

## **Hurworth Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 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 9 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** None, all Councillors present.

#### **139. Chairman's Address**

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

Paul was pleased to report that the Public Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January to review the Neighbourhood Plan had been well supported, more than seventy people had attended. Nigel Goddard had presented the Plan which has now been completed. The next step had been to hold a Public Meeting, where all residents were invited to make comments and suggestions, before the final version is lodged with DBC.

The comments and suggestions made at the meeting will now be reviewed and the Plan modified where appropriate.

The Parish Council has received a preliminary review of the draft Plan from DBC, and we are currently addressing the points which have been brought to our attention.

Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that it is unlikely that DBC will be able to conclude the project and hold the referendum before the local elections in May 2019.

#### **140. Declarations of Interest**

Wilma Campbell - HCA & EPICH

Nic Prior – Allotments

#### **141 Priory Hurworth House School**

Bree Stamp reported that she, along with Cllr Tostevin and Paul Walters had attended a meeting at the school on 30th January. Sharon Pearson, Vicky Skilbeck and Clair Blackett from the school, attended the meeting.

The subjects discussed included the general behaviour of the students, and a number of complaints which have been received regarding specific incidents.

The school agreed to contact the residents concerned, and also to continue their diligence in controlling their pupils. The school policy is to allow a level of freedom for the students, under appropriate supervision.

The school is keen to continue the close relationship with the Council, and to co-operate together to address potential issues as they occur.

There was a discussion about the HACSA lease, and the possibility of it becoming a 5 year lease, which would facilitate HACSA in applying for grants. All parties are pleased with the results of HACSA leasing the Priory playing field; it has improved the state of the field and is

providing an excellent amenity for the younger generation to participate in outdoor sports. The Parish Council are keen to support this association, which Priory Group has facilitated. Further regular meetings will be arranged, and Bree Stamp will be the Council's representative.

#### **142. Arriva bus service**

Richard Lawley reported that several residents were unhappy with the new Arriva bus service routing, which will become a one-way system in February. This will cause problems for some residents who need to visit the doctor or pharmacy, as they would be able to get the bus to the doctors, but to return they will need to go to Darlington on the circular route in order to get back home.

Cllr Tostevin explained the new Arriva Plan and the commercial rationale which supports Arriva's decision. The key points are:-

1. There will be a new bus stop at the end of Strait Lane, which will provide access within the 400 meters required service level.
2. From the surveys carried out during the consultancy period, only fifteen percent of the bus users said that they required the two way service. The eighty five present were content with the new route.
3. The existing Arriva service has proved to be not commercially viable and hence the new plan, so that a service can still operate in Hurworth.
4. Promptness of the buses has been degraded by delays caused by parked vehicles and obstructions encountered in Sanderson Road and Emerson Road. The buses will no longer use this route.
5. Following the four week consultation period, DBC are now satisfied with the outcome, and the new service will come into force on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **143. Public Participation**

1. A resident enquired whether there was any progress on the request for the Grange playground to be upgraded.

Bree Stamp reported that she has made contact with the DBC department whose responsibility it is to provide this playground. Her overtures were well received and co-operation offered.

- a. Two pieces of equipment have already been promised, and DBC is going to install these as soon as the equipment becomes available.
- b. A number of grants may be available, and Bree is investigating the possibilities.
- c. Yorvic will be providing £6,000 Section 106 funding, but this will not become payable for several months.
- d. In order to apply for grants and funding it is necessary to fulfil the following conditions:-
  - a. The residents must decide exactly what type or units of playground equipment they want.
  - b. A budget needs to be compiled.
  - c. Residents need to become involved. Five parents, who attended the Public Meeting have already offered to participate.
  - d. It would be advantageous for the Primary School to participate.The initiative is moving forward.

2. Cllr Kelley reported that some residents were being inconvenienced because the Town Hall will only accept Debit Cards and not Credit Cards for the registration of

Garden Waste Disposal. It was suggested that HPC may be able to assist by facilitating registrations in Hurworth.

**144. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019** were accepted, Proposed by Wilma Campbell and Seconded by Dorothy Oughton.

Please note that the January 2019 Minutes did not incorporate the sequential numbering.

Margaret Williams stated that as the Clerk had not been present at the January meeting, a motion should be formally tabled to record that the council had agreed the increase of the 2019 Precept to £59,000. The motion was tabled by Wilma Campbell, Seconded by Dorothy Oughton, and, upon the votes, passed unanimously.

The Chair commented, for the record that the increase was due to the by- election which the council needed to hold, which cost £5,000.

**145. Matters Arising**

**a. Hurworth Parish Entrance Plaques**

Paul Walters reported that the plaques have been delivered and look very good.

He has arranged for a bricklayer from Bellway to do the brickwork and assist in the installation of the plaques.

Depending upon the weather, the installation should take place within the next month.

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

There has been one Planning Application processed in January.

The application to build three houses near Glebe View Farm has been approved. The Council did raise an objection regarding flooding concerns, but DBC has now approved the application.

**147.Neighbourhood Plan**

Tony Winnett reported:-

The draft plan was presented to the residents at the Public Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January, when over 70 people attended. Comments and suggestions were noted and will be reviewed.

DBC has sent us a report on their initial comments on our draft Plan. This report has been studied by Nigel Goddard and the team, and amendments and alterations will be made. A meeting with DBC is being planned to discuss points of controversy, later this month.

It is understood that the final Plan and Referendum will not be completed before the local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

**148. Rehabilitation Project**

The Chair informed the meeting that a team of helpers, under the responsibility of the Darlington Rehabilitation have been assigned to carry out voluntary work in Hurworth Parish. Peter Foster has been appointed to oversee and manage this team.

Peter Foster reported that work has already started on clearing out the main ditch from the railway to the Glebe; this will allow flood water to drain away. Peter informed the

meeting that the scheme is working well, and that the team may be assisting us for several months, there is plenty of work that can be done

#### **149.Tree Report**

Peter Foster reported that the high winds encountered during December and January had caused damage to some trees. He had made a comprehensive survey of all the trees in the village and identified some trees where broken branches were regarded as creating a risk to persons or property. All the identified risks have now been treated, and broken branches removed.

The trees in the Parish are in good health.

#### **150. Open Spaces and EPICH report.**

Wilma Campbell reported as follows:-

##### **OPEN SPACES/EPICH**

The wildflower meadow has been scarified, raked and sown with wildflower seeds which include yellow rattle to suppress the grass and a variety of annual flowering plants to hopefully make the display more colourful.

The wire for the step over apple trees has been installed, so the surviving trees that have not been vandalised will be trained across this wire over the growing season.

On Monday snowdrops and bluebells in the green will be planted in Goblin Wood and the Orchard in Lychgate and aconites in Jean's Garden.

##### **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.

It was reported that the area at Hawkswood green space is once again being abused by fly tippers and people dumping rubbish in the area. Peter Foster pointed out that there is a large DBC notice at this point, and that residents are still dumping their rubbish behind the notice, although the notice states that fines may be levied.

It was agreed that the council will report this behaviour to DBC, with a view to getting the area tidied up, and DBC taking action against identified offenders. **Action Clerk**

#### **151.Allotment Report**

Nic Prior reported that due to tenants vacating their plots, there are now four available plots at Strait Lane and one at Hurworth Grange.

As at today, six tenants have not paid their 2019 rent, but all have been contacted.

New posts are being installed to support the fence at the Strait Lane allotments, as soon as the weather is suitable, this work will be completed. Nic has carried out a tidy up of the area, which is rather restricted due to snow, ice and wet conditions.

### **152.Village Clean-Up**

Dorothy Oughton reported that a Clean-up session had been carried out on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The event was poorly supported with only two residents and six councillors participating. However the work was completed and StreetScene co-operated in taking away the rubbish.

Nic prior suggested that if the Council offered a free drink at the end of the Clean-up, we may get a bigger turnout. He had read that this had worked with another Council. Cheers!

### **153. Highways Report**

a. Margaret Williams reported as follows:-

Dec 2018 traffic analysis

Steel bridge incoming

No of vehicles 21,458.

23.9% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 33.3 mph

Max speed 60 mph on 19/12/2018 @ 12.30

Hurworth Rd opposite school outgoing

No of vehicles 59,383

39.5% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 33.8 mph

Max speed 70 mph on 2/12/2018 @ 18.15

Lindon Court incoming

No of vehicles 117,878

21.0% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 33.1 mph

Max speed 60 mph on 12/12/2018 @ 1.00

January 2019 traffic analysis

Steel bridge incoming

No of vehicles 44,700

23.9% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 32.9mph

Max speed 60 mph on 2/1/2019 @ 9.15

Hurworth Rd opposite school outgoing

No of vehicles. 67,155

39.5% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 33.2 mph

Max speed 70 mph on 1/2/2019 @ 22.45

Lindon Court incoming

No of vehicles 106,660

27% drivers exceeded 30 mph speed limit. Ave speeder travelled at 33.1 mph  
Max speed 65 mph on 13/1/2019 @ 20.00

#### **b. SpeedWatch**

Elaine Hedley reported that two sessions had been held in January, despite bad weather, snow and winds.

The first session had yielded 13 drivers exceeding the speed limit. However, the second session had been notified to residents on the internet, and hence only 7 people were logged as speeding.

Dorothy Oughton confirmed that five residents were currently participating in the SpeedWatch project.

### **154. Matters of Interest**

#### **a. Social Media Policy**

Elaine Hedley, who raised this topic invited Tony Winnett to table a motion of the wording which he felt would be appropriate.

#### **The proposed wording is:-**

Councillors should endeavour to use the utmost discretion when using Social media.

Wherever possible they should strictly separate their private media contacts from any Parish Council views or comments, adopting a common-sense approach in line with the Council's Code of Conduct.

Elaine felt that this was too brief, and Margaret Williams suggested that a sentence be added referring and connecting the policy to the Councillor's Code of Conduct. This was added.

The motion was Proposed by Tony Winnett and Seconded by Elaine Hedley, and passed unanimously. **Action Clerk to add this to the Council's Procedures.**

#### **b. HACSA**

Paul Walters outlined to the meeting the progress which HACSA has made since its inauguration. The lease agreement with Priory Group has provided an excellent venue for the sports association, and the membership of youngsters continues to grow.

This summer they are organising a soccer tournament on the field and expect to attract a lot of local young teams.

In order to further develop the site, they wish to grass a second pitch, and require some funding to achieve this. Last year the council gave their support and the money has been well spent in this important community initiative.

A motion was tabled by Paul Walters, seconded by Graham Wylie, that the Council donate £1,000, under Section 137 to support HACSA, The motion was carried unanimously.

### **155. Police Report.**

Graham Wylie gave the following report:-

## **Hurworth Crime Figures, January 2019**

### **Burglary**

08/01 – Westfield Drive – Attempted burglary only, suspects ran away as the call was made – area search no trace.

29/01 – Blackwell Golf – window broken, no persons found inside of the building.

### **Road Related**

11/01 – Croft Road – an accident took place between two vehicles – all persons involved are fine.

11/01 – The green – 2x off road bikes in the village – in a process of obtaining the footage from the shop as apparently the males went inside of the village shop.

17/01 – Emmerson Road – minor collision between a bus and a vehicle – no injuries

### **Animals/Wildlife**

07/01 – Hurworth Moor – People ‘lamping’ (poaching) on farmers land – area search no trace

### **Suspicious**

19/01 – Blackwell Golf Club – suspicious vehicle parked on the site. – Checks made all in order.

22/01 – Hurworth Moor – Persons poaching on farmers land (lamping) – unknown persons too far for any descriptions – area search no trace

### **EXTRA**

One of the NPT officers has been trained to use speed gun. So this will be used to monitor the speeding in the village whenever possible.

In order to reduce the load on Graham, Dorothy Oughton offered to take over the Police liaison and give the report in future.

### **156 Parish Walks**

Janine Forster said there was nothing to report, and that the walks would commence in April 2019. She is currently planning a schedule.

The brochure is being prepared by Graham Wylie, Richard Lawley and Janine, and they plan to arrange a meeting with Steve Petch DBC Rights of Way, to obtain maps and prepare a draft brochure.

Janine requested that the annual walk BBQ be scheduled for Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> August. **Action Clerk to arrange with Hurworth Grange.**

### **157. Parish Chronicle**

Elaine Hedley distributed a schedule to all councillors, requesting input for the Chronicle. The information and articles should reach Elaine by 25<sup>th</sup> February, so that the newsletter can be printed by 12<sup>th</sup> March to ensure that it is delivered along with the church newsletter on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

It is important that the Chronicle reaches residents as the first date for Election Candidates to register is 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019; registration will continue for four weeks.

### **158. 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 January 2019**

| <u>Name</u>                               | <u>Cheque<br/>No</u> | <u>Details</u>                | <u>Amount</u>  |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| P D Allan                                 | 103161               | N Plan and exs                | 89.16          |
| David Parker                              | 103162               | Open spaces work              | 404.00         |
| David Addison                             | 103163               | Temporary Litter Picker       | 133.11         |
| HCA - N Plan                              | 103164               | Neighbourhood Plan            | 109.40         |
| Wellers Law                               | 103165               | Legal costs - allotment claim | 2053.20        |
| M Harrison                                | 103166               | Allotment & handyman          | 165.00         |
| BT                                        | 103167               | Communications                | 135.61         |
| Johnston Tree                             |                      |                               |                |
| Surgeons                                  | 103168               | Tree work                     | 549.00         |
| M Harrison                                | 103169               | Allotment & handyman          | 175.00         |
|                                           |                      | Neighbourhood Plan &          |                |
| HCA                                       | 103170               | newsletter                    | 275.20         |
| Bob Iles                                  | 103171               | Salary                        | 450.92         |
| P D Allan                                 | 103172               | Salary                        | 691.20         |
| Inland Revenue                            | 103173               | PAYE                          | 218.40         |
| Barclays Bank                             | DD                   | Bank charges                  | 2.30           |
| <b>Total Expenditure for January 2019</b> |                      |                               | <b>5451.50</b> |

### **159. Financial report**

The Financial report to 31st January 2019, having been distributed to all Councillors has accepted by the meeting.

As a question had been raised during the Allotment Report, the Clerk highlighted the Legal Costs which have now risen to over £10,000, and a further amount is due now for £2,300. This has resulted in three Council projects being postponed or cancelled, viz:- Hurworth Grange car park resurfacing, more bench seats in the Open Spaces, and the History Memorial plaques.



It is hoped that when the case has been heard in Court, that 'costs' will be awarded to the Council, and we should be able to recover at least a part of the final amount, which is estimated to be over £18,000.

| BLUE=Allocated                     | Financial Report |        |        |        | Financial Report as at 31st January 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                       | 320    |        | 1220   | 900         | 1140   |
| Total Revenue for month            | 56712            | 0      | 53     | 5340   | 2739                                     | 0       | 0       | 50     | 129    | 5720                      | 320    | 3650   | 74713  | 70743       | 75280  |
| Expenditure                        |                  |        |        |        |                                          |         |         |        |        |                           |        |        |        |             |        |
| Salaries & NHI                     | 1360             | 1263   | 1263   | 1459   | 1262                                     | 1263    | 1361    | 1262   | 1265   | 1494                      | 1300   | 1300   | 15852  | 13252       | 15600  |
| Gen. Admin Expenses                | 693              | 699    | 1310   | 162    | 371                                      | 323     | 352     | 65     | 180    | 138                       | 400    | 400    | 5093   | 4293        | 4900   |
| Trees                              | 0                | 750    | 234    | 0      | 0                                        | 3352    | 765     | 0      | 1035   | 599                       | 850    | 400    | 7985   | 6735        | 7500   |
| Open Spaces                        | 503              | 0      | 0      | 513    | 325                                      | 130     | 212     | 900    | 0      | 404                       | 200    | 450    | 3637   | 2987        | 4000   |
| Section 137                        |                  | 2852   | 0      | 0      | 445                                      | 0       | 1150    | -90    | 40     |                           | 1000   | 300    | 5697   | 4397        | 4000   |
| Projects                           |                  | 90     | 0      | 600    | 1100                                     | 9101    | 1599    | 0      | 0      |                           | 2500   | 1200   | 16190  | 12490       | 23200  |
| Legal Costs                        |                  | 0      | 0      |        | 1100                                     | 0       | 3050    | 1682   | 2021   | 0                         | 1000   | 1500   | 10353  | 7853        | 200    |
| Neighbourhood Plan                 |                  | 0      | 1200   |        |                                          | 193     | 115     | 4      | 1464   | 2035                      | 600    | 300    | 5911   | 5011        | 3500   |
| Newsletters                        | 60               | 60     | 60     |        |                                          | 60      | 275     | 843    | 200    | 60                        | 60     | 950    | 2628   | 1618        | 3400   |
| EPICH Support (S137)               |                  |        |        |        |                                          |         | 0       | 0      |        |                           |        | 1500   | 1500   | 0           | 3050   |
| Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail/ Train |                  |        | 0      |        |                                          | 80      | 35      |        |        |                           |        | 400    | 515    | 115         | 500    |
| Allotments                         | 24               | 40     | 280    | 346    |                                          | 362     | 7       | 255    | 332    | 240                       | 300    | 150    | 2336   | 1886        | 1100   |
| Highways & Floods                  | 175              | 70     |        | 165    |                                          |         | 303     | 0      | 0      |                           | 120    |        | 833    | 713         | 1000   |
| Handyman                           | 30               | 566    | 120    |        | 150                                      | 0       | 0       | 0      | 0      | 50                        | 50     | 100    | 1066   | 916         | 1000   |
| Country Fair & Concert             |                  |        |        |        |                                          |         |         |        |        | 0                         |        | 4000   | 4000   | 0           | 4000   |
| Capital Expenditure & Training     |                  |        |        |        | 259                                      |         |         |        |        |                           | 259    |        | 518    | 259         | 518    |
| VAT                                | 84               | 65     | 141    | 144    | 289                                      | 1800    | 1061    | 390    | 404    | 342                       | 400    | 120    | 5240   | 4720        | 2250   |
| Total Disbursements                | 2929             | 6455   | 4608   | 3389   | 5301                                     | 16664   | 10285   | 5311   | 6941   | 5362                      | 9039   | 13070  | 89354  | 67245       | 79718  |
| Revenue less expenses              | 53783            | -6455  | -4555  | 1951   | -2562                                    | -16664  | -10285  | -5261  | -6812  | 358                       | -8719  | -9420  | -14641 | 3498        | -4438  |
| Funds in Hand less ring fenced     | 48,483           | 102266 | 95811  | 91256  | 93207                                    | 90645   | 73981   | 63696  | 58435  | 51623                     | 51981  | 43262  | 33842  |             |        |
| Revenue less epenses               | 53,783           | -6,455 | -4,555 | 1,951  | -2,562                                   | -16,664 | -10,285 | -5,261 | -6,812 | 358                       | -8,719 | -9,420 | 12,687 | Ring fenced |        |
| Balance Forward                    | 102266           | 95811  | 91256  | 93207  | 90645                                    | 73981   | 63696   | 58435  | 51623  | 51981                     | 43262  | 33842  | 46529  |             |        |

#### **160. Web Site and Guestbook.**

Graham Wylie reported that there has been about 200 hits on the site, and none required a response.

Most residents are now using Hurworth Live as there social interaction site.

The Village calendar has now been prepared and is on the web site and also in the monthly church newsletter.

#### **161. Association Reports**

- a. Tony Winnett reported that he and Peter Foster attended the Airport Consultation Committee Meeting.

Much of the meeting had been discussions on the effect of the outcome of Brexit, and how it could affect the airport. It is thought that as KLM is the main airline using the airport that the status quo may continue.

Now that the buyout has been confirmed, plans will be put into place once the Business Plan, which was completed on 24<sup>th</sup> January, is moved towards the action plan. There are opportunities for more jobs on site.

- b. **Darlington Association of Parish Councils**

Elaine Hedley reported that she and Dorothy Oughton had attended, also Tony Winnett. The meeting was well attended with 17 people at the meeting.

Ron Hogg, Police Commissioner for Crime for Durham County addressed the meeting outlining the effect of cuts in their budget and the increase in the Precept that they have been allowed to implement. Although the cuts are hurting the Police Force, Durham has managed to maintain their number of PCSO and police officers on the ground.

The nature of crime is changing, with more emphasis being towards cybercrime and sexually related incidents.

Derek Dodswell was elected Chairman, and Peter Allan the Honorary Secretary. The next meeting will be in July.

#### **162. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)**

- a. Cllr Tostevin stated that the Planning Dept. would be including ownership of land in their planning application deliberations. All councils need to identify pockets of land which appear to have no owner.

Hurworth has an Open Spaces Audit, which was reviewed within the last month by Wilma Campbell.

- b. Wilma Campbell asked for an item to be put on the March Agenda – The new facility to have a ‘No Cold Call Zone’. Details have been circulated to councillors.
- c. Dorothy Oughton drew attention to the No Parking sign near the Mustard Tree, which has again been destroyed or removed. **Action Clerk to replace.**
- d. Tony Winnett asked the Council to formally acknowledge the work that Graham Wylie has done for this Council and, in particular, the community bus project, which sadly did not get used very much.

The Clerk reported that several residents have expressed their appreciation of all the Councillors. It became clear at the Public Meeting, that many residents were now aware of the personal time and effort put in by each Councillor.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:33pm