

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 5th March 2020.

Parish Councillors present:-

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 Lynn Wylie, Cllr Graham Wylie.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 24 members of the public.

208. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Wedge, Cllr Bree Stamp

209. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

210. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett, opened the meeting and welcomed Ward Cllrs, Parish Cllrs & Parish residents & Press/Georgia Matthews from the N Echo.

a) Court Result – Judgement secured in favour of HPC in November 2019 on all counts.

Costs hearing on 12 February 2020 awarded £16,897 costs to HPC.

Claimant informed Judge she had no funds to pay.

Given until 15th April 2020 to pay.

In event of non-payment HPC will need to resort to debt enforcement procedures.

A member of the public asked if the Council will take further action if the Claimant fails to pay the money she owes. The Chairman stated that further actions will definitely be taken to recover this public money.

b) Annual Assembly this will be held in the Fletcher Hall on Wednesday 29 April. Open to all. A free buffet will be available. Will all Councillors please attend, and some will be asked to make short presentations, so please mark your diaries.

211. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2020 were accepted, Proposed by Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie and passed by the meeting.

212. Matters Arising

The Chairman reported on the following items:-

a) Broadband

As requested by last PC Meeting I have sent letter of complaint regarding the scatter gun roll out of HSB sent to our local MP, Tees Valley Mayor, DBC & to BT Open Reach.

Replies:-

BT & DBC, Tees Valley. Meetings due in mid-March to sort out confusions.

The Chairman said that he will be able to provide further information after the meeting to be held on 17th March.

b) Defibrillator at Croft – we have had a quote from NPowergrid for £1000 for a power connection. We are investigating other alternatives. The power is needed for a small heater in the external cabinet

213. Public Participation

a. Manorfield Development Group report

Mr John Hedley reported:-

The Manorfields Tree Conservation Project Update:

Briefly the project involves the planting of a number of varieties of disease resistant tree species into this much loved and well used area. The project will have no negative impact on the wide range of activities which take place the area. The recent Air Ambulance incident has precipitated a rethink regarding the number of trees involved. Replacement the recently felled trees and the now dead Oaks planted by HPC, plus 4 - 5 more new trees will bring the total number to be planted to 9 or 10. It is hoped that the trees will provide a sustainable supply of disease resistant saplings and form the basis for an environmental project with the local schools.

During a general debate, a referendum was discussed and how the future use of the Manorfield should be determined.

Cllr Lynn Wylie talked about the allocation of funding from Section 106 agreement, and said that she would cover the Councils suggestions in her formal report.

Mr Ian Holmes, a previous Chairman of this Council made a statement.

He said that it appears that this small group has no official mandate, and are not representing anybody except a few residents who are not supporting the Council's endeavours to provide more facilities for young people. He fully supports the initiative for a second playground, wherever it is located at the east end of the village. He stressed that as the Council will be receiving funding through the Section 106 payments, then residents should support the Council, and it appears that the obvious most suitable location will be the Manorfield.

Mr Holme said that he had received an unsolicited leaflet through his door, and because it is anonymous, he does not know who to return it to.

A resident expressed his concerns about the youths who would gather round a new playground and could intimidate residents. He quoted incidents of bad behaviour at Hurworth Grange, and was concerned that similar behaviour may move to the new playground. He felt the residents of Westfield Drive would need protection.

A resident stated that his group has put together a tabulation of incidents, using information taken from the Council's Minutes. They would like to share this with other residents, perhaps using the Parish Chronical as a media.

A resident highlighted their concern about the traffic speed on Roundhill Road, specifically near the school entrance where the lollypop lady stands. The Council responded by sharing with the meeting the latest traffic statistics, which show an improvement over latest months. Residents pressed for the 20mph limit on the road near the Secondary School.

Ward Cllr Tostevin said that the 20mph limit is due to be implemented within a few months, but a 20mph limit on Roundhill Road near the school entrance would take several years to receive attention. **Cllr Tostevin promised to look further into both these demands.**

214. Playground Planning Working Party Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

Play Area Working Party Report – March 2020

Working Party Meetings

At the meeting held on the 27th February, the group discussed the first draft of the questionnaire and made good progress with it to allow the second draft to be written up; another meeting is planned for the 10th March.

Survey Content

The group are currently reviewing the second draft and will next meet on the 10th March to discuss this second draft.

It is hoped that the review of the second draft will provide enough to finalise the content and allow the Working Party to present the next draft to the HPC Chairman and HPC Clerk ahead of printing and distribution.

HPC Website

A dedicated page to the Play Area Working Party has been set up on the HPC website (a link to this has been posted onto Facebook too).

To quell the rumours and incorrect facts currently circulating, a statement has been posted, by the Working Party Chairman, onto the HPC website to advise people of the Working Party remit; a member of Hurworth Live has since posted this directly onto Facebook.

This page, on the HPC website, will be updated with further detail to support the eventual questionnaire/ referendum (maps/ links/ etc) and will provide ongoing updates when and where required.

215. Hurworth Youth Project

At the last PC Meeting Mr M Stand issued a statement & request for funding for one year to institute a Youth Outreach Project. All Cllrs had a copy of his proposals. He requested £2620 to cover staffing & training costs.

We have checked the credentials of both the project and the proposer.

This a worthy project that delivers our PC's aim to encourage the youth of this Parish. Therefore I seek your approval to a motion to fund this project for a one year trial basis. By January 2021 progress on the project to be reviewed and consideration be given to continuation of any Parish support.

It is important to provide activity for our younger generation.

The Chairman asked for a proposer & a seconder to award this funding of £2,620, please?

Proposer Cllr Crisp

Secunder Cllr Graham Wylie

The Council voted unanimously in favour.

216. Planning Applications.

Cllr Ring- Viney gave the following report:--

Planning applications 06/02/2020-05/03/2020				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments

	30/01/2020	12/02/2020	20/00083/FUL	1 comment - "objects"
About	Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage with associated landscaping works and garden structures and erection of detached double garage (additional plans and information received 20 February 2020)			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	11/02/2020	18/02/2020	20/00107/FUL	no comments
About	Erection of front extension to east elevation, demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension to west elevation, raise roof height to create loft conversion to form habitable space including insertion of roof lights and installation of balcony, alterations to windows and doors, enlargement of existing garage to create additional garage and erection of summerhouse			
3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	18/02/2020	18/02/2020	20/00125/FUL	no comments
About	Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and first floor extension above garage			
4	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	18/02/2020	21/02/2020	20/00126/FUL	no comments
About	Conversion of integral garage into a habitable room including replacing garage doors with bi-folding doors			

217. **Tree Report** Cllr Foster gave the following report, viz:-

The gap in trees at the entrance to Hurworth Grange will be getting four new trees planted as soon as the weather is suitable. These will be mature trees, and will fill this space.

The trunks of the trees which needed to be felled will remain, and can be used as seats, and form part of the landscaping of the area.

Cllr Foster reported that a large tree in the LychGate is being suffocated with ivy. We requested permission to remove this tree and replace it with another, possibly a flowering pear tree.

The two oak trees which were planted a year ago and died, will be replaced, at no charge, as soon as the weather allows.

218. **Open Spaces & EPICH Report**
Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

Open Spaces Report – March 2020

I received an email regarding the damage caused by the recent winds to a tree in the Lychgate, and I have discussed this further with Cllr P. Foster; he will provide an update in his tree report.

EPICH Report – March 2020

There have been no EPICH meetings since the 21st January, and no further working party activity since the 3rd February. The next meeting is planned for the 11th March at 18:30 and will be held at the Grange.

Equipment Inventory

EPICH have completed an inventory of the equipment and they have the following pieces of equipment:

- 3 forks
- 2 spades
- 2 mulching forks
- 2 large bulb planters
- 1 small hand bulb planter
- 1 plastic rake
- 1 grass rake
- 1 wheelbarrow (puncture needs fixing, Martin to sort)
- 1 lawnmower

DOVES/ Nest Boxes

All the 35 nest boxes made by DOVES volunteers were given away by EPICH ahead of the National Nest Box week in February.

Complaint

A complaint was received regarding the volume of brambles cleared by the EPICH working party on the 3rd February, from where the picnic bench is located (behind the Grange), as there were concerns on the impact that this would have for ground nesting birds, and wildlife in general.

The HPC Clerk has replied to the email advising that it was felt that with the volume of brambles left untouched within the grounds of the Grange, that this small area would have little impact on wildlife. Also, the decision was taken, by EPICH, to cut back a larger volume of the brambles than first planned, as there was a large volume of rubbish which had accumulated over the two years since the site was last cleared, and this rubbish could not be fully accessed without clearing a lot of the brambles away first: there are photos of the rubbish removed on the EPICH website.

219. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp reported that all the tenants have now paid their rent for 2020. The grass cutting will commence again shortly and will be done by Mr Peter Akers. Cllr Crisp took the opportunity to hand round some photographs of the new stage in use in the Village Hall. Everybody who has been involved with the stage and the performances have been delighted with the stage, and Cllr Crisp thanked the Council for providing the funding to buy it.

220. Pathways and Rights of Way

Cllr Wedge, being absent from this meeting, there was no report.

221. Playground and Youth Affairs

Cllr Stamp was unable to attend this meeting, and submitted the following report:

Update on my area

a. Priory - No meeting set as yet

b. The Grange Play Park - Unfortunately I am yet to hear back from either DBC or Ground works. I will continue to chase about next steps. I am awaiting the new design post comments and Groundworks to confirm funding options.

c. WP Play area - obviously Cllr Lynn Wylie will be updating on this anyway.

222. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported a number of highway problems which the Parish Council will address. Most of these incidents have been caused by the heavy rain. Most of the potholes on Strait Lane have now been repaired.

Speed Watch Due to bad weather there were no sessions carried out in February.

1. **Traffic** Cllr Hedley circulated the Traffic statistics, which show improvement. The average speed on Roundhill Road in February 2020 was 28.8mph
2. **Speed Monitor status.**
3. The third monitor is now back in use, and figures will be reported next month.

223. Matters of Interest

a) HCA Kitchen Refurbishment

Our Grange kitchen needs some freshening up. HCA have at least 11 weddings booked for this year, the kitchen is an important factor for the weddings let alone the other functions that we hold in the building. Our Grant Application was unsuccessful. The cost to be met to bring the kitchen up to an acceptable standard is of the order of £6200. Can I request your approval to part fund this work? Please pass a motion agreeing to £4000 to assist this work.

Proposer Cllr Graham Wylie

Seconder Cllr Foster

The Council voted unanimously in favour.

b) Governance statement -

All Councillors have been sent a large document describing the Council's commitment to adhering to Governance and Accountability.

The document contains seven sections.

This Council conforms to all of the requirements, and I request that you pass a motion accepting a statement of confirmation to this effect.

The Motion

Hurworth Parish Council confirms that it has conducted its business in accordance with the law and proper practices, and that the public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for.

Proposer **Cllr Foster**

Seconder **Cllr Dorothy Oughton**

The Council voted unanimously in favour.

c) We need your approval to appoint an ***Internal Auditor***. May I have the Council's agreement to appoint Mr Fletcher who has carried out this function for us over the last few years?

Motion tabled to re-elect Mr Gordon Fletcher,

Proposed **Cllr Crisp**

Seconded **Cllr Foster**

The Council voted unanimously in favour.

D) Parish Logo. We have discussed previously updating the Parish Logo and have secured a good image with the help of Mr John Buxton. Need your approval please. We are enquiring the feasibility and cost to have this logo used for a Parish Flag which can be flown on the Green on days when Parish activities take place.

Following a discussion, Cllr Crisp suggested that all the Councillors should think about a new logo and bring their suggested designs to the next meeting. All agreed.

d) Boules pitch extension -requests £1300 for an additional pitch. Hurworth Rogers Trust have kindly agreed to fund 50% of the cost. Put a motion to you to require approval for HPC to fund the residue of £650.

Proposer **Cllr Lynn Wylie**

Seconder **Cllr Foster**

The Council voted unanimously in favour.

224. Police Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton gave the following Police Report:-

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES FEBRUARY 2020.

HIGHWAYS:

09/02 – Several road closures due to flooding. Police, fire and council all in attendance throughout the day. Road closures in place until it was safe to reopen.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

12/02 – Suspect poachers spotted heading into Hurworth from North Yorkshire area. Officers conducted a search of the area but no trace.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION:

18/02 – Road traffic collision reported on Croft Bridge. No injuries sustained but officers attended to assist in getting vehicles recovered quickly as the bridge was blocked.

225. Parish Chronicle

Cllr Hedley requested all Councillors to provide their articles by 18th March, as the Chronicle needs to be finalised by the end of this month.

226. Parish Walks

Cllr Forster and Cllr Ring-Viney reported that a walk was being organised for the end of March.

A schedule of walks throughout the summer will be prepared before the next P C Meeting.

227. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for February 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable February 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Wylie	103345	Communications Exs	25.27
P Akers	103346	Allotment clearing	30.00
Parklane Plowden	103347	Legal Costs	1200.00
G Johnston	103348	Treework	135.00
M Harrison	103349	Odd jobs	110.00
HCA	103350	Newsletter	60.00
A Iles	103351	Salary	451.55
P D Allan	103352	Salary	702.00

T Winnett	103353	Trav exs legal costs	23.04
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Inland Revenue	103354	PAYE	130.00
P D Allan	103355	Admin expenses	53.14
Total for the month			2922.30

228. Financial report

The Financial report to 29th February 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors was accepted by the meeting. The table is available for perusal on the Parish web site.

The Clerk advised the meeting that 31st March is the financial year end, and therefore a number of payments should be made, in adherence to the Council's 2019-20 Budget.

These are:-

Hurworth Outdoor Concert support £2,000

Hurworth Country Fair support £2,000

EPICH support £500

The Council agreed and the Clerk requested permission to record their agreement in this meeting's Minutes

229. HPC Web Site and Guestbook

Cllr Graham Wylie reported that there has been an increase in hits on the web site of 366 percent.

This is the result of more information being put onto the site and the interfacing of the site with the Hurworth Live Facebook site.

There was one item on the Guest Book, which required a response and this is being addressed by the Clerk.

The next PC Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2020.

The meeting was closed at 8:45pm