

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday 3rd June 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Bree Stamp (Vice Chairman), Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell

Also

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

470. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Sam Ring-Viney

(Cllr Peter Foster and Cllr Chou were also absent).

471. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

472. Chairman's Address

The Vice Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, social distancing must be observed, but it is great to have a face-to-face meeting, after so many virtual meetings.

473. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May 2021 were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Forster and seconded by Cllr Crisp.

474. Public Participation

1. A resident questioned the legality of the replacement of a hedge with a fence on Roundhill Road. The Clerk explained that this topic had been raised before and an enquiry made through Darlington Borough Council.

DBC had responded that the fence was within the boundary of the owner's house, and that he had acted lawfully. He had also consulted with his two neighbours, explaining that he and his wife could no longer handle the large garden and hedge. Both neighbours understood his position and had no objections.

Both DBC and this Parish Council have closed the issue. **No action needed**

2. The same resident then complained that there was insufficient room for immobility scooters and pushchairs to get along part of the pavement on Roundhill Road because of the hedges growing outward; he claimed that there needed to be 1.5 meters width on the pavement. **Action – Cllr Foster to check the hedge and report back**

3. The same resident complained that Open Reach, who are currently installing high speed broadband in streets in Hurworth are not 'making good' the pavements when they finish the installation. **Action - Cllr Stamp agreed to take photographs and report back**

4. The same resident informed the Council that the right of way between Sycamore Close and Emerson Road/ beside the Priory field is the victim of fly tipping and it is now difficult to walk through due to nettles. **Action - Cllr Forster agreed to investigate and report this to DBC Countryside. Action – Clerk to establish ownership of the land alongside the Priory Field.**

5. The same resident informed the Council that Bellway had erected a sign to say there was a large amount of money being invested in the area. **Action – Clerk to ask Bellway what the details are**

475. Planning Applications

Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report regarding planning applications submitted in the month of May 2021.

Planning applications				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	19/10/2020	27/05/2021	20/00967/FUL	none
Address	Skipbridge Farm & Neasham Springs Farm Neasham Road DL2 1QL			
About	Removal of redundant agricultural sheds and conversion of barns into 8 no. dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and access works			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	05/05/2021	18/05/2021	21/00516/FUL	none
Address	Mulberry House 21C Roundhill Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2ED			
About	Erection of detached double garage			
3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	13/05/2021	13/05/2021	21/00573/FUL	none
Address	Sovereign House Neasham Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON DL2 1QH			
About	Extension to existing end of life vehicle centre (ELV) on north elevation			
4	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	17/05/2021	17/05/2021	21/00580/FUL	none
Address	8 Blackthorn Drive HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2FU			
About	Erection of two storey side extension			
5	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	21/05/2021	21/05/2021	21/00619/FUL	none
Address	2 Meadowbank Close HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HZ			
About	Conversion of loft into habitable accommodation including the insertion of dormer and velux windows			
6	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	27/05/2021	28/05/2021	21/00647/FUL	none
Address	35 Manor Road HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HH			
About	Erection of a single storey extension at the rear			

476. Tree Report

In the absence of Cllr Foster, there was no tree report for May 2021.

477. Roads and Pathways Report

In the absence of Cllr Willis, there was no Roads and Pathways report for May 2021.

478 Youth and Playground Report

1. Cllr Russell reported that Hurworth Albion are in discussions with the Priory Group to purchase the playing field, which they currently have under a lease agreement. This would be a major

achievement as it the pathway for grant awards, allowing the club to further develop the playing facilities. With almost 150 young people now involved and using the field, it has become a fantastic community facility.

2. Cllr Stamp informed the meeting that the Section 106 funding was likely to become available in a shorter timeframe, and work on the new playground at Hurworth Grange may be able to start within 4 to 6 weeks. This is excellent news for the village.

479. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie had submitted a report as follows (the full reports are available on the HPC website): -

Open Spaces Report – May 2021

Tree and Open Spaces Database

Work on the Database is nearly complete. Although, at the time of writing this report, there is some detail to be clarified, by DBC, on tree ownership/ responsibility before these trees are added to the database: a meeting was held 25th May with Brian Graham from DBC, and he is going to investigate further, and advise accordingly.

A meeting has been held to discuss the Tree Policy (which was last updated in 2014), and work is still underway to fully overhaul this policy and make it fully fit for purpose; it is hoped to be complete by end of June, so that it can be presented to the PC at the July meeting.

Grange Entrance Improvement Works

Due to his existing work commitments, at the time of writing this report, I am awaiting a quote, for the work required, from Martin Harrison; following discussion with him, regarding what is required/ wanted, he hopes to be able to provide a quote once his current schedule of work is completed (mid-June).

EPICH Report – June 2021

Heritage Orchard

Work has been completed on planting the wildflower and Yellow rattle plugs.

The wildflower plugs had been planned to be planted alongside the woodland walk, but due to an infestation of Ground Elder and Three Cornered Leek, in this area, it was decided to plant the plugs in the shaded area of the Heritage Orchard.

Lychgate Orchard

Our resident artist, Jaime Westwood, has completed her work on the Lychgate Orchard information panel, and it has now been ordered; it is hoped that it will be ready for installation in June.

480. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley has submitted the following report for May 2021 (full traffic statistics and graphs are available on the HPC web site): -

May Traffic Report

The closure of Roundhill Road has had a significant effect on the traffic moving through the village:

Location	Vehicle counts		% Change	Average Speed MPH		Max Speed MPH		85% Speed MPH	
	Mar-21	May-21		Mar-21	May-21	Mar-21	May-21	Mar-21	May-21
Metal Bridge	24075	57957	Up 141%	25.90	25.80	89.00	83.00	31.10	31.20
The Green	33655	67332	Up 100%	27.10	28.10	80.00	88.00	31.20	31.00
Hurworth Rd	51126	57354	Up 12%	28.00	28.30	90.00	57.00	32.10	31.90
Linden Court	97319	148671	Up 53%	29.20	28.30	89.00	60.00	32.50	31.50
Roundhill Rd	45876	11987	Down 75%	24.80	20.90	51.00	39.00	29.00	25.70

The closure of Roundhill Road has had significant effects on traffic flow at all of our monitoring locations. There has been some concern raised regarding speeding through the village. Looking at the average speeds Roundhill Road has seen the greatest change down to 20.9 MPH, while The Green has seen an increase in Average Speed of 1 MPH. The 85 Percentile figures do not however show any major cause for concern. The figure for Hurworth Road at 32.1 MPH is significantly lower than the figure of 35.9 MPH recorded in April 2020.

The Speedwatch team will soon be back in action, once again they will be targeting the problematic times and locations highlighted by the Speed Monitor Data.

The full May traffic statistics can be found on the HPC web site.

3. Cllr Dorothy Oughton stated that there were no Speed Watch sessions in May, but they would be starting again in June.

There have been complaints about traffic speeding in Strait Lane near the Birches and Sanderson Road end. **Action - Cllr Dorothy Oughton to arrange a Speed Watch session in this location.**

481. Parish Walks Programme

Cllr Forster reported as follows: -

Walk report – For Sunday 30th May 2021 (Hurworth Moor)

Attended by 4 people including 1 Parish Councillor - Janine Forster.

Paths walked 1, 5, 6 & 7 - Route is a circle walk which started and finished at Hurworth Green.
Walk Length – 4.5 miles, Walk Time - 2.10 Hrs

1 Stile at end of path 1 out onto Neasham Road is in need of repair, the wood across for stepping on has become loose from its posts. **Action – Clerk to report this to DBC Countryside Department.**

482. Allotments

Cllr Crisp reported as follows: -

The good weather has helped the allotments, but the growing time is about one month behind the normal period.

One allotment at Strait Lane is in poor condition and is not being tendered. **Action - The Allotment Committee will write a letter to try to get this cleared up.**

The allotment external pathway is overgrown. **Action – Clerk to call streetscene and ask if they can clear the area.**

The Allotment Committee have asked for another load of chippings to be delivered so that the pathway can be improved. **Action - Cllr Foster has agreed to arrange this.**

The Allotment Fun Day will be held at strait Lane allotments on 7th August.

483. Matters of Interest

1. Annual Assembly

The date for the Annual Assembly is Thursday, 24th June, starting 7:00pm at Hurworth Grange. Refreshments will be served. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The theme this year is 'Community Groups', and the format will be as follows:-

The Chairman of the Council will give a short report, followed by a report from the Ward Councillors.

This will be followed by a number of short presentations by seven different community groups.

The Assembly is then open to the floor, and residents can raise any subject they wish.

Following this formal session, attenders are invited for drinks and to mingle around the Community Group tables, most of which will have a table display and volunteers to provide information.

The event will be publicised on Facebook, the Parish Council web site and community notice boards.

2. Priory Hurworth House School

Cllr Stamp, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Amanda Oughton, the HPC Clerk and 4 residents attended a meeting with a Darlington Police Officer, who has been engaged to investigate complaints made by the school, and complaints made about the school.

The session was designed to give the police officer more information about Hurworth House School, and the history of events. He will be having a meeting with the school, to try to iron out current problems.

It was agreed that the Priory School management and the Parish Council should revert to holding three meetings a year, to exchange views and experiences.

It was also agreed that the school should be encouraged to install CCTV cameras at the front of their premises, so that detrimental conduct can be captured and investigated.

3. Memorial Trees

Cllr Tostevin reported that DBC would be providing and planting four trees on the Manorfield and providing a bench; these will be located near the pathway from the Primary School to Lime Cottage.

DBC will also be providing and planting two trees on Hurworth Village Green with a plaque, to commemorate casualties in Hurworth Parish from the COVID 19 pandemic

4. HPC Facebook Page

Cllr Stamp reported that she has now created a new Facebook page for Hurworth Parish Council, which is easy to access, and is designed to provide more information about Council and Community events.

The Facebook facility is interactive and will be edited by Graham Wylie and Bree Stamp.

To date, the feedback has been positive and the site is already attracting resident participation.

484. Accounts Payable

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable May 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Zurich Insurance	103529	Insurance premium	290.18
Hurworth Model Engineers	103530	Section 137 Award	1400.00
Oaktree Home Improvements	103531	Pending	0.00
HCA Newsletter	103532	Newsletter April	60.00
G Wylie	103533	Honorarium	100.00
G Wylie	103534	posters	10.08
G Johnston trees	103535	Tree work	265.50
N Goddard planters	103536	Planter flowers	46.98
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
CDALC annual sub	103537	Annual subscription	497.27
A Iles	103538	Salary	490.05
P D Allan	103539	Salary	712.20
		Stationery , postage,	
P D Allan	103540	etc	70.07
Inland Revenue	103541	PAYE	137.20
G Wylie	103542	ZOON Licence	14.39
HCA Newsletter	103543	Newsletter May	60.00
Total Expenses payable for May 2021			£4,156.22

485. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st May 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries have been raised.

Financial Report to 31st May 2021															
BLUE-Allocated		BLUE-Allocated													
	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 2020-2021
Revenue															
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund			1800	3000							3000		7800	0	9000
Rent & Interest	359	600	10			10	100		10		10	160	1259	959	500
Grants													0	0	2000
Allotment rent										1180			1180	0	1180
Total Revenue	59359	600	1810	3000	0	10	100	0	10	1180	3010	160	69239	59959	71680
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1400	1500	1400	1400	1500	1400	1400	1500	1400	1400	17091	2791	16600
Gen. Admin Expenses	336	970	580	450	250	300	350	850	300	300	350	300	5336	1306	5000
Trees	0	265	950	1400	0	500	300	500		400	400	250	4965	265	7500
Open Spaces	515	47	500	600	1200	500	400	500	200	500	500	200	5662	562	7000
Section 137	110	1400	500	900	1100	500	900	300	900	200		500	7310	1510	10500
Projects	0	0	2000	2000		2000			2000	1300	600		9900	0	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0	200	300	80	250	120	50	150	100	150	100	1500	0	1500
Newsletters & Posters	39	128	60	860	0	60	60	860	60	60	60	60	2307	167	3400
Youth Activities & Scarecrows				400		1200	500					200	2300	0	0
Paths/ Grt/ Heritage Trail							120	60		320	500		1000	0	2000
Allotments	15		500			400		420			200		1535	15	1250
Highways							520			300	180		1000	0	1000
Handyman			100	100		100	200	100	200	100	100	100	1100	0	1200
Parish Walks			400			400			200				1000	0	1600
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000		2300	259						259			3818	1000	1518
VAT		6	660										6	6	
Total Expenses	3466	4156	10150	8769	4030	7610	4970	5040	5410	5339	4440	3110	65830	7622	72068
													3409		-388
Funds in Hand less ringf	64676	120569	117013	108673	102904	98874	91274	86404	81364	75964	71805	70375			
Revenue less expenses	55893	-3556	-8340	-5769	-4030	-7600	-4870	-5040	-5400	-4159	-1430	-2950	12499		
Funds in Hand	120.569	117.013	108.673	102.904	98.874	91.274	86.404	81.364	75.964	71.805	70.375	67.425	Ringed		

486. Crime Figures for April 2021

Cllr Amanda Oughton submitted the following Crime figures for the month of May 2021 (the full report is available on the HPC website): -

Hurworth Crime Figures for May 2021: 01/05/2021 – 27/05/2021

04/05/2021- Violence Against a Person

Reporting that on the 30/04 whilst riding their horse on Neasham Hill, a driver has started to shout stuff to the caller. The caller admits she responded to this. On the 02/05, this type of incident occurred again with the same driver, who became increasingly aggressive and violent. Incident has been crimed and is currently under investigation.

07/05/2021- ASB- Nuisance

Caller stating that a resident close to The Priory School has reported their issues over staff/ taxi parking, to the school. The school has reassured them that they are aware of the issues, do not want to cause any problems and are regularly telling staff about where to park correctly. Resident has said they would take matters into their own hands if the problems continued. Neighbourhood Policing Team has tried to contact the resident, however, have been unsuccessful.

07/05/2021- Vehicle- Criminal Damage

Caller stating her vehicle has been 'keyed' whilst on The Green. Incident has been crimed and closed. However, can be re-opened if new evidence arises.

09/05/2021- Vehicle- Criminal Damage

Caller reporting that on the 30/04, their car has been 'keyed', whilst parked on Westfield Drive. Incident has been crimed and closed. However, can be re-opened if new evidence arises.

09/05/2021- ASB- Nuisance

Caller has been alerted by a local farmer, that there has been Off-road vehicles on their land, on Burma Road. Officers have attended the area and an area search no trace occurred. Off-road vehicles were also reported in other close-by areas and so Officers attended these areas too, to try and engage with those involved. The Local Neighbourhood Policing Team have made contact with the caller to pass on some useful information/ contacts and to update caller on the situation as they were out of town.

13/05/2021- Vehicle- Criminal Damage

In the Westfield Drive area, caller is reporting that on the 12/05, their vehicle was 'keyed'. The incident has been crimed and closed. However, can be re-opened if new evidence arises.

20/05/2021- Vehicle Theft

Caller reporting that their vehicle has been stolen from Tees View. Details taken, relevant checks done and observations passed to all Officers. Incident has been crimed and is currently ongoing.

Cllr Amanda Oughton said that the number of 'crimes' being reported has risen, which is partly because residents are encouraged to call '101' and report incidents that occur.

487 Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

No topics were raised.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 7:55pm