



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 1st September 2022, starting at 7:00pm
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Lynsey Munro and Cllr Bree Stamp.

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.
It was pleasing to see so many people attending the PACT meeting.

- a. Councillor training has been arranged for Thursday, 22nd September at 6:30pm. Luke Swinhoe, the Head of DBC Law will be giving the course. All Councillors are urged to attend, please.
- b. The DBC contribution for the skateboard project has been confirmed, and we should receive the funds within the next two weeks.
- c. HPC has made a section 137 Award of £300 to the Little Stars Play Group who meet regularly in Hurworth.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Tostevin, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Janine Forster, and Cllr Christy Chou.

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 7th July 2022

- The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie and Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton.

5. Update on Actions

- a. Investigate inaccessible pathway and report to the DBC Countryside Department for their attention - **Action Cllr Janine Forster ref APR 13.1** No report – remains open.
- b. Cllr Tostevin suggested that the Grange cameras could be connected to the Darlington Police camera network - **Action Cllr Tostevin ref MAY 15.1** No report – remains open.
- c. Yellow lines need extending to allow the Spar wagon to unload away from the junction - **Action ref JUL 4.1 Cllr Kelvin Russell and Cllr Lorraine Tostevin.** Matter is now with the DBC Legal Team – this action is now closed.
- d. Repainting the white lines at the start of Blind Lane – **Action ref Cllr Willis ref JUL 8.1**, the white lines around the war memorial and Bling Lane have been repainted – this action is now closed.
- e. Poor maintenance of the gullies and drains – **Action ref Cllr Tostevin ref JUL 8.2** this work has been carried out - this action is now closed.
- f. A road sign has been knocked over on Roundhill Road – **Action ref Clerk JUL 10.1** the sign has been repositioned – this action is now closed.

6. Ward Councillor's Update

- Neither of the Ward Councillors were present at the meeting.

The Chairman informed the Council about the Section 106 funding from Millers Group.

The money has now been received by DBC. It is earmarked for 'Sustainable transport' (an evening bus service) and schools.

DBC have advised to make no decisions until January 2023, when detail around financial support and subsequently any Arriva timetable changes should be available.

Arriva are in receipt of extra funding, provided by the Government to support public transport services during the Pandemic, and this will cease at the end of the current Financial Year; currently there is no confirmation on what support will be made available for the new Financial Year.

7. Public Participation

Following the death of Mike Frampton, a local musician, who both used and enjoyed the facilities of the Grange, his fellow musicians requested that a tree could be planted, and a bench installed in his memory. The Council agreed to the tree but not the bench, as there are already sufficient benches.

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Planning

Four planning requests

- **30 Church Row**
Certificate of Lawfulness application
Siting of mobile studio on terrace to rear of property
Full planning application has now been applied for due to objection from neighbour
- **1 Westfield Drive**
Single storey extension and demolition and erection of new garage
- **3 Neasham Abbey**
This is a Grade 2 listed building
The application covers includes a widening of the drive, removal of hedges, stone portico entrance, conversion of garage to a gym and erection of double garage plus landscaping of the site
- **Neasham Road/Snipe Lane housing development**
Demolition of farm and outbuildings to clear area for new housing development

The Council considered the four applications, and as there have been no objections, or comments received on any of the application, agreed there should be 'No Comment'.

The homeowner of 30 Church Row was present at the meeting and was invited to speak. He offered to answer any questions relating to his application. The Council reassured him that there is no objection by the Parish Council.

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

Footpaths/roads

- Work is now complete with school crossing roadworks – speed bump and 20 mph speed limit now in force. Double yellow lines now completed.
- Road sign near Bellway estate indicating traffic flow has been replaced.
- White lines around Blind Lane junction have been repainted.
- Work has been carried out for clearing of road drains along the Green.

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported:

The hot summer has resulted in many of the large trees growing more profusely and in some cases the branches have grown outwards and are causing obstacles for passing traffic and pedestrians. Some cutting back will be required.

Some specific trees were identified, and the tree owners will be contacted about the work required.

The Christmas tree on the Green is in excellent health.

Further to his report, Cllr Foster advised that a bus stop, on the Green, needs urgent attention as it is leaning significantly over to the road. This will be reported to Arriva, as they are responsible. **Action Clerk ref SEPT 10.1**

Cllr Leigh also raised a concern about the overhanging trees, along the edge of the Rockcliffe estate, asking who is responsible for ensuring that they do not overhang the carriageway; it became apparent during the recent roadworks, where vehicles were using the one lane closest to the trees, that high sided vehicles were hitting the trees. The Clerk advised that he will contact Rockcliffe Hall Hotel to discuss this and ensure that the necessary works are completed. **Action Clerk ref SEPT 10.2**

11. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp & Cllr Munro

Cllr Stamp reported:

Nothing to report other than future events, to report on, include:

Carols on the Green, which this year will be organised by the PTA and Little Stars groups.

A Halloween Party will be organised by the PTA group.

Cllr Munro reported:

Nothing to report, it has been a quiet period.

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported:

There was nothing significant to report on Open Spaces, but the audit of the HPC benches has been completed and has been handed over to the Parish Clerk for further actions.

During the last month, all the benches have been refurbished. One bench near the Comet Inn has been identified as needing replacement.

13. Parish Walks and Right of Way – Cllr Janine Forster

Cllr Forster reported:

In the absence of Cllr Forster there was no report.

Cllr Dorothy reported that she has received a complaint that many of the village right of ways are inaccessible for disabled persons and for parents with pushchairs.

Cllr Lynn Wylie agreed and advised that this has been discussed, with the DBC Public Rights of Way Officer, on how to make these pathways more accessible to anyone using a wheeled chair, that stiles are replaced with kissing gates, or gates to make the pathways fully accessible to wheeled chair users. Although gates would make the pathways accessible to all, using gates is not a feasible option. A gate would be dependent upon people closing them to save livestock escaping fields, meaning that both DBC and landowners would not support the installation of gates. DBC and a couple of local landowners are open to the installation of kissing gates, if the sharing of cost could be agreed, to make the paths more accessible, but of course this would not resolve the matter of accessibility to those confined to a wheelchair/ motorised scooter.

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

As reported in July, following the concerns raised by Terry Kitching at the Annual Assembly regarding the poor state and restricted access along the Hurworth Parish rights of way, Cllr Graham Wylie and I have been working on improving several rights of way.

Firstly, I reached out to Rockcliffe Hall and arranged a meeting with the Rockcliffe Hall Director of Golf and Estates – Callum Nicoll. Unfortunately, due to the meeting taking place during working hours, I was unable to attend the meeting. So, it was Cllr Graham Wylie along with Cllr Forster and Bethan Hacker (DBC Rights of Way Officer) who met up with Callum to discuss improving the access along the path from Rockcliffe to Blind Lane. Callum was very sympathetic and supportive to our efforts to improve the access and is willing to discuss

providing any required support as decisions are made regarding improvements (most likely installation of kissing gates to replace the stiles along the section of path between Rockcliffe Hall and Blind Lane).

Cllr Graham Wylie and Bethan Hacker recently met with the new landowner, who owns the stretch of path between Rockcliffe Hall and Blind Lane, to discuss the recently changed route and width of the path. Discussions are ongoing between the Parish Council, DBC and the landowner. Updates will be provided as they arise.

Further to this, Bethan Hacker has advised that DBC are in the process of restoring/ replacing the Teesdale Way markers along the stretch that falls under DBC responsibility. Also, as agreed with Bethan Hacker, following a wander along the river path I have provided an update to her on the state of all the stiles between Blind Land and the Ringfield.

14. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The detailed statistics and charts are available for perusal on the HPC web site.

In summary, the average traffic speed through Hurworth Parish has now dropped to below thirty mph. Only one section is slightly about the speed limit. This is excellent progress.

The Chairman asked whether there is any progress on our request for a speed monitor at the Birches on Strait Lane. Cllr Tostevin was making enquiries on this request and an update will be requested from her. **Action Clerk ref SEPT 14.1**

15. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton

Cllr Amanda Oughton provided an overview of the Crime Report.

Summary of reported incidents:

July Crime figures

Criminal damage	2
Burglary	1
RTC	5
Suspicious and insecure	5
Highway disruption	2
Fire	1
Road related	3
Animals and wild life	1

August Crime figures

Highway disruption	2
RTC	2
Theft	4
Concern and collapse	2
Vehicle theft attempt	1
Animals and wildlife	1
ASB environment	1
Suspicious behaviour	5
Vehicle criminal damage	2
ASB nuisance	2
Road related offences	1
Criminal damage	1
Burglary – business/ community	1

The full report with details is available on the HPC web site.

16. Allotments – Cllr Crisp**Cllr Crisp was absent.**

Sadly, a long-standing allotment holder, Mr Brian Farrell died in August. Brian had tended allotments at Strait Lane for over forty years.

Two plots currently require some work, and the tenants will be contacted.

There is currently a Waiting List of four at Strait Lane.

17. Matters of Interest**a. Jean's Garden Update –**

Cllr Dorothy Oughton informed the Council that the new name for the garden is 'The Community Garden'.

Work is continuing, but due to the prolonged extreme dry conditions progress has been slow.

b. Grange Guttering –

The Chairman informed the Council that work has started on the replacement of the guttering on the Grange building.

There has been a setback in the arrangements made to hire a cherry picker, but work will continue and is scheduled to be completed in 5 weeks.

c. Plaque on the Village Green –

The stone mason has stated that the date on the Green plaque cannot be changed (it currently states that the Plague was in 1665, but it actually affected Hurworth and the surrounding areas in 1645). They also do not recommend repainting the words.

Another plaque is required for location near Lime Cottage; arrangements have been made for this plaque, but the stone and plaque are in abeyance.

It was agreed that, with the help of the Clerk, Cllr Dot Oughton will pursue with the Green plaque and Cllr Lynn Wylie will continue with the Lime Cottage plaque arrangements. To ensure that both plaques are similar in appearance, Cllr Lynn Wylie offered to share detail of the plaque company with Cllr Dot Oughton, which was completed after the meeting.

18. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for August 2022, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable August 2022			
Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
M Harrison	103723	Bench refurb	500.00
HCA - Atkinson	103724	Tarmac	239.73
Johnston Trees	103725	Treework	382.50
M Harrison	103726	Bench refurb	500.00
CDALC	103727	Training	40.00
L Walton Little Stars	103728	Section 137 award	300.00
Hurworth Duck Race band	103729	Section 137 award	300.00
HCA	103730	2 Newsletters	120.00
P. Robinson	103731	Salary	471.10
P D Allan	103732	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103733	PAYE	334.80
M Harrison	103734	Bench refurb	480.00
M Harricon,	103735	Potholes on Green	200.00
MAZARS Audit	103736	Audit fee	360.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
PrintUK newsletters	103737	Parish Chronicles	419.00
P D Allan	103738	Expenses 2 months	86.67
Public Loans Board	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
Total expenditure in August 2022			£6,222.32

19. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31st August 2022 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report as at 31st August 2022														
BLUE = Allocated	BLUE = Allocated													
	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Total	Budget
<i>Revenue</i>														<u>2022-2023</u>
Precept	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	3200					3400		8583	8200
Rent & Interest			9	100		10			10		10	0	139	650
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0
Allotment rent										1180			1180	1180
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	13210	0	0	10	1180	3410	0	81649	69030
<i>Expenditure</i>														
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2033	2050	1950	1950	2050	1950	1950	24024	23800
Gen. Admin Expe	486	1204	543	2	383	280	150	340	300	300	200	300	4488	4060
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	185	270	500	560	435	400	650	3382	5000
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	500	250	500	485	500	500	370	6015	5500
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	500	1300	300	500	500	300	500	10353	10000
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		500	0	400	1500		600		6991	12000
Repairs, Maint & T	2750	188			40	3000	120	60	0	360	0	300	6818	3000
Newsletters & Pos	8	194	274	19	539	60	60	60	60	60	650	820	2804	3000
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				500		500		300		200	1500	3000
Paths/ Grt/ Highways		0		150	285	300	0	500		320		250	1805	2000
Allotments	268	209	150	65		60		420			200		1372	1400
Handyman	0		0			300	100	100	200	100	100	100	1000	1500
Parish Walks						0	0		200				200	500
Capital Expend					258		0			259			517	517
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	400							917	0
Total Expenses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	8618	4300	5630	5755	5184	4900	5440	72186	0
													9463	75277
Funds in Hand	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	97878	93578	87948	82203	78199	76709		-6247
Revenue less e	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	4592	-4300	-5630	-5745	-4004	-1490	-5440	12689	
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	97,878	93,578	87,948	82,203	78,199	76,709	71,269	Ringed	

The clerk reported that the external audit has now been completed and we have a clean bill of health.

The Bill of Rights notice is currently being displayed on the Council notice boards, and on the HPC web site.

The Council were given the option to select and engage our own external auditor, or remain with the nationally appointed auditor.

We opted to remain with nationally appointed auditor.

20. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

As there has not been a meeting since July, there is nothing to report other than update on guttering given by Cllr Graham Wylie. Preparations are virtually complete for the Country Fair, which will be held on Saturday 17th September.

Entry forms and details are available on both the Grange and Parish Council websites, with registration taking place at set times during the week prior to the show.

We are expecting around 35 retail stalls as well as trade stalls too, and there is lots of entertainment planned to include a dog show by Petpals, magician, juggler, fair rides, climbing wall and many more.

Raffle tickets are now available to buy from the Grange and the Parish Councillors.

b. EPICH – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

Following the EPICH AGM on the 21st July, as no one was prepared to stand for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, the decision was made to cease with EPICH.

Pat Simpson and Judith Redfern have now set up a new group called ‘Hurworth Village Bees’, with Lynn Wylie continuing to act as Treasurer using the original bank account.

Many of the original EPICH volunteers have agreed to stay on the mailing list, and this will allow the group to continue with their planting and maintenance efforts to support bird and insect life around the village.

It had been hoped to see out all the existing projects, but when updating TVNP about the group status, they requested the remaining grant be returned to them meaning that the bird I-spy guide will not now be printed. As the new group will continue with the work around the Grange grounds (Heritage Orchard, bug house etc), Rockcliffe Hall have advised that they are happy with the new group keeping the funds received from the Rockcliffe Hall fundraiser to complete the wildflower planting in the Grange Orchard.

If you would like to know more, Pat Simpson has provided more detail and background on the change, and this is available to read in the September Parish Chronicle.

Cllr Leigh informed the Council that he is interested in creating a wild flower area, if some land is available. This subject will be discussed outside of this meeting.

c. Village Hall – No report presented as no meeting has been held recently. The next meeting is on 2nd September.

d. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Russell reported:

The firework display evening is in the course of being organised, but the final date has not yet been determined.

e. Tees Valley Airport Consultative Committee.

Mr Tony Winnett, who has been the Council’s representative is moving out of the area, and hence will relinquish his position.

Cllr Foster, who already represents CDALC, offered to act as the HPC representative a well.

21. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- The chairman referred to an incoming letter which offered Councillors free training on Microsoft Excel. Nobody appeared interested in taking up this offer.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm
