween Party have failed, due to heavy booking at Hurworth Grange and clashes with other village events. Hence, with regret, it has been cancelled for this year.
- b. There has been considerable activity regarding the upgrading of the playground. DBC are contacting three equipment suppliers who will be asked to make suggestions on how to design the layout and items of equipment which should be considered.
Groundwork has intimated that they are encouraged by the preparatory work which has been carried out, and we are hopeful that they will award some funding to the project.
The timescale for DBC to complete their survey is approximately 8 weeks.
- c. **Priory Hurworth House School.** A meeting has been arranged with the Management of the School on 9th October.

94. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

Graham Wylie reported that there have been 200 hits on the web site. He has put notices up in the four community notice boards to encourage the use of the site and to invite comments and questions through this media. The hit rate has increased since putting up the notices.

The McMillan Coffee Morning hosted by Michelle White, and visited by the Major of Darlington was very successful, and Graham is going to put a selection of pictures of the event on the web site.

95. Highways and Traffic Reports

1. **Highways.** Dorothy Oughton reported:-

There are a number of deep potholes on the bus route. **Action Clerk to report to DBC.**

- a. There are potholes on Roundhill Road and near the Birches. **Action Clerk to report to DBC.**
- b. The pavement from Roundhill Road to the primary School is in poor condition and could become a hazard. **Action Clerk to report to DBC.**
- c. The spike which had been reported has been removed.

Mr Ashton reported that the tarmac near the drain at the entrance to Elmfield Road is disintegrating. **Action Clerk to report to DBC.**

2. **SpeedWatch**

Elaine Hedley reported that they carried out two sessions in, and a number of offenders have been reported. There were 24 offenders at the last session.

- a. The monitor outside the Grange is being shrouded by the trees. **Action Clerk to get the tree canopy heightened.**
- b. One speed monitor is still awaiting repair.

3. **Traffic Summary**

Elaine Hedley circulated the Traffic statistics for October, which showed a continued slight improvement. Volumes were greater, due to the return to school, but the overall average speed in all areas was gradually getting lower. Full details are available on the Council web site.

In response to a question from the public gallery, Cllr Tostevin stated that the 20mph speed limit for the Hurworth School area is the Borough Council's manifesto, and it is hoped will be implemented in April 2020.

96. **Matters of Interest**

- a. Procedures. The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk are in the process of carrying out a review of the Council's Procedures.
The Minutes Procedure states that the Minutes should be 'concise and accurate'. At present our Council Minutes are lengthy, and with the agreement of the Council, future Minutes will be shorter. Greater detail of some topics will be held on the Council's web site and in the archive.
- b. The Chairman informed the meeting that at the next PC Meeting to be held on 7th November, the Clerk will be absent, and that Mr Paul Walters has volunteered to take the Minutes.
- c. The Chair advised the meeting that it is necessary to hold a Finance Meeting in October to review and introduce new Projects, to consider the financial implications of Duty of Care and other financial planning issues. All Councillors are invited to attend a Finance Meeting on 24th October, at Hurworth Grange starting at 6:30pm.
- d. In order to provide comprehensive insurance for the property owned by the Parish Council, it was necessary to carry out a valuation of Hurworth

Grange. The valuation was carried out by a professional company, and their current valuation is £5.5million.

97. Police Report

Amanda Oughton gave a detailed report on the Police Crime report for the month of September.

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES SEPTEMBER 2019.

ASB NUISANCE:

12/09 – Reports of youths hanging around the scout hut, shouting and swearing at parents coming to pick children up. Local PCSO has spoken with the scout leader, and has been patrolling the area when possible.

23/09 – Report of a group of youths causing a nuisance on Blackwell Grange golf course. Unfortunately there were no officers available to deploy. No more calls received on this occasion.

25/09 – Report of a group of youths causing a nuisance in Blackwell Grange shop. Officers attended but youths made off. Possibility of CCTV available for an ID of the youths.

BURGLARY:

17/09 – Several reports of a male going around the village and attempting to enter properties and take things. Two units deployed and eventually caught up with male. Male was arrested and has subsequently been charged and remanded.

HIGHWAYS:

20/09 – A digger brought down a telegraph pole and cables. Police attended and closed the road whilst BT engineer attended.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE:

20/09 – Tools stolen from a vehicle on Church View. CCTV has shown a registration on the vehicle used, so this crime is still under investigation.

98. Parish Walks

The Chairman reported that the end of season walk was very well supported with over 40 people participating and many children. The walk was around the Grange nature reserve and pathways, with Peter Foster providing an interesting dialogue of the history of the property and information about the many species of trees.

At the end of the walk the group was joined by the allotment holders, from their meeting, and all enjoyed a BBQ and an integrated community spirit.

Janine Forster reported that there has been a series walks throughout the summer, but attendance was low. She recommended a new approach next year, and the Chairman agreed that a review will be held.

99. Accounts for Payment

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Accounts for Payment

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable September 2019

Total payments September 2019

	2730.5
Litter picker Refund	0
Sundry Income	291.00
Bank interest	36.05

Total Receipts September 2019**100. Financial report**

The Financial report to 30th September 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The table is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

The Clerk reported that the external audit was now complete, and that the Council has a clean bill of health. Appropriate notices have been placed on the Council's notice boards.

101. Association Reports

Tony Winnett reported that he and Peter Foster had attended a presentation at the Teesside International Airport Consultation Group.

There is a new vibrant and enthusiasm about the operations and great optimism about attracting new business and new operators to the airport.

The Chairman drew attention to a meeting of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils to be held at Darlington Town Hall on 31st October, starting at 6:30pm. David Coates, Head of Planning, will be making a presentation addressing Planning Applications, and Section 106 considerations. In addition to the two Hurworth representatives, it was agreed that Sam Ring-Viney will attend.

102. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- a. David Crisp reported that the Village Hall is to hold a film weekend on 12th and 13th October. The program will start at 11:00pm and a series of excellent films will be shown through the two days. Please see the advertisements for details of the program.
- b. Dorothy Oughton reported that several residents are dissatisfied with the new bus service and the route. She suggested that the Council should write to Arriva. Lynn Wylie and Cllr Tostevin explained that DBC has already had lengthy discussion with Arriva, and that the bus company is a business and cannot be expected to subsidise community requirements which are non-profitable. The number of residents who use the bus is very small, and not sustainable; an alternative is getting a taxi.
- c. Bree Stamp asked if we could install a grit bin on the pathway leading from Roundhill Road to the Primary School. **Action Clerk to investigate.**

The meeting was closed at 8:24pm