

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday 2nd December 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp

Also

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

561. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Kelvin Russell

562. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH

Cllr David Crisp – Allotments

563. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

564. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2021

The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie and seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie.

565. Public Participation

1. A resident asked why Hurworth Parish Council had not lodged any formal comments about the DBC Plan, whereas several other parish councils have.

The Chairman explained that HPC had undertaken the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was the formal and recommended method of inputting comments and recommendations to DBC for consideration during the planning preparation.

The work on the Neighbourhood Plan included a survey inviting feedback from every residence in the Hurworth parish. The returned surveys totalled approximately 400, and these were processed by a professional organisation in Durham; the statistical summaries were then inserted into the Neighbourhood Plan.

A professional Housing Assessor was engaged, and they carried out a thorough analysis over a four-week period and produced a detailed report which became a central point of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The team prepared various other sections including Open Space, Conservation Areas, community facilities, traffic and most importantly our vision for the future.

The next section was a consultation with the businesses within the parish. Several businesses attended the early meetings, but did not continue to attend once their input was incorporated.

Following this, a letter, with a short questionnaire, was sent out to nearly 40 businesses within the parish, and replies were received from about half of them. These documents were incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

During this period, all but one of the original team of twelve, with others coming and going, evaporated as progress appeared to always be thwarted by DBC's lack of co-operation.

Finally, DBC announced their own Plan, which meant that all our efforts were in vain, as the input would not be included.

The better news is that the DBC Plan, which spans 15 years, does not include any more major housing developments in Hurworth, apart from the current development in the Geneva Wood area. Cllr Tostevin confirmed the DBC stance but pointed out that the DBC Plan will be reviewed after five years and could change as a result of this as it is dependent upon the housing need; Cllr

Tostevin alluded to the staff who will be moving to the Darlington area as the Treasury is moved to Darlington.

Our thanks go to Nigel Goddard, who of the fifteen or more people, participated in this project, and was the last man standing; he ceased his participation following DBC making it too difficult to finalise and put it to a referendum. Copies of the plan are available from the Parish Clerk.

Cllr Tostevin suggested that the Parish Council submit a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan as part of their commentary submission against the DBC Plan – **Action Clerk**

2. A resident wished to comment on the recent decision taken by the Council to cease their Duty of Care covering the Lychgate Orchard.

The Chairman and Parish Clerk addressed this question, by explaining that the area concerned is not owned by the Parish Council, and it is a community amenity provided by the original house builder on the estate; the area was provided so that the residents could congregate and help build stronger community relationships for the new families moving into the area.

The community amenity is there for the use of the surrounding residents and could be used by residents for their own recreational purposes.

However, the area had become somewhat neglected, so in recent months, with the Duty of Care order in place, EPICH have completed a lot of work, on behalf of the Parish Council, to support the natural habitat in the Lychgate Orchard.

Following a protracted complaint from a resident regarding tree maintenance (that the Parish Council, under its Tree Policy guidelines, is not liable for), it was agreed that there is little or no justification to the Parish Council keeping on the responsibility for the Duty of Care at the Lychgate Orchard. This was based on the perceived risk to Council finances in relation to tree work, that the Parish Council is not liable for, being requested across the Parish had the resident's complaint, about the Lychgate Orchard trees, been resolved by the work being funded by the Parish Council.

It was stressed that even though the Duty of Care has been retracted, the Parish Council are happy to continue to support EPICH in this work.

566. Financial Committee Meeting held on 30th November 2021.

The meeting attended by nine of the Parish Council members.

The Parish Clerk gave a presentation, during which the budget and projects for the years 2022 and 2023 were discussed.

The Parish Clerk handed out a Post Meeting Impact Summary, which incorporated all the new projects and any changes to the budget, to reflect the decisions taken at the Finance Meeting.

1. A motion was tabled by Cllr Dorothy Oughton and seconded by Cllr Hedley that the decisions taken at the Finance Meeting, and as summarised in the Impact Report be adopted by the full Council. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
2. The Chairman tabled a motion, seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton, that the Precept for 2022 should remain the same as the current year at £59,000. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk was instructed to inform DBC of the 2022 Precept for Hurworth Parish. **Action Clerk**

567. Planning Applications

In his absence, Councillor Willis submitted the following report: -

- 1) 2 Eden close – wraparound ground floor extension - approved by HPC
- 2) 15 Minster Walk – conversion of garage to utilities/WC – approved by HPC
- 3) 36 Friars Pardon – ground floor glass extension and veranda – late application but no objection – planning application states work was not started prior to planning approval – this clearly not the case!
- 4) Numerous appeals regarding Gypsy sites on Burma Road and Neasham Road

568. Tree Report

In the absence of Cllr Foster there was no Tree Report for November.

However, the Chairman regaled the Council with the events, following storm Arwen the previous weekend, and the trees which had fallen.

He commended Mr Guy Foster, of Johnston Tree Surgeons, on the promptness and efficiency he gave to assisting HPC and attending to the damaged trees. We received top class service.

669. Roads and Pathways Report

In his absence, Councillor Willis submitted the following report: -

- 1) Footpath improvements in the Wayside – these will take place over 8 weeks during December and January
- 2) No progress on footpath improvements on Roundhill Road between Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive
- 3) No report following Traffic Survey to newly installed traffic calming system

570. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report: -

Open Spaces Report – December 2021

Nothing to report.

EPICH Report – November 2021

Heritage Orchard

Following (further) recent vandalism of the ‘step over’ fruit trees, it has been agreed to remove the step over trees; this will be completed during the dormant tree growing months of late Autumn/ early Winter.

It had been hoped that the information panel would be ready for installation during the October half-term holiday, but there have been delays with the supplier, and a definite date has not yet been given: the cost for this panel is being covered by the remainder of the TVNP grant.

Bees

After many happy and successful years, it has been decided to end our longstanding arrangements with the Clervaux Trust, and the bees are on the move.

Recently Rockliffe Hall approached EPICH and invited us to join them in their kitchen garden. The EPICH Chair has said that this opportunity has come at the right time and is very excited about building up a strong community relationship with Rockliffe Hall.

Projects

Work is fairly well complete for the current year, and thoughts are turning towards efforts required for 2022; these, as always, will be communicated once decided at the regular EPICH meetings.

571. Youth and Playground Report

In the absence of both Cllr Stamp and Cllr Munro there was no report.

A meeting with Priory Hurworth House School is being arranged.

572. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted a detailed traffic report for the month of November 2021. Due to a technical issue, the details have not been able to be included in the meeting minutes. However, the full report and graphics are available on the HPC website.

573 Crime report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton presented the November crime figures:-

Crime Figures for November 01/11/2021-30/11/2021

04/11/2021 Theft & Handling

Caller reporting a theft from a building site on Roundhill Road. Incident has been crimed and is being investigated.

05/11/2021 Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting two males throwing fireworks near to Hurworth Grange. Caller cannot provide any descriptions and states they are not throwing them at members of the public, just within a public space. Caller states the males had then left the area and no further calls were received. Due to the number of other ongoing incidents, Officers unable to attend.

05/11/2021 ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting that approximately 90 minutes ago, there was a vehicle doing 'doughnuts' in the car park of The Grange. The vehicle has now left and caller does not think the CCTV will have any useful footage. Caller regularly attends the area and will inform staff members to contact the Police when incident is ongoing/ if any CCTV can be obtained.

06/11/2021 Animals/ Wildlife

Caller reporting a horse is loose near to Rockcliffe Court. Further call before Police attendance to say horse has been safely returned to the field, which is now secure.

09/11/2021 Vehicle- Criminal Damage

Caller reporting that their vehicle has been damaged during the day whilst parked on The Green. The incident has been added to Police systems as a crime and is currently under investigation.

09/11/2021 Vehicle- Criminal Damage

Caller reporting similar to the above incident in which their car and 5 others have been intentionally damaged whilst being parked on The Green. This incident has also been crimed and is also under investigation.

12/11/2021 RTC- Damage Only

Caller reporting there has been a two vehicle RTC on the A66 roundabout near to the Evans Halshaw Garage. Police attendance to obtain details and manage traffic.

12/11/2021 ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting a motorbike in the Geneva Woods area. Caller has not seen it, but has heard it. Officers attended, area search no trace.

13/11/2021 ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting two motorbikes in the Geneva Woods area. Officers attended, area search no trace.

13/11/2021 Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting that they have seen a bright lamp in the field between the Fox and Hound Pub, up towards Miller's Farm. No vehicles seen nearby. Officers have attended, area search no trace for any persons/ vehicles.

15/11/2021 Suspicious Package/ Object

Caller reporting he has just seen potential poachers on the land around Dibdale Road. No vehicles or persons have been seen. Officers attended, area search no trace.

16/11/2021 Vehicle- Theft From

Caller reporting two males have removed a bumper from a vehicle in the Evans Halshaw Garage on Croft Road. The incident has been crimed and is currently under investigation.

16/11/2021 Firearms

Caller reporting they have witnessed two males in the Geneva Woods area and they are possibly in possession of a firearm. Officers attended, area search no trace.

16/11/2021 Animals/ Wildlife

Caller reporting that cattle have got into the field next to the river at Teesview. Attempts have been made to contact the owner. Cattle are secured within a field and have not got access to the road. No further calls relating to this.

17/11/2021 ASB Environmental

Caller states that there is a shooting ground (with permission) in the wooded area in Hurworth Moor and they have found a deer that has been shot in the neck. The shooters all know they are not allowed to shoot the deer. Officers have attended and spoken to the caller. The information has been forwarded to Neighbourhood Policing Teams in order to progress/ factor in specific areas into regular patrols.

17/11/2021 Road Related Offence

Caller reporting a young male driving at speed along Hurworth Road. Details have been passed to CH in order for checks to be done. Observations for the vehicle have been passed to all Darlington Officers.

17/11/2021 RTC- Damage Only

Caller is reporting a potential RTC where a vehicle has gone through the hedgerow running alongside Croft Road. Multiple calls have been made in relation to this. Police have attended initially to assess the vehicle/ driver. PCSO's have attended a few days later in order to assist in the removal of the vehicle from the field.

18/11/2021 Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting potential lampers in the Hurworth Moor area. No vehicles or dogs seen, just one light and potentially two people. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

18/11/2021 Public Order

Caller reporting that two bicycles have been located on their land and believe they could belong to lampers. No persons have been seen, just the bicycles. Officers attended and have detained one male. The incident has also been crimed and is currently under investigation.

22/11/2021 Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting that on Hurworth Moor three males have just been seen going into the reserve with a bag believed to be holding a gun. Caller has recontacted to say the males have left towards the Skerne Park area. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

27/11/2021 Highway Disruption

Officer reporting, they have come across a large metal shed in the road, on Roundhill Road. It is too heavy and sharp for the Officer to remove alone, however they will not leave the location as the item is moving around. Update to say all is in order and the shed has been positioned on the owner's driveway and the road is clear.

27/11/2021 Highway Disruption

Caller reporting that there is a large piece of steel at the side of the A66 near to Hurworth Grange. It is not currently causing an obstruction but may blow into the road. Highways have been notified and have attended to remove the item.

29/11/2021 Cancel/ Error

Initial call related to potential criminal damage to the substation area of the building site on Hurworth Moor. The incident was crimed and under investigation. During this process, workers at the site have admitted to leaving the premises unsecured and so the damage has been caused by the extreme weather conditions.

30/11/2021 ASB Nuisance

Caller has said there are two males knocking on doors trying to sell things on Blind Lane. Officers have attended, area search no trace. Caller has been visited for reassurance and has been sent local Neighbourhood Policing Team / beat PCSO details.

****Notes****

Due to the number of potential Poaching/ Lamping incidents, the Darlington Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Response have been running various Operations in regards to combatting this issue. This has involved both PCs/ PCSOs and Rural PCs/PCSOs, being out in hotspot locations during the hours that are often most affected by these incidents. This has included both day and night shifts.

They have been successful in obtaining information for suspects found on scene and dealing with them appropriately, as well as seizing various off-road vehicles in the process. These operations will continue regularly and the NPT are aware of the issues and so the hotspot locations will be factored into their patrols.

The 'Hotspot Policing Tile' for The Grange Community Centre is still in place on our systems and will remain until the beginning of December. Due to the number of ASB incidents over the past month, the tile will not be re-instated onto our systems when the date runs out. This is because there has been an improvement in the number of incidents relating to ASB within the area and an increase in the number of Poaching/ Lamping incidents.

This does not mean the area will not be patrolled regularly, just that our focus may shift slightly. If the ASB issues re-start/ increase, we can easily add a tile for Hurworth/ a specific location within Hurworth, to our systems once again.

If there are incidents occurring regularly and they are not being called into 101, I would encourage residents to start to report these. Therefore, we will be able to obtain a true insight into the issues affecting the village and do something about it!

574 Allotment Report

Councillor Crisp gave the following report: -

The Annual General Meeting for the Allotment Committee has been scheduled for 7th December at 7pm.

Four allotments at Strait Lane will be vacated in January, and there are seven residents currently on the Waiting List.

The recent high winds have damaged one of the fence posts (where the notice board is) and it was agreed that this will get repaired.

575. Matters of Interest

The Chairman highlighted the Christmas Fair which be taking place at Hurworth Grange on 5th December. And the Carols on the village Green on 17th December. All are invited and both events are free entry.

576. Accounts Payable

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for November 2021, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted with no queries raised by Councillors

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable November 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M Harrison	103607	Guttering project	175.00
G Johnston	103608	Tree work	292.50
A C Metals	103609	Skip hire for allotments	240.00
Friends of Geneva Woods	103610	Section 137 award	500.00
DBC grit	103611	Filling grit bins	539.89
G Wylie	103612	Poster	10.08
A Iles	103613	Salary	490.05
P D Allan	103614	Salary	1227.40
Inland Revenue	103615	PAYE	245.60
P D Allan	103616	Wreaths and admin expenses	185.62
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Total expenditure for November 2021			3908.44

Repayment of advance to Hurworth Albion received £1,800.

577. Financial report

The Financial report to 30th November 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report to 30th November 2021															
BLUE=Allocated	BLUE=Allocated					Ringfenced funds	E12,689								
	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Total	Yr to Date	Budget 2021-2022
Revenue															
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund			1880		3119						3200		8199	4999	9000
Rent & Interest	354	600		2		3			10		10	160	1139	959	500
Grants													0	0	2000
Allotment rent										1180			1180	0	1180
Total Revenue	59354	600	1882		3119	3	0	0	10	1180	3210	160	69518	64958	71680
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1330	1451	1330	1963	2074	1963	1950	2050	1950	1950	20802	12902	16600
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	970	762	185	173	605	81	183	300	300	350	300	4574	3324	5000
Trees	0	265	0	0	455	149	270	293	700	400	400	250	3182	1432	7500
Open Spaces	513	47	195	22	17	520	40	0	600	500	500	200	3136	1356	7000
Section 137	110	1400	608	2925	300	935	590	500	900	200		500	8968	7368	10500
Projects	0	0		0	938	340	0	500	2000	1500	600		5178	1278	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		0		0	135		150	3100	150	100	3635	135	1500
Newsletters & Posters	10	128		60	0	676	120		60	60	860	60	2034	994	3400
Youth Activities & Scalegroups						0	0					200	200	0	0
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail							0	450		320	500		1270	450	2000
Allotments	13		193	360		61	0	200			200		1029	829	1250
Highways							0			500	180		480	0	1000
Handyman				200		0	175	200	100	100	100	100	875	375	1200
Parish Walks						100			200				300	100	1600
Capital Expend & N	1000			2850	258		1800	-1800		259	3000		7367	4308	1518
VAT		6	92	812	224	120	28	144					1426	1426	
Total Exps	3466	4156	3180	8865	3695	5369	5238	2108	7060	8889	8790	3660	64476	36077	72068
Funds in Hand less													5042		-388

The above Report is also available on the web site, where it is in larger print.

578. Association Reports

1. Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:-

Hurworth Community Association Report – December 2021

Building on community focussed events, as well as taking full advantage of the improved Grange facilities, a Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 5th December between 10:30 and 4pm, with free entrance to the public. The response from local artisans has been fantastic, and we are expecting approximately 50 stall holders.

Continuing with community focussed events, the EPICH Chair, Pat Simpson, along with Lynn Wylie and Judith Redfern, are progressing well with organising the Wassail to be held at 4:30pm on 17th January in the Heritage Orchard. There will be lots of singing (courtesy of Ken Pattison) and a toast of spiced apple drinks accompanied with apple cake to wake up the orchard. The Coffee Pot will be open and will be serving drinks and hot food options to the participants. The Black Diamond Morris dancers and more singing will be held in the Coffee Pot courtyard to keep everyone entertained. Please come along for an enjoyable afternoon and remember to bring a torch plus something to make a loud noise with!

- It has been agreed to proceed with the all-weather path to complete the section between Jean's Garden and the Grange entrance opposite Elmfield Road. Following the grant awarded to the HCA, HCA will take control of this Project and work is expected to start, weather permitting, early in the new year.

579. Any Other Business (non-financial).

No subjects were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:00pm