

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

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr David Crisp, and Cllr Bree Stamp.

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and four members of the public.

506. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou.

507. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH
Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
Cllr Stamp – Allotments
Cllr Crisp - Allotments

508. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody from the holiday break.

Immediately prior to the Council meeting a PACT Meeting was held, and four police officers attended and answered questions from the public. The topic was largely regarding the unfortunate outbreak of juvenile behaviour, and how the police advised it should be handled.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Dorothy and Amanda Oughton for arranging the PACT meeting.

He then announced that Cllr Sam Ring-Viney has resigned from the Parish Council due to work and family commitments.

The Council Planning representative therefore became vacant, and Cllr Peter Willis agreed to take on this role.

509. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st July 2021

The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie and seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton

510. Public Participation

No topics were raised.

511. Planning Applications

Due to the resignation of Cllr Ring-Viney, there was no Planning Report at this meeting.

511. Tree Report

Cllr Foster, reported as follows: -

There have been comments about the health of the Quince tree at Hurworth Grange. He said he has inspected it, and although it is now approx. 300 years old, the tree is in good health and there are no broken branches at this time.

Cllr Foster referred to the recent fence fire at Hurworth Grange and outlined the extreme dangers that this could have had on the trees in this area.

512. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis, reported as follows: -

The new road system on Roundhill road is still causing concern from residents - there have been a number of "near misses" and drivers are not following the road signs as well as an increase in noise pollution instances from drivers using their horns

There is not enough "vision" of cars leaving the village at the give way markings adjacent to the Miller estate - there is a bend in the road, and it appears clear when you set off to enter the village only to be met by vehicles suddenly appearing round the corner leading to annoyed drivers.

Speed bumps are to be installed next week, and the question was asked 'why were these not installed when the speed restriction work was being carried out'?

There was a short discussion about the current opinions of the traffic calming lay out, and the Chairman said that we had been advised, by the Ward Councillor, to wait until the project is completed and the speed bumps are installed.

513 Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp provided the report as follows: -

The focus is on the implementation of the upgrade to the playground at Hurworth Grange. The design has been agreed, the funding is available, and the equipment has been ordered. However, the lead time for delivery of the new equipment, due to material shortages, has increased to 12 weeks.

It is now hoped that the project will be completed before the start of the October school half term holiday.

514. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report: -

Open Spaces Report – September 2021

Tree and Open Spaces Database

Work on the Tree Policy and Database is still ongoing and hopefully it will be completed for the October PC meeting.

Grange Entrance Improvement Works

Martin Harrison has provided a quote and design for improving the entrance, opposite Elmfield Road, to the Grange. The work has commenced, and it is expected that this work will be completed for the Hurworth Country Fair in September.

EPICH Report – September 2021

Lychgate Orchard

The Lychgate Orchard information panel has now been installed, with immediate residents invited to an 'unveiling and information' event on the 23rd August.

Further woodland planting (plants kindly grown and donated by EPICH members) was completed in early August.

Heritage Orchard

Following (further) recent vandalism of the 'step over' fruit trees, the group have proposed that the step over trees are removed, and the EPICH Chair is going to agree if this is acceptable with the gentleman who provided them, and who has been responsible for them.

Work is well under way on the information panel by our resident artist, Jaime Westwood, and it is hoped that the sign will be ready for installation by the October half-term holiday: the costs for this panel is being covered by the remainder of the TVNP grant. Hurworth Show

EPICH will have their usual stall selling various things such as the popular jars of honey, wildflower seeds, hedgehog highway gates etc. All proceeds will go towards supporting the work carried out by the EPICH volunteers.

Future projects

1. Several projects taking us into next year are being planned; details will be included in future reports as these are agreed/ come closer to the time.
2. To save costs of buying plug plants, EPICH members, with spare greenhouse space, are going to have a go at growing our own wildflower plugs to support the various planned planting schemes in both the Heritage and Lychgate Orchards as well as around the Grange grounds.
3. Buying seeds and compost is around ten times cheaper than buying plug plants, and Blair's Nurseries, on Barmpton Lane, have kindly provided the plug trays for free.
4. If the plug initiative is a success, then EPICH members will repeat this in future years to save on costs of buying nursery grown plugs.
5. The usual Autumn bulb planting is being planned, and EPICH will be looking for willing bulb planting volunteers. Several areas had been identified, but conscious of keeping costs down just three areas were chosen; the other areas will be planted up in future years. So, the decision was to consolidate the successful bulb planting along the Primary school footpath (between Roundhill Road and Westfield Drive), taking advantage of the recently disturbed ground (following recent works completed by NWL) around the Grange picnic bench, as well as planting dwarf Daffodil bulbs along the verges of The Green (Primary school side).

515. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted the following report: - for July and August 2021 which specifically focused on the traffic trends on Roundhill Road before and after the new traffic calming system has been partially implemented.

The statistics show that the average speed is slightly higher in July and August than it was in January, February and March.

If we ignore April, May and June (Road closed) the Average Speeds under the old system (Jan to March) are very similar to those recorded under the new system (July and August).

However, if we ignore April, May and June (Road closed) It would appear that there is a rise in vehicles travelling at over 30 MPH in June & July compared to January, February and March.

The statistics and graphs are included in the annexed information to these Minutes.

This will be reviewed again after the speed bumps have been installed.

516. Parish Walks Programme

Cllr Forster reported as follows: - awaiting September report and confirmation of the re-arranged BBQ date and time

517. Allotments

Cllr Crisp reported that after the dismal weather at the start of the year, the allotments were now doing very well, with excellent produce.

All the allotments are taken and there are now six people on the Waiting List.

The Allotment Fun Day was a great success, lots of people attended and all had a good time. It also made a small profit, and there is now £360 in the allotment funds. Cllr Crisp thanked Cllr Stamp for providing the electricity via a lead from her house.

Cllr Crisp asked the Council if they would support a Halloween event at the allotments. This was agreed, and it was suggested that this new initiative should interface with the Halloween 'Heart of Hurworth' trail.

Allotment holders have been placing surplus fruit and vegetables at the church bus stop. This has proved to be very popular, and the produce is quickly taken by residents.

518. Matters of Interest

1. Annual Assembly

The Chairman reported that the turnout from residents was poor, which was disappointing as the quality and variety of the presentations was excellent.

2. Hurworth Albion Duck Race

Thanks go to Cllr Graham Wylie for organising this community event. More than 400 ducks raced down the river, most of which were actually retrieved. The event was supported by spectators on both sides of the river. A profit of £1160 was attained, which will go the Hurworth Albion, to assist their efforts at the football field.

The race was followed by a concert on the Village Green.

It was agreed that, following the success of the event, there will be another Duck Race next year.

3. Parish Chronicle

The newsletter had been printed and needs to be distributed to all residences in the Parish. A distribution list has been prepared by the Parish Clerk and Councillors were asked to collect their allocation before leaving. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hedley for her effort in producing the Parish Chronicle.

4. Project Review

1. It was agreed that the Council will take advantage of a free CCTV survey which has been offered. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

2. The 'Welcome to Hurworth' plaques are still awaiting Planning permission.

3. The Village Information plaque has been ordered. The final design and wording is in progress.

4. The Scarecrow Festival for 2021 has been cancelled.

5. The Council agreed to replace the CCTV camera which surveys the Hurworth Grange allotments. A cable system will be installed to replace the wireless system, as it will provide clearer coverage. The Council agreed the cost estimate of circa £1200.

6. Cllr Stamp requested that the Council make a 'section 137' award to the Hurworth PTS. This community group has suffered through the lack of fund-raising opportunities due to the pandemic. The motion was tabled by Cllr Crisp, and Seconded by Cllr Hedley to award the HPC procedure amount of £300. The motion was passed unanimously; Cllr Stamp did not vote, as she had declared her interest.

519. Accounts Payable

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable August 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Wylie	103567	Posters, and cord	27.79
Johnston Trees	103568	Treework	185.00
G Wylie	103569	Strimmer cord	20.10
Wrights Office Supplies	103570	Stationery & printer cartridges	95.74
G Johnston Trees	103571	Treework	270.00
Noticeboards Online Cumbria	103572	Village Interest noticeboard	1077.60
		Section 137 support for Duck	
G Wylie	103573	Race	300.00
A Iles	103574	Salary	479.60
P D Allan	103575	Salary	729.20
Inland Revenue	103576	PAYE	120.80
G Wylie	103577	Canon printer	79.94
G Wylie			47.98
Public Works Loan	DD		258.62
Barclays Bank	DD		2.30
Total for August 2021			3694.67
Litter Picker rebate	£3,013.00		

520. Financial report

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

522. Association Reports

Cllr Lynn Wylie provided the following report on behalf of HCA: -

Hurworth Community Association Report – September 2021

Due to the summer recess, no meeting was held in August.

However, following discussions with the Grange Manager, the Coffee Pot is proving to be a hit, and it has been extremely busy every day. To ensure the continued success of the Coffee Pot, there are plans to hold evening events during the winter months, and hopefully more detail should be available in the October/ November reporting.

Building on community focussed events, as well as taking full advantage of the improved Grange facilities, a Christmas Fair has been planned and confirmed to be held on Sunday 5th December.

The response has been amazing, with approximately 50 stalls confirmed in just 48 hours. All stall holders have been sent a confirmation email, and invoices will be sent, to charge for the £15 stall holder fee, in the next few days.

523. Any Other Business (non-financial).

1. Cllr Dorothy Oughton brought to the attention of the Council, the poor state of the plaque on the Village Green. The wording requires repainting. **Action Clerk.**
2. Cllr Foster informed that the volunteer litter picker has stopped his efforts. The Council are most grateful for the many days of work he has contributed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm