

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in ZOOM Mode
on Thursday 6th January 2022.**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr Peter Willis and Cllr Kelvin Russell

Also

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

580. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Amanda Oughton and Cllr Elaine Hedley

581. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH

582. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody attending the meeting, and wished them a Happy New Year.

583. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2021

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

584. Public Participation

A resident asked about the replacement of the village litter picker, as they are concerned about the increasing levels of litter around the village.

The Chairman said that he would answer this now rather than later on the agenda. Nine people applied for the position, many of whom were excellent candidates. However, the position has been given to Sam Walker, who has been picking up litter for more than three years all over the parish. He has earned the position and he will start work next week.

585. Planning Applications

Councillor Willis provided the following report: -

Planning Applications

There have been 2 applications since the last Council meeting:

- 1) An amended Flood Risk Assessment for the Miller Development
- 2) An application to reduce the crown of two oak trees by 2 to 3 metres at 11 Fox Close – the survey study suggests that this will reduce further structural damage to the bungalow thought to be caused by moisture abstraction.

The crown of one of the oak trees was reduced between July 2019 and May 2021

I am not aware of any objection to this application

586. Tree Report

Cllr Foster gave the following report:-

The very high winds in December brought down two trees in grounds of Hurworth Grange, and a large branch from the tree near the playground, which was due to be taken off.

Cllr Foster requested that the Council agree to plant replacement trees; this is already part of the HPC policy.

The large tree that fell was standing in water and hence had insubstantial root stability.

The section of the Grange grounds, nearest to the fields running up from the Glebe, is saturated, and there is a danger of other trees being uprooted. The ditch needs cleaning out to allow the water to flow away.

The rest of the trees have survived well.

Cllr Lynn Wylie asked for a load of chippings to be delivered at the picnic bench area, as the ground is very sparse. Cllr Russell offered to get suitable materials to address this.

Action Cllr Russell.

587. Roads and Pathways Report

Councillor Willis submitted the following report: -

- 1) No update yet regarding the traffic calming installation on Roundhill Road following a survey in September
- 2) No update to the request to improve the footpath between Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive
- 3) Foot path improvement on the Wayside almost completed

Ward Councillor Tostevin responded that the traffic calming system on Roundhill Road is under review by DBC and she will report back as soon as there is a development.

With regard to the pathway between Mowbray Drive and Westfield drive, Cllr Tostevin agreed to visit the scene, but emphasised that DBC have certain criteria which must be met before repairs can be authorised to footpaths.

588. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report: -

Open Spaces Report – January 2022

Work is to commence early to mid-January on the ‘all-weather path’ extension (between Jean’s Garden and the Grange entrance opposite Elmfield Road).

EPICH Report – January 2022

As reported under HCA, work is progressing well with organising the Wassail to be held at 4:30pm on 17th January in the Heritage Orchard.

Heritage Orchard

The information board, providing a detailed plan of the fruit trees, has now been installed. Tees Valley Nature Partnership, who provided the grant for the information boards (Lychgate Orchard and Heritage Orchard), will be invited to see the board in

situ, and to see the results of all the hard work, by EPICH, in and around the Heritage Orchard site.

Species tags, kindly written up by Graham Wylie, have been attached to the Heritage Orchard trees to allow for easy identification.

The step-over fruit trees have been removed; it is hoped that some of the trees can be re-planted alongside the Grange allotments wall, and the rest sold.

589. Youth and Playground Report

a. Cllr Stamp reported:-

The proposed Grange playground work is scheduled to start early February.

Cllr stamp proposed holding a Scarecrow Festival in June or July: All agreed.

b. Cllr Munro reported:-

I have emailed Martin to start planning what we need to do next and what equipment etc we need to get the Youth Club started. He has emailed me back asking to meet up to discuss what he has started with a youth group at the church hall: I have sent him times I am available to meet.

However, the group has been busy with the All Saints Church Youth Club, and the membership there has grown in recent months.

A meeting with the Priory Hurworth House School is arranged for the 13th January, and following our meeting, we can plan our next steps.

590. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted a detailed traffic report for the month of December 2021. As this is a substantial report with graphics, full details have been made available on the HPC web site.

December Traffic Report:

Location	Average Speed	Percent Speeders (over 30 MPH)	Maximum Speed Recorded
The Green	25.6	13.6	54
Hurworth Road	27.6	27.2	57
Linden Court	27.1	23.4	60
Metal Bridge	23.4	16.7	60
Roundhill Road	22.2	1.8	48

Hurworth Road once again has the highest percentage of speeders (over 30 MPH). The Average Speeds do not highlight any major cause for concern. The new traffic calming system on Roundhill Road continues to be effective.

591 Crime report

Crime Figures for December 01/12/2021- 31/12/2021

02/12/2021 - RTC

Caller reporting a vehicle has collided with a parked car on Dibdale Road, Neasham. Recovery has been arranged and details of both cars have been passed to the Call Handler. Officers not required to attend as no injuries/ obstructions to the road.

02/12/2021 – RTC

Vehicle has collided with an Electric Box on Avon Road, Hurworth. Officers have attended the scene and spoken to all involved. Details have also been passed to the Call Handler and the relevant checks completed.

02/12/2021 – Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting a damaged vehicle parked near to the woods on Hurworth Moor. Police have attended, checked the vehicle and obtained the details for it. Recovery has been arranged for the vehicle.

04/12/2021 – Suspicious/ Insecure

Vehicle has been seen on Snipe Lane acting suspiciously. Police have attended the area and found the individuals within the vehicle have been smoking cannabis. Details were taken and the keys for the vehicle were removed from the persons.

07/12/2021 – Animals/ Wildlife

Caller reporting potential poachers on a piece of land within Neasham Village. Due to the number of immediate incidents, Officers were unfortunately unable to attend. However, the incident will be noted and targeted in ongoing specific poaching/ lamping operations.

09/12/2021 – RTC

Ambulance reporting there is a one vehicle RTC outside of the entrance to Blackwell Grange Golf Club. Officers have attended to assist with the incident and manage the traffic in the area.

09/12/2021 – Theft/ Handling

Caller reporting a DHL parcel has been stolen from their doorstep along New Lane, Neasham. The incident has been crimed and is currently under investigation.

13/12/2021 – RTC

Two vehicles have been involved in an RTC on the roundabout at Bridge Road. Due to the obstruction in the road caused by the cars, Officers have attended to assist and manage the traffic.

14/12/2021 – Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller is reporting a motorbike riding along Croft Road which has three persons on board. The Call Handler passed observations for the bike to all Darlington Officers. The incident has also been logged with the Operation Endurance team, our specialist group that helps the force to tackle the issue of off- road vehicles.

14/12/2021 – Road Related Offence

Caller is reporting that another motorist is driving inappropriately along the A66 and is blocking the flow of traffic by 'hogging' the centre lane. Details of this vehicle were passed to the Call Handler in order for the relevant checks to be completed. Observations for the vehicle were passed to all Darlington Officers.

14/12/2021 – Highway Disruption

Caller reporting that the temporary traffic lights on Bridge Road do not appear to be working and the traffic is building up. Officers have attended and checked the lights. All in order and the lights are working correctly.

15/12/2021 – Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller is reporting that a group of 8-10 males with dogs have started to walk along Strait Lane, they believe they may be involved with poaching/ lamping. Due to the number of immediate incidents occurring at the time of the call, there were no Officers available to attend. However, the incident will be noted and targeted in ongoing specific poaching/ lamping operations.

18/12/2021 – Concern/ Collapse/ Injury/ Illness

Caller reporting that they have found four dead puppies on the side of the road, on Burma Road. The person was in the area collecting a dead cat that they were taking to get scanned at a local vets practice, when they found the puppies. The puppies will also be taken to the vets in order for them to be logged/ checked.

18/12/2021 – Concern/ Collapse/ Injury/ Illness

Caller reporting that there is an unusual male walking around Geneva Woods, the male is currently on the phone however something does not seem normal. Officers attended area search no trace for the male.

28/12/2021 – Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting a suspicious vehicle is parked at the gates in front of the Northumbrian water Station on Croft Road. Details of the vehicle have been passed to the Call Handler for the relevant checks to be done and observations for the vehicle have been passed to all Darlington Officers.

There were also numerous hoax/ abandoned/ silent calls made to the Police during December for the JE0 area. Each of these were investigated in order to ascertain if Police assistance was required or not.

592 Allotment Report

In the absence of Councillor Crisp the Parish Clerk gave the following report: -

The allotment rent for 2022 remains the same at £20, plus there is a refundable bond to be paid by new tenants.

Rent payments are now due, and several payments have been received; tenants have until 31st January to pay their rent.

Several plots have become vacant, and residents on the 'waiting list' are being contacted to offer them an allotment; two allotments have been taken up in the last week.

593. Matters of Interest

a. Litter Picker

This was covered earlier in the meeting, under Public Participation.

b. Benches

The Clerk informed the meeting that an anonymous donation of £1000 has been received to provide two benches in the village. One bench will be to replace the bench at the church bench which had become irreparable.

Two benches on Hurworth/ Croft Road, near to the Comprehensive school/ Doctors, have been vandalised and destroyed.

The Council agreed to fund one other bench, so that three benches can be purchased and installed.

Motion to purchase three benches Proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie, Seconded by Cllr Russell, unanimous vote in favour. **Action Clerk**

c. Arriva

The Chairman reminded the Council that the Senior Manager at Arriva Darlington had promised changes, following the meeting with him in August 2020, to the bus routing through Hurworth. The Chairman is concerned that nothing has yet happened and requested that this is followed up. **Action Clerk to contact Arriva.**

d. Cllr Stamp informed the meeting that she has been involved in pro-longed discussions, with DBC, about the number and location of bins within Hurworth. HPC is requesting additional bins, but StreetScene are recommending a reduction to the number of bins.

This matter is ongoing, and Cllr Stamp will provide further updates on her progress.

e. Cllr Russell reported:-

Nothing much to report on Hurworth Albion Junior Football Club as we are just starting back up after the break.

However I would like to say the £1,800 loan from HPC to Hurworth Albion has been paid back in full.

I would like to thank the Councillors who supported the event; I can truly say it was a great success turning over £8,000 with a much-needed net profit of £4,500 for the club. Without this, we would not have had the money to get us through the winter with the substantial cost of winter training facilities.

Cllr Russell outlined the club's plans to hold a Charity Run in April. All community groups will be invited to participate and raise funds for their organisations. He will provide more details at the next meeting.

f. Several cases of damaged or potentially dangerous stiles and portions of the rights of way have been reported. The recent bad weather has caused some damage, and DBC have attended some areas. Cllr Forster agreed to make an inspection of the areas

mentioned, and report any specific areas to DBC Countryside Dept. **Action Cllr Forster.**

g. The Chairman has asked for an update on all projects at the next Parish Council Meeting (February), with a view to completing projects as soon as possible.

594. Accounts Payable

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable December 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M Harrison	103617	Tree damage repairs	130.00
Johnston trees	103618	Tree work	616.50
EPICH	103619	Section 137 support	500.00
Johnston trees	103620	Tree work	292.50
A Iles	103621	Salary	490.05
P D Allan	103622	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103623	PAYE	245.40
Wave	103624	Allotment water	34.83
M Harrison	103625	Defibrillator maintenance	50.00
Sam Walters	103626	Section 137 award	100.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	6.27
	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Comms	DD	Telecoms	163.80
Total amount for December 2021			3859.25
Donation received, to replace vandalised benches			1000.00

595. Financial report

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

Financial Report to 31st December 2021																						
BLUE=Allocated		BLUE=Allocated					Ringfenced funds £12,689															
	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							
Revenue															2021-2022							
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000							
VAT & Litter Picker refund			1880		3119						3200		8199	4999	9000							
Rent & Interest	354	600	2			3			2		10	160	1131	961	500							
Grants & Donations									1000				1000	1000	2000							
Allotment rent										1180			1180	0	1180							
Total Revenue	59354	600	1882	0	3119	3	0	0	1002	1180	3210	160	70510	65960	71680							
Expenditure																						
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1330	1451	1330	1963	2074	1963	1963	1800	1950	2180	20795	14865	16600							
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	970	762	185	173	605	81	183	172	300	350	300	4446	3496	5000							
Trees	0	265	0	0	455	149	270	293	909	600	400	250	3591	2341	7500							
Open Spaces	515	47	195	22	17	520	40	0	500	100	500	200	2656	1856	7000							
Section 137	110	1400	608	2925	300	935	590	500	100	200		500	8168	7468	10500							
Projects	0	0		0	938	340	0			1300	1150	1000	4728	1278	12000							
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		0		0	135				400	100	635	135	1500							
Newsletters & Posters	10	128		60	0	676	120			60	860	60	1974	994	3400							
Youth Activities & Scarecrows						0	0					200	200	0	0							
Paths/ Grt/ Heritage Trail							0	450		320	500		1270	450	2000							
Allotments	15		193	360		61		200	35		300		1164	864	1250							
Highways							0			300	180		480	0	1000							
Handyman				200		0	0	175	180	100	100	100	855	555	1200							
Parish Walks						0	100						100	100	1600							
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000			2850	258		1800	-1800		259	3000		7367	4108	1518							
VAT		6	92	812	224	120	28	144		60	400		1426	1426								
Total Expense	3466	4156	3180	8865	3695	5369	5238	2108	3859	5399	10090	4890	59855	39936	72068							
													10855		-388							
Funds In Hand less ringf	64836	120724	117168	115870	107005	106429	101063	95825	93717	0	-4219	-11099										
Revenue less expenses	55888	-3556	-1298	-8865	-576	-5366	-5238	-2108	-2857	-4219	-6880	-4730	12499									
Funds In Hand	120,724	117,168	115,870	107,005	106,429	101,063	95,825	93,717		-4,219	-11,099	-15,829	Ringed									

596. Association Reports

a. Hurworth Community Association Report – January 2022

The Christmas Fair held on Sunday 5th December was, despite the rather inclement weather, an amazing success. Excellent feedback has been received from several of the stall holders and from people who came along to the Fair.

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 (and warm!) Please come along for an enjoyable afternoon and remember to bring a torch plus something to make a loud noise with!

Work will now start on the organisation of the Hurworth Country Fair.

b. Tees Valley international Airport Consultancy Group.

Cllr foster attended a meeting of the Consultancy Group.

The airport building has been redesigned and the complete renovation is now complete. The Duty Free, Bar and lounge facilities are now first class.

Once the pandemic fades and the travel restrictions are relaxed, the air traffic is expected to increase very encouragingly.

Cllr Foster has been invited to be taken on a tour of the airport building and facilities. He will make a further report at the next PC meeting.

597. Any Other Business (non-financial).

No subjects were raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm