

# Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting

## Held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November starting at 7.00pm



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### Attendees

#### Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr. Andrew Leigh, Cllr. Dave Crisp, Cllr. Dorothy Oughton, Cllr. Bree Stamp, Cllr. Debra Williamson, Cllr. Peter Williamson, Cllr John Howard, Cllr Janine Forster.

#### Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 23 members of the public, and two guest speakers.

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### 1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the attendees

1. The Chairman was pleased to welcome John Howard back on to the Parish Council. Cllr Howard replaces Cllr Russell.
2. Council Vacancy. Cllr Probert has left the Council, leaving one new vacancy. The council will be advertising the vacancy for one councillor, and applications will be welcomed.
3. The Finance Meeting to set the Precept for 2025, will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November starting at 6:30pm in the Art Room at Hurworth Grange. This is a private meeting. All Councillors are summoned to attend.

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### 2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Fiona Lennox, Cllr Peter Foster is on leave of absence.

Cllr Peter Willis was not present

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### 3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

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### 4. Presentation

Jamie Grant, who is Flood Resilience Community Engagement Officer, along with her colleague, gave a presentation, focused on how to deal with a flood crisis. The following are the key topics, which need to be considered in preparation for such a crisis.

#### KNOW WHAT TO DO BEFORE DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD.

##### KEY ACTIONS TO TAKE BEFORE A FLOOD

Know your flood risk: <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk> Report blocked drains/gullies to your Local Authority, Report main river issues to the Environment Agency 0800 80 70 60

Get a grab bag with medicines and important items - torch, first aid kit etc.

Order sandbags/aquasacs and have some stored. <https://bluepages.org.uk/>

Explore property protection measures: <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk> Have a personal flood plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan> Sign up to free flood warnings:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

#### CHECK YOUR HOME INSURANCE COVERS FLOODING.

FloodRe can make flood cover more affordable if eligible: <https://www.floodre.co.uk> Have a community flood plan and a list of key contacts at hand

## KEY ACTIONS TO TAKE DURING A FLOOD

Prioritise your safety Report flooding of properties and risk to life to 999 Follow instructions from emergency services Call Floodline for advice: 0345 988 1188

Install flood protection products before water enters property, for example flood barriers, air brick covers. Guidance <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk>

Move important items to safety e.g. upstairs and cars to higher ground. If you need to evacuate:

Take a grab bag with key items and medicines. Switch off gas, electricity and water supplies only if safe to do so - do not touch electrical switch/es if standing in flood water.

Further guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood>

## KEY ACTIONS TO TAKE AFTER A FLOOD

Report property flooding to your insurer and follow their guidance. Take photographs of flooding and damage where safe to do so. Provide written account of flood levels and times Contact community engagement team for support and advice: email: [engagement\\_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:engagement_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Further guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/after-flood>.

The meeting thanked the presenters for their time and the information tendered.

Hurworth Grange is the Crisis Sanctuary if ever required. Sand bags are stored in the old toilet block near Croft bridge. Cllr Peter Foster is the Contingency Officer, but due to his current leave of absence, the Council need to consider this situation.

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## 5. Minutes from Meeting Held 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

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The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Oughton, seconded by Cllr Debra Williamson and passed unanimously.

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## 6. Matters Arising – Outstanding Issues

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No items were put forward, apart from the Bellway situation, which will be discussed.

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## 7. Ward Councillors Update

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### Ward Councillors Report 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### Food Waste Recycling

There is a directive to local authorities to implement a food waste recycling service by March 2026 (even earlier for businesses with more than 10 employees).

This is currently in early discussion in Darlington and was recently presented to a Scrutiny committee for consideration. The proposal is that the big 200 L residual waste bin will be reduced to 180L with a 5 to 7 litre internal kitchen caddy to scrape potato peelings, chicken bones and other food waste into. This will then be transferred into a 23 litre external food waste bin for a weekly collection.

DBC are hoping for a one-off payment from government will be sufficient funding to implement the new system otherwise it will be a further pressure on the already strained local authority budget.

## **Fly tipping**

Streetscene staff have cleared 213 fly tips in October and issued one fixed penalty notice for £1000. Fly tipping and roadside waste is evident in Hurworth with Burma Road and Roundhill Road being hotspots. There is an online reporting system for fly tips. Please also encourage residents to order Bulky Waste collections if they have large items to be removed, these are available from DBC at a cost of £22.90 for up to 6 items.

## **Fox Close Signage**

The road sign had been removed for some reason this will be replaced by DBC ASAP

## **Hurworth Place Bus Shelter**

We received a report of graffiti on the bus shelter which included images of anatomy and racial abuse. The reporter suggested that it had been carried out by schoolchildren. This is not the first time this shelter has had to be cleaned so the intention is to speak to the school to make the schoolchildren aware that they have been observed, there has also been a suggestion that CCTV may be helpful if it were an option.

## **Consultations**

DBC run regular consultations to which they encourage residents to respond and they are available to view on DBC website. There is currently a preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy consultation and DBC are eager to hear resident views and ideas in order to shape the final strategy.

## **Constitution**

There are some proposed changes to the Constitution which are due to go to Cabinet and then to Council later this month. Included is the suggestion that all DBC Councillors should have a basic DBS (police check). This will be debated and it may be something that Parish Councillors also wish to consider

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## **8. Public Participation**

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Questions were raised about the volume of leaves in the village and on the Grange estate. Streetscene are responsible for leaves on the main roads and kerbs. Leaves on the pavement need to be brushed to the road if Streetscene is going to collect them. Leaves on the estates are unlikely to be picked up by DBC or our own litter picker; therefore, householders should tidy up their sections.

### **1. Fly Tipping**

A member of the public raised the issue of fly tipping as an ongoing issue

The DBC Ward Councillor's confirmed that fly tipping as an ongoing issue and said there has been prosecutions when people have been caught in the act and will continue to do so. However, this issue is not just an issue in Hurworth, but all over the County and beyond.

### **2. Bellway Estate**

Several members of the public raised their dissatisfaction of the situation at the Bellway estate. There are a number of issues regarding the incompleteness and the quality of craftsmanship relating to the infrastructure and houses within the Roundhill road estate. This situation has been going on for a long time now, and there appears to be a stand off between DBC who will not accept responsibility until the contract has not been signed off, the Bellway who are either refusing to complete their

responsibilities or arguing that the project is complete. It appears clearly, that the path and walkways on the estate are not complete.

It was agreed that Hurworth Parish Council have no responsibility, but they will try to bring the two parties together and broker a solution.

There is some confusion as Bellway say that DBC must sign off the works for them to be able to complete. DBC's stance is that they will not sign off until Bellway have completed the works.

One resident has made some progress and has identified the DBC representative who appears to be central in these discussions, this representative is Mr. Ashley Pratt.

Cllr John Howard tried to answer a few specific questions, and intends to make some enquiries.

Cllr Tostevin stated that our MP, Matt Vickers, is also becoming involved in this dispute.

**Action:** Lorraine Tostevin will speak with the principals in the Planning Department at DBC and investigate the situation to try and resolve the issue.

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## 9. Planning Application

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In the absence of Cllr Willis, there was no Planning Application report.

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## 10. Tree Report

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Cllr Debra Williamson gave the following report: -

**Goblins Wood – Sycamore Tree with TPO – Update**

A 5-day notice for a Sycamore Tree at Goblins Wood, which has a TPO on it to be felled due to it being dangerously damaged. DBC have accepted that the tree should be felled.

DBC did put a notice up that anyone who has an objection to the tree at Goblins Wood being felled, have 21 days to put in their objection. However, due to the tree being dangerous and could fall in very strong winds DBC made the decision the tree should come down.

We have now received the three tree Surveys, covering all the trees which are under duty of care within Hurworth Parish. A copy of these reports will be sent the Planning Dept at DBC, and to Zurich Insurance Company.

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## 11. Open Spaces & Environment Report

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In the absence of Cllr Lennox, there was no report

We are pleased to report that StreetScene have cut the hedge at Westfield Drive and, removed the overgrown bushes near the letter box.

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## 12. Highways & Traffic Report

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Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported the following details for the traffic for the month of October 2024: -

**Traffic Report**

The traffic volume and average speed for the month of October 2024 are as follows; also the highest speed recorded: -

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

|                                                           |         |        |               |          |               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| Metal Bridge                                              | fastest | 65 mph | average speed | 29.7 mph | Total traffic | 24,238  |
| The Green                                                 | fastest | 63 mph | average speed | 26.6 mph | Total traffic | 36,141  |
| Hurworth Road                                             | fastest | 51 mph | average speed | 23.5 mph | Total traffic | 58,564  |
| Linden Court                                              | fastest | 60 mph | average speed | 27.5 mph | Total traffic | 138,626 |
| Roundhill Road                                            | fastest | 54 mph | average speed | 25.6 mph | Total traffic | 60,408  |
| More extensive details are available on the HPC web site. |         |        |               |          |               |         |

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## 13. Crime & Security Report

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**Cllr Oughton reported as follows: -**

A PACT Meeting was held at Hurworth Grange on 5th November.

The police reported that there was a high level of incidents reported, but only two have been categorised as Criminal.

Vehicle criminal damage      1

Anti-Social Behaviour          1 - This crime is still under investigation

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## 14. Rights of Way & Parish Walks

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**Cllr Peter Williamson reported: -**

Footpath 11/Teesdale way

Middlesborough football club have carried out refurbishment on their section of the footpath between the Railway line and Hotel grounds.

This has required some clearing of overgrown bushes and raising the pathway several inches to alleviate flooding, before laying down a subsurface and then top surface to make the path good for winter conditions.

The same pathway further along and between the Hotel grounds and blind lane, has no further update at present, as the DBC rights of way officer is on annual leave.

The reported falling trees on Westfield Road, opposite number 12 have now been removed by Darlington Borough Council as they were a danger to passing traffic.

There has been no further development about the collapsed fence on Manorfields by the park, this will be followed up with DBC.

The broken bollard refurbishment on the pathway between Coach Lane and Emerson Road is waiting on an update from the DBC rights of way officer after his return from annual leave.

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## 15. Allotments Report

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Cllr Crisp reported that activities on the allotments are now quiet, as winter approaches.

A skip was delivered to Strait Lane allotments on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October and all allotment holders had the opportunity to clear away their rubbish. As always it was filled.

The Halloween Party, organised by the Allotment Committee and held in the Village Hall was another great success.

The **Allotment Committee AGM** will be held on Wednesday evening on 11<sup>th</sup> December, at Hurworth Grange. All allotment holders and registered Helpers, also residents whose names are on the Waiting List.

## 16. Roads & Pathways Report

Cllr Forster reported that all the potholes had now been repaired, and the roads are in good condition. All the grit bins will be filled by the end of November.

## 17. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

1. The work on the roof of the Hurworth Grange garage block will be started soon and is expected to be completed by the end of November.
2. We have made contact with DBC regarding erecting our notice board on the **Elder Brook Park** housing estate. The second new estate Hurworth Meadows, now has houses occupied, and there is a tarmac pathway joining the two estates. We have selected a different location for the notice board, so that it will serve both estates. However, we have just received a notification from DBC stating that at present ESH own the property, and hence they cannot give us permission. They recommend that we re-apply in 2025.
3. Cllr Debra Williamson reported that the Parish Chronicle has now been printed, and the bulk of the chronicles have been handed to the church for delivery throughout the parish.
4. There has been a request for support towards an application for a 40mph speed limit on Neasham Road and other roads, in our village. This was left open for further discussion.

## 18. Projects 2023-2024

Cllr Forster reported that there is good progress with the tree project, and the top section will be in place by the end of November.

At this point, the project will be declared finished, and the balance of the grant claimed. It is hoped that another project will be undertaken, as the community group are keen to continue.

## 19. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of payments made in the month of October, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

| <b>Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable October 2024</b> |                   |                                   |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                                                    | <b>Cheque No.</b> | <b>Details</b>                    | <b>Amount</b>    |
| D. Crisp                                                       | 103063            | Allotment shed                    | 108.95           |
| P Williamson                                                   | 103064            | Expenses, allotments              | 40.26            |
| N Goddard                                                      | 103065            | Planters                          | 83.82            |
| D Little                                                       | 103066            | Grass cutting, allotments         | 300              |
| Tree Boy Ltd                                                   | 103067            | Tree survey                       | 675              |
| Tree Boy Ltd                                                   | 103068            | Tree survey and tree work         | 792              |
| Hurworth Grange CIO                                            | 103069            | Church news letter                | 60               |
| All Saints Church                                              | 103070            | Christmas Tree Fest - Section 137 | 250              |
| G Wylie                                                        | 103071            | Posters                           | 15.66            |
| Paul Robinson                                                  | 103072            | Salary                            | 427.63           |
| John MacDonald                                                 | 103073            | Salary                            | 201.6            |
| P D Allan                                                      | 103074            | Salary                            | 1220.8           |
| Inland Revenue                                                 | 103075            | <b>PAYE</b>                       | 381.2            |
| P D Allan                                                      | 103076            | Wreaths, cartridges, expenses     | 235.22           |
|                                                                |                   |                                   | <b>£4,792.14</b> |

## 20. Financial Reports

The Financial Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> October, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

|                           | Financial Report to 31st October 2024 |         |         |         |         | Ringfenced funds £11,689 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|                           | Apr-24                                | May-24  | Jun-24  | Jul-24  | Aug-24  | Sep-24                   | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Total  | Budget  |
| Revenue                   |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 2024-25 |
| Precept                   | 65000                                 |         |         |         |         |                          |        |        |        |        |        |        | 65000  | 65000   |
| Litter Picker ref & VAT   |                                       |         |         | 1230    | 4370    |                          |        |        |        |        | 4800   |        | 10400  | 8400    |
| Rent & Interest           |                                       |         | 1559    |         | 100     | 329                      | 169    |        | 120    |        |        | 100    | 2377   | 500     |
| Grants                    |                                       | 750     |         |         |         |                          |        | 1240   | 1500   |        |        |        | 3490   | 6980    |
| Allotment rent            |                                       | 20      |         |         |         |                          |        |        |        | 1180   |        |        | 1200   | 1160    |
| Total Revenue             | 65000                                 | 770     | 1559    | 1230    | 4470    | 329                      | 169    | 1240   | 1620   | 1180   | 4800   | 100    | 82467  | 82040   |
| Expenditure               |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Salaries & NHI            | 2148                                  | 2148    | 2302    | 2348    | 3344    | 2897                     | 2231   | 2550   | 2250   | 2250   | 2250   | 2250   | 28968  | 25400   |
| Gen. Admin Expenses       | 1378                                  | 347     | 216     | 85      | 2       | 293                      | 174    | 640    | 300    | 245    | 250    | 300    | 4230   | 4060    |
| Trees                     | 0                                     |         | 2250    | 693     | 517     | 828                      | 1467   | 850    | 560    | 500    | 400    | 350    | 8415   | 5000    |
| Open Spaces               | 1000                                  | 51      | 180     | 220     | 0       |                          | 84     | 100    | 480    | 200    | 400    | 370    | 3085   | 5500    |
| Section 137               | 1752                                  | 20      | 4008    | 1750    | 1500    | 1400                     | 250    | 2000   | 300    | 200    | 1000   | 500    | 14680  | 11200   |
| Projects                  | 0                                     | 60      |         |         |         |                          |        | 400    | 1500   | 800    | 600    |        | 3360   | 8000    |
| Repairs & Maint           |                                       |         | 600     |         |         |                          |        | 80     | 180    | 0      | 0      | 300    | 1160   | 1800    |
| Newsletters & Posters     | 60                                    | 74      | 74      |         | 84      | 60                       | 73     | 910    | 120    | 120    | 120    | 850    | 2545   | 3150    |
| Youth Activities          |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        | 500    |        | 300    |        | 200    | 1000   | 3000    |
| Paths/ RoW                |                                       |         | 4960    |         |         |                          | 0      | 100    |        | 570    |        | 250    | 5880   | 1600    |
| Allotments                |                                       |         | 634     |         |         | 125                      | 449    | 220    |        |        | 300    |        | 1728   | 1500    |
| Highways                  |                                       |         | 20      |         |         |                          |        | 500    | 500    |        | 400    |        | 1420   | 1500    |
| Handyman                  |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        |        | 200    | 100    | 100    | 100    | 500    | 1500    |
| Hurworth Grange Support   |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        | 5500   |        | 3500   |        |        | 9000   | 0       |
| Capital & Legal exs       | 760                                   |         |         | 575     | 258     | 575                      | 64     |        |        | 259    |        |        | 2491   | 517     |
| VAT                       | 438                                   | 3       | 575     | 115     | 5       | 152                      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Total Expenses            | 7536                                  | 2703    | 15819   | 5786    | 5710    | 6330                     | 4792   | 14350  | 6390   | 9044   | 5820   | 5470   | 88462  | 73727   |
|                           |                                       |         |         |         |         |                          |        |        |        |        |        |        | -5995  | 8313    |
| Funds in Hand less ringed | 67360                                 | 124824  | 122891  | 108631  | 104075  | 102835                   | 96834  | 92211  | 79101  | 74331  | 66467  | 65447  |        |         |
| Revenue less expenses     | 57464                                 | -1933   | -14260  | -4556   | -1240   | -6001                    | -4623  | -13110 | -4770  | -7864  | -1020  | -5370  | 11689  |         |
| Funds in Hand             | 124,824                               | 122,891 | 108,631 | 104,075 | 102,835 | 96,834                   | 92,211 | 79,101 | 74,331 | 66,467 | 65,447 | 60,077 | Ringed |         |

## 21. Association Reports

### 1. Village Hall

Cllr Crisp and Lynn Drumm reported that the Village Hall is thriving, and that some days there are two different bookings.

The Halloween Party was, again, a great success and well supported.

Forthcoming events include a Talk on the Northeast of England, and the monthly Sunday films have started and will continue through the winter months.

The annual AGM will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

The new event, which is being organised along with the Hurworth PTA, will be the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. This will be on 30<sup>th</sup> November, and the event will include lanterns and live music at the tree.

### 2. Hurworth Albion F C

Cllr Leigh reported that parking at the football ground was a problem, particularly when there were several matches taking place, with youngsters of various age groups. More care is now being addressed to the problem with a view to scheduling times so that overlapping crowds would be under better control.

### 3. Hurworth Grange

**The Chairman of Hurworth Grange CIO, Graham Wylie, submitted the following report: -**

The wooden windows facing the patio near the bar have been repaired and painted. Installation of the remaining windows and new door will be completed soon, as it was deemed more cost-effective to replace them rather than repair.

The Christmas Fair, featuring over 40 stalls, will be held on Sunday, December 1st, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. For further details, please visit the website.

A new phone system will be available by the end of November, allowing callers to directly reach the bar, Room Booking Manager, or Centre Manager.

This improvement will streamline calls, ensuring people can quickly connect with the right contact.

Jamie Tinkler will be ringing in the New Year—a popular evening for the Grange. Tickets are available at the office or the Grange Bar.

The stable roof replacement is also scheduled to begin soon. Many thanks to the Parish Council for covering half of the expense.

The CIO held the year-end financial meeting, where Peter Allan presented a report that was highly appreciated. The meeting demonstrated that the Hurworth Grange Community Centre is moving in the right direction, and we are committed to continuous improvement each year. New ideas are on the way and will be implemented soon.

The snooker club is now fully subscribed. Anyone interested in joining can contact the Grange to be placed on the waiting list should a spot open. [www.hurworthgrange.com](http://www.hurworthgrange.com).

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### 22. Any Other Business

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CDALC has asked if any Councillors would like their names put into the draw to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2025. This was deferred, and will be settled later

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**THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.17PM.**