

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 4th June 2020.

Parish Councillors present:-

All the Councillors were made aware of, and had the opportunity, to contribute to this Virtual Council Meeting. The Council comprises the following Councillors:-

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

Also

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

275. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Wedge.

276. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

277. Chairman's Address

The Chair, Cllr Winnett, opened the meeting.

Welcome to the first Parish video conference meeting.

Before we formally open the meeting I would like to bring all Cllrs and visitors in to the video scene. When they arrive online I will enter them on screen & will then mute them. This is done to avoid background noises interfering with sound and to avoid people talking all at once and over each other. When called to comment or report I will unmute them so they can contribute.

If you wish to speak please raise your hand on screen so I can register your interest and bring you in to the meeting.

I have two pleasurable announcements to make in these rather sober times. Firstly Cllr Sam Ring-Viney has been blessed with a daughter, Alice, born on 19 May. To my knowledge this is probably the first time a serving Cllr has had a family addition. Mother & daughter are doing well. It is good to see the age level of our Cllrs reducing.

Second – the Covid-19 crisis has brought out the best in the Parish and congratulations are due to all the organisers and volunteers helping to provide services for those locals in need. Liv Baker is carrying out superb work and has been well supported with volunteers and donations from various sources.

278. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th May 2020 were accepted by the Council, Proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie and endorsed by Cllr Ring-Viney,

279. Public Participation

We have three residents wishing to comment, unfortunately we have not managed to bring Paul Walters on to the Zoom screen. We have allocated a maximum of 15 minutes for this Item with a maximum of 3 minutes for resident's comments.

A member of the public raised the question of the date for the installation of the 30 mph speed limit at the Secondary and Primary Schools.

Cllr Tostevin was the bearer of disappointing news, and reported that DBC has postponed the installation date at Hurworth, due to the COVID 19 situation and other more pressing priorities within the Borough. The new date is scheduled for April 2021. This will embrace the Roundhill Road chicane project which is the subject of the Section 106 funding from Bellway.

280. Planning Applications.

Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report:-

Planning applications 02/04/2020-06/05/2020				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	20/04/2020	20/04/2020	20/00286/TFC	No Comments
Address	3A Roundhill Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2DY			
About	Notification to carry out works to trees in a designated conservation area - Felling of 2 No. Sycamore trees(T1)(T2)			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	01/05/2020	01/05/2020	PP-08688768	No Comments
Address	16 Roundhill Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2DX			
About	Erection of single storey wraparound extension to front, side and rear elevations including creation of stepped access with handrail to front elevation			
3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	N/A	N/A	20/00083/FUL	Objection below
Address	Development on Roundhill Road			
About	The objections revolve around the flooding risks to the above planning application. The following points constitute the objection. 1. Is the above site being completed to the specifications of the approved planning application? 2. The access road to one of the dwellings only directs the surface water away onto another property There have been evidences supplied showing the ground levels being altered apart from the boundaries. There have been alternative solutions provided. The author of this objection is wanting to know who has accountability for this and remediation was discussed. An email attached has also detailed that a site visit has been carried out with further visits could be due once the current restrictions have been lifted. If the site has deviated from the plans a request to alter these back to the plans will be made.			

281. **Tree Report**

Cllr Foster reported as follows:-

Tree Report May 2020

The replacement trees have now been planted, as agreed by the Council.

The tree in Sanderson Road was replaced with a Rouen. Sadly, this tree has already been vandalised and broken. We have removed the tree and taken it to Hurworth Grange to see whether it can be saved. The police and StreetScene have both been informed.

The three trees near the entrance to Hurworth Grange have been replaced, along with the tree near Jean's meadow in the Grange.

All these trees have been watered each evening since planting, to ensure they become established in their new locations.

The Tree surveys on all sections of the Parish have been completed, and copies of the surveys have been sent to Zurich Insurance and to Mr David Coates at DBC.

DBC wish to use them to help them with their current reappraisal of TPO'S within the borough.

The **QTS Group** has been contracted to construct a new fence at the rear of Hawkswood, to protect children from going to the live railway lines. Four Councillors visited the site, and after consideration, have given the Council's consent to remove this tree. DBC has confirmed this tree is not the subject of a TPO, and they have no objection. Safety must come first. The tree has now been felled.

A large branch broke off one of the trees in Goblins Wood and fell across the road. Fortunately nobody was hurt and Johnston Tree Surgeons were near at hand to cut it up and remove it

282. **Open Spaces & EPICH Report**

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

Open Spaces Report – June 2020

Nothing to report.

EPICH Report – June 2020

In the absence of face to face meetings, the EPICH members are continuing to stay in touch with each other via email, although very little has taken place since the May HPC meeting.

Jean's garden at the Grange

Urban Eden have completed a tidy up of the garden.

Email received from Wilma Campbell prior to 4th June PC meeting

Wilma Campbell advised that a resident had cut down some of the vegetation on the perimeter of their garden and the Lychgate Orchard. Wilma advised the resident that the area is a wildlife corridor, and under the care of EPICH.

The resident was not happy about weeds encroaching their garden and thought that the area was rather unkempt and not looked after, so thought that they were doing a good turn by cutting the area down. Wilma advised that there should have been a clear up earlier in the year, but COVID-19 had stopped this, and that EPICH hope to look at the area in September.

I have suggested that EPICH write up a letter to Lychgate residents and the houses opposite the church who overlook the orchard, explaining that the area is under the care of EPICH, although residents are welcome to help look after the area with EPICH and that it is a wildlife haven. These letters can be printed at the Grange and I will deliver them if required.

Wilma Campbell also mentioned that she has been asked to support a clear up of the chip shop end of the graveyard. DBC do strim this area twice a year (this is not something that DBC are responsible for), but the area is rather unkempt, and though a lot of the graves are well kept, there are a number which do need (and deserve) attention. Wilma would like volunteers (residents with relatives graves in this area may like to get involved with this as well as the EPICH volunteers) to help with this clear up, and I have asked her to put together a notice and will have this posted on the HPC website with a link to Hurworth Live.

283. Playground and Youth Affairs

Cllr Stamp reported:-

Youth Initiatives

Playground

although the play area is closed it could be seen as a good time to push forward with the funding so we are ready for re-opening. This hasn't been easy as the liaison at the council and the contact at funding group are not working at the moment but as soon as I get through to them I will pick up where we left in the process.

Scarecrow Festival

It has been voted to go ahead with this to give the village something to focus on outside of lock down. It might still need to be virtual but for now the date is set for the 25/26th July and I have started to promote it across FB

284. Highways and Traffic Report

1. Cllr Dorothy Oughton submitted her report stating that a number of tasks are still outstanding and will be addressed as soon as resources are available.

There is an outstanding list of 'jobs' to be done, as soon as it is possible to work outside, viz:-

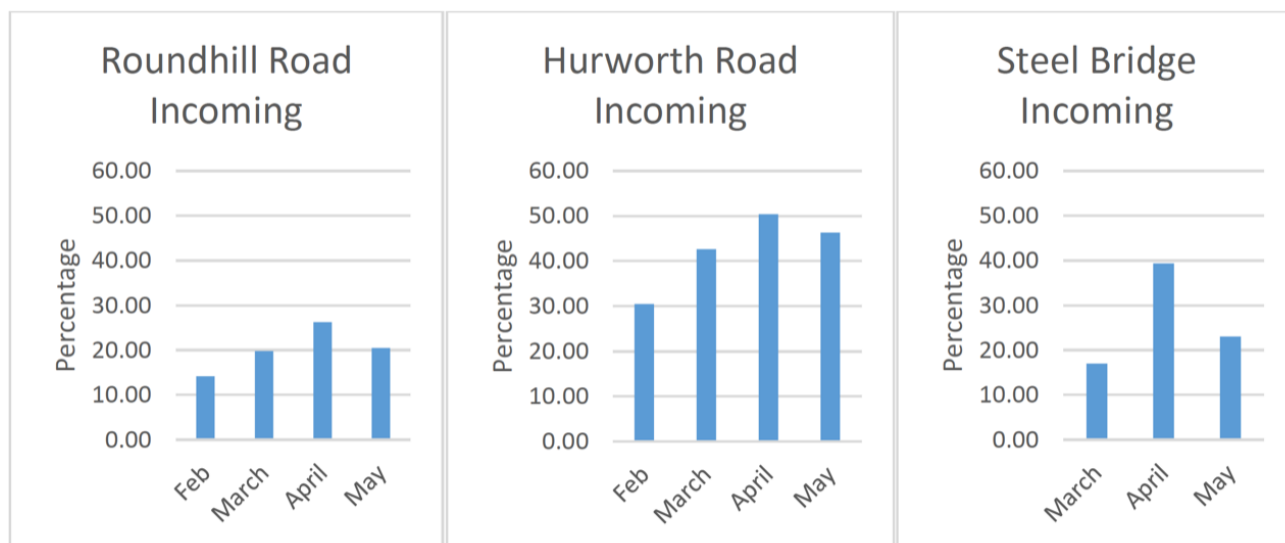
- The potholes on the Green
- The plaque to be re-located from LychGate
- Installation of one bench near Lime Cottage – location to be decided.
- The speed monitor to be installed by DBC near The Birches
- We have not resolved the power loss to the speed monitor post on The Green.

- a. **Speed Watch** Due to the lock down, no sessions were held.

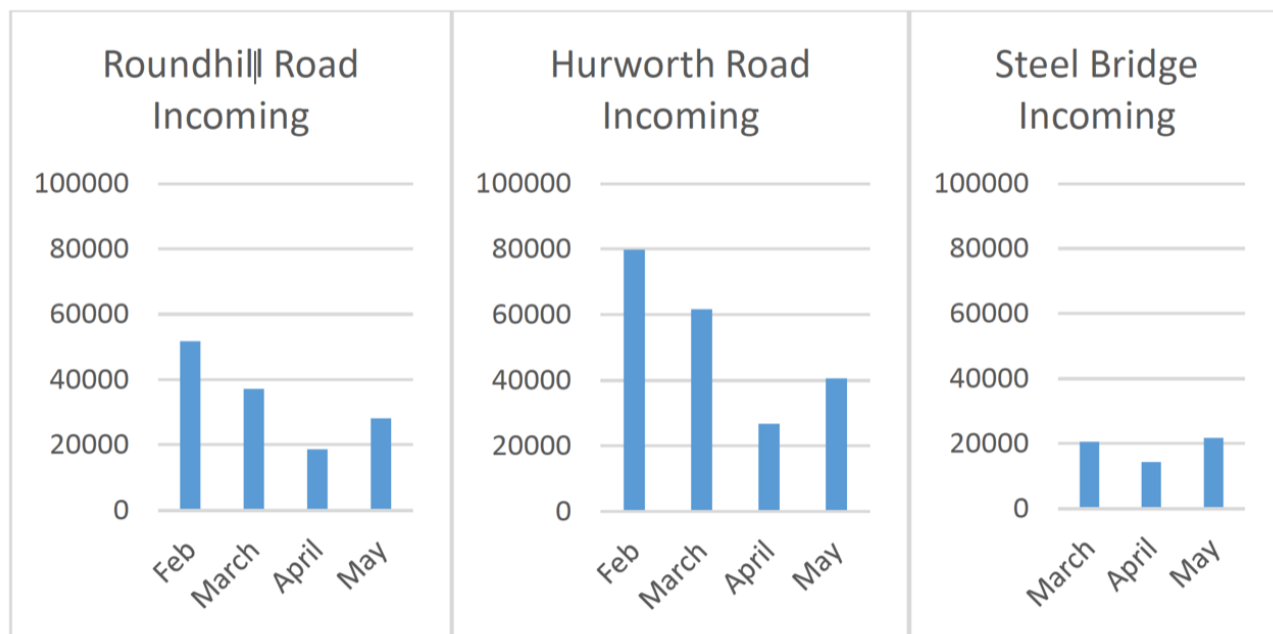
Cllr Hedley reported as follows:-

b. Traffic Statistics in Hurworth

Vehicle Counts Feb – May:



In May all three sites show an increase in traffic volume over the low levels in April. On Roundhill Road and Hurworth Road traffic numbers in May were still only about half of those seen in February.



As the volume of traffic fell February to April the percentage of Speeders doing 30 MPH or more rose at all three sites. We do not have any February data for Steel Bridge. **In April nearly half of all traffic travelling into the village on Hurworth Road was exceeding the speed limit.** The percentage of speeders has reduced at all sites in May but is still a cause for concern especially on Hurworth Road. Darlington Police are reporting similar figures across the Borough. We need to move the monitor from Roundhill Road to the pole on The Green (in response to complaints about speeding made by residents).

Q. Does the pole on The Green have power? If the answer is yes, then when can we have the monitor moved?

If the answer is no, then when can we have the power restored?

The full traffic details can be found in the document archive on the web site.

The May traffic statistics have been forwarded to the Darlington Police Speedwatch team.

285. Matters of Interest

Claim for Legal Costs status

The Chairman reported:-

- a. Claim for Legal Costs from Court Case. As reported on 7 May no payment has been made to the PC. Accordingly we have engaged a local firm of solicitors to assist with the legalities of recovery proceedings.
- b. CDALC has arranged some training courses for new Councillors, which will be conducted in virtual mode using Zoom. We have a few new Councillors and they are encouraged to join one of these courses. The Clerk will send details to all Councillors. **Action Clerk.**

286. Police Report

Cllr Amanda Oughton submitted the following Police Report:-

HURWORTH CRIME FIGURES MAY 2020.

ASB:

03/05 – Reports of a party at a property on Church View. Initially when officers attended, property was in darkness. Suspect however has been spoken to in regards to this report.

13/05 – Report of approx. 6 youths in the grounds of Hurworth Comp School. Officers attended but no signs of youths.

19/05 – Several reports of youths gathering in the grounds of Rockliffe Hall. This has been reported to the neighbourhood policing team who are now doing regular patrols of the area.

BURGLARY:

19/05 – Report of suspicious activity around an empty property on Hurworth Moor. Police attended and confirmed that copper piping had been taken and entry had been gained through a patio door. Incident crimed as burglary and investigation is ongoing.

RTC:

01/05 – Report of a vehicle leaving Croft Road and going into a field. Officers attended. No Injuries. All details taken.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE:

02/05 - Theft from vehicle reported at Evans Halshaw on Croft Road. Officers attended and confirmed that a vehicle had been broken into and headlights had been taken. Investigation ongoing.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

Report of possible theft of benches from outside of The Grange. Officers attended and are in contact with owners to confirm if anything has been taken as there doesn't seem to be any benches missing from anchor points.

287. Parish Walks

Cllr Forster reported –

Two walks were arranged in May 2020.

a. Walk report – for Sunday 24th May 2020 (Hurworth Moor)

Attended by 1 parish councillor - Janine Forster

Paths Walked - 1, 6 & 7

Route description

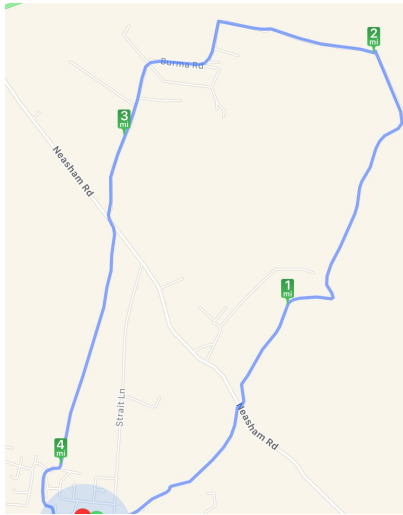
From Church Row walk down and round the Otter and Fish corner into straight lane, crossing the road into Timmy's Lane and path 6, following the track and crossing the field, over the stile and the bridge over Cree beck. The stile has come away and has left some sharp metal points. (Picture 1 & 2). The concrete bridge is still sturdy, but the step off is a drop of 1 1/2 ft, it could benefit from an extra step being placed here (pictures 4 & 5).

Turn left after the bridge along the edge for the beck, then across the field to Neasham road, the way is left clear (pictures 6 & 7). After crossing the road over the stile into the field the path, now path 7, turns left behind Spring Cottage over 2 stiles and passes a small pond (pictures 9,10 & 11).

The way continues towards Neasham Springs farm over the ditch bridge and stile, (pictures 12 & 13) continuing on to the track road and through the farm, the path is easy to follow coming out at Low Maidendale farm (pictures 15 - 18). There is no footpath sign here and as the area is open, it makes it difficult to know where to take this path if coming from the other direction (pictures 19,20 & 21).

From this point follow the track passed the plantation wood, coming out onto Burma road, along Burma road to end, over Neasham road and onto path 1. This first part of the path has dried very uneven after the wet winter making walking difficult, and the stile into the next field is dangerous having barbed wire attached and is too high to get over. (pictures 22 - 27).

The rest of the way along path 1 is walker able, if a little uneven and overgrown along the Rape field, and the hidden stile is still muddy underfoot even after all the dry weather. But the stiles and wood bridge over Cree beck are in a reasonable working state. (pictures 28 - 33)



Walk Length – 4.35 miles
Walk Time - 2 hours 5 minutes

The route was recorded by
Hurworth Parish Councillor Janine Forster
using her Stava App

Actions required:-

- 2 - Stiles in need of attention
- 1 - Footpath sign needed

b. Walk report – for Sunday 31st May 2020 (Rockcliffe Scar)

Attended by 1 parish councillor - Janine Forster

Paths Walked - 9, BW10, 11 & 21

Route description

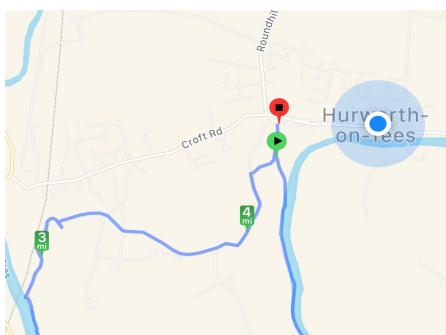
From the village green down path 11 into the Ringfields (pictures 26, 27 & 28) taking Path 9 along the edge of the river, over 4 stiles, this part is easy going and the stiles apart from one are in a good state (Pictures 1-7). Pictures 4 & 5 show the one becoming a little worn.

The start of path 21 has a nice working kissing gate, even though most people seem to just walk round. (picture 8) This path round the river is well walked and the ditch bridge in good order, looking over the golf course, you can see the back of Rockcliffe hotel from here (pictures 9,10,11,12 & 13). The kissing gate (picture 14) at the end of path 21 is obsolete now and not used. At this point the path leaves the river to climb up along the side of the railway to meet path 11 (pictures 15,16,17 & 18) this part of the route is with owner's permission.

Turning left at the top of this part onto path 11 over Rockcliffe grounds, they keep the route well cut. (pictures 19,20,21 & 22)

You then again come to the 1st of the 3 stiles leading on to BW10, this is still in need of repair (Pictures 23 & 24) from here along BW10 to the stile back into the Ringfields field (Picture 25).

Back up the same part of path 11 (pictures 26,27 & 28 again) and out onto the village green and end of the walk.



Walk Length – 4.45 miles
Walk Time - 1 hour 47 minutes

The route was recorded by
Hurworth Parish Councillor Janine Forster
using her Stava App

288. Hurworth Parish Website and Guestbook

Cllr Graham Wylie reported:-

Website and Guestbook Report.

The website will be displaying key information about the Scarecrow Festival, and the Crafts and Produce Show. This will be updated regularly, as the council get more information and guidance in relation to Covid-19.

For those without internet access, a newsletter giving, along with other articles, all the festival and show details. It is currently in the process of being printed and will be delivered to all households shortly.

A parishioner asked a question regarding bonfires in resident's gardens, and whether Hurworth had any restrictions. This has been answered, and Hurworth, as with other places within the Darlington Borough, doesn't have any restrictions for people having bonfires in their own gardens. However, we do ask people to be mindful, and respectful of their neighbours; especially with a lot of residents using their gardens more due to lockdown.

If anyone has a neighbour who has constant fires, then we suggest that they contact Darlington Borough Council, and they will speak to the culprits; if bonfires continue to be a nuisance, then the householder could be fined.

289. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for May 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors has been accepted as no Councillors has raised a query.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable May 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Johnston	103182	Tree surveys and tree work	1575.00
Jamie Westwood	103183	Logo prize	100.00
Wrights stationery	103184	Files and paper	50.27
Sustainable Furniture	103185	One new bench	380.00
G Wylie	103186	WIX licence	39.73
DMA Law	103187	Debt collection enforcement	600.00
P Foster	103188	Purchase of trees	585.00
G Johnston	106189	Planting trees	301.50
A Iles	103190	Salary	479.60
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
P D Allan	103191	Salary	721.60
Inland Revenue	103192	PAYE	26.60

P D Allan 103193 Dog dirt spray and postage 82.60

Total Expenses payable for May 2020 4944.20

VAT Refunded in May 2020

For the year to 31st March 2020 **3189.09**

290. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st May 2020 has been circulated to all Councillors, was accepted by the Council.

BLUE=AllocatedBLUE=Allocated		Financial Report to 31st May 2020									Ringfenced funds £12,689						
	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total	Yer to	Budget		
Revenue														Date	2020-21		
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000		
Litter Picker & VAT refund		3189			2950							2950	9089	3189	9000		
Rent, Interest & sundry			300	10		30			30			330	700	0	500		
Grants, etc						2000							2000	0	2000		
Allotment rent										620	540		1160	0	1180		
Total Revenue for mon	59000	3189	300	10	2950	2030	0	0	30	620	540	3280	71949	62189	71680		
Expenditure																	
Salaries & NHI	1538	1228	1350	1450	1350	1350	1450	1350	1350	1450	1350	1350	16566	2766	16600		
Gen. Admin Expenses	958	192	400	250	200	950	200	300	400	300	400	300	4850	1150	5000		
Trees and Open Spaces		2366	400	500	850	500	450	350	500	750	400	400	7466	2366	7500		
Open Spaces & EPICH			100	800	500	1250	450	500	700	600	1100	750	6750	0	7000		
Section 137	800	317	2300	500		1000	300	300	500	400	100	4000	10517	1117	10500		
Projects			250	1100			1150	600	950	600	1250	4000	9900	0	12000		
Legal Costs & training		500	60	400		120	0	200	20	0	200		1500	500	1500		
Newsltrs & notices			200	150	120	800	150	150	120	90	850	170	2800	0	3400		
Paths/ Walks/ Heritage Trail		54		200		300	100	500	300	200		200	1854	54	2000		
Allotments			50	200	200	100	60	140	100	100	80	120	1150	0	1250		
Highways								45	420	310		125	900	0	1000		
Handyman			150	135	100	40	215		160	120	90	70	1080	0	1200		
Capital					259				1000	259			1518	0	1518		
VAT	25	287	100	220	400	50	50	30	120	120	130	190	1722	312	1600		
Total Disbursements	3321	4944	5360	5905	3979	6460	4575	4465	6640	5299	5950	11675	68573	8265	72068		
Revenue less Expenses	55679	-1755	-5060	-5895	-1029	-4430	-4575	-4465	-6610	-4679	-5410	-8395	3376		-388		
Funds in Hand less ring f	45,422	101101	99346	94286	88391	87362	82932	78357	73892	67282	62603	57193	48798				
Revenue less epenses	55,679	-1,755	-5,060	-5,895	-1,029	-4,430	-4,575	-4,465	-6,610	-4,679	-5,410	-8,395	12,689		Ring fence		
Balance Forward	101101	99346	94286	88391	87362	82932	78357	73892	67282	62603	57193	48798	61487				

The Clerk reported that all the papers and submissions for the year to 31st March 2020 have been sent to the external auditors, and they have acknowledged receipt.

291.Association Reports

1. HCA

Cllr Graham Wylie reported:-Following the enforced cancellation of the Tenth Hurworth Country Fair, the Grange have decided to hold a Craft and Produce Fair, on 19th September, on the hope and assumption that they will be allowed to hold the event.

A meeting was held in Zoom mode, and a team is in place to make the arrangements for the seventy or more craft and produce categories, with the rules and judging and prize details.

Some entertainment will accompany the Craft Fair, including two bands and a children's entertainer.

The logistics will be handled by the Grange team.

In the unfortunate circumstance that the event cannot go ahead because of the Government regulations, then there is a plan in place to hold the competitions and judging in virtual mode, so that people who have prepared their exhibits will still be able to participate and not be disappointed.

2. There was a discussion about the work which is being carried out on the priory Playing field, which is leased to HACSA. The work appears to be extensive and concerns have been expressed about the detrimental effect this could have on the wild life and also the water course of Cree Beck.

It was agreed that this is a private matter between HACSA and Priory Group, and that the Council should not interfere. Residents can raise questions on their own account, if they wish.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 2nd July 2020. It is expected that this meeting will be held using Zoom and will be in interactive mode.

The meeting was closed at 8:05pm.