

Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council meeting Held on Thursday 5th December starting at 7.00pm



Attendees

Parish Councillors Present:

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

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr. Paul Walters and 9 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the attendees

1. Council Vacancy. There is one Council vacancy at present. This will be advertised on 9th December. One resident has already expressed their interest.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Peter Foster is on leave of absence.

Cllr. Peter Willis, Cllr. Bree Stamp

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Crisp – Allotments

4. Minutes from Meeting Held 7th November 2024

The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 7th November were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Oughton, seconded by Cllr. John Howard and passed unanimously.

5. Matters Arising – Outstanding Issues

- a. Bellway situation update. Cllr. Howard reported that he has visited the Town Hall and had a discussion with the Planning Department and others. DBC has now reached a compromise with Bellway, and work has already started to complete the tasks which will satisfy both parties.

6. Ward Councillors Update

Ward Councillors Report 5th Dec 2024

Appeal Neasham Road Access

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against an enforcement notice issued by DBC.

The alleged breaches of planning control relate to the unauthorised removal of approx. 25 m of protected hedgerow, installation of unauthorised access into the land from Neasham Road with laying of hardcore materials to form an access road to Brickyard Farm Cottage.

The Secretary of State has appointed an Inspector to determine the appeal, and it will be dealt with by written representations and a site visit from the Inspector. All representations must be received by 27th Dec 2024 and must

quote the reference number APP/N1350/C/24/3349389. All the appeal documents can be viewed online on DBC planning applications website.

DBS checks for Councillors

This was discussed and agreed at the full DBC council meeting. We enquired as to whether the proposal also applied to Parish Councillors but it was determined by the Legal Advisor that as Parish Councils were separate bodies it would be up to them to make their own decisions on this matter.

Hopetown

Hopetown has recently received a highly prestigious Northeast Culture award for best museum or cultural venue. The venue has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from all over the country and beyond since it opened earlier this year. It is certainly worth a visit particularly now whilst all the Christmas festivities are underway.

Bellway and Miller Sites

The footpaths and roads continue to remain in a state of disrepair whilst negotiations continue between Bellway and the Borough Council. DBC will not adopt the site and take any responsibility until Bellway have completed the required works to their exacting standard. Since last month's meeting there has been increased correspondence between residents, DBC, Bellway, Councillors and MP's. We have recently been assured by Bellway that they are working closely with DBC and so we await the outcome.

There has been no further correspondence relating to the Miller site which is in the same state of repair in terms of their footpaths.

7. Public Participation

A member of the public brought up the Miller & Bellway estates outstanding difficulties, and asked what the situation was?

DBC has made it clear that the Miller and Bellway estates must be brought up to standard before DBC will sign off.

If nothing is completed by January, then the option is that DBC will take over from Miller & Bellway estates and finish off the works and bill them for it.

A resident has already written to our MP.

Action: Lorraine Tostevin to communicate with DBC

Dog bins, on the Miller & Bellway estates.

This has already been reported to DBC.

Action: Lorraine Tostevin to chase up with DBC

8. Planning Application

In the absence of Cllr Willis, there was no Planning Application report. Two applications were received at the office, viz:-

- a. **Rockcliffe Hall Hotel** have applied for permission to construct a new restaurant attached to the existing building. Also 6 parking places.
To date there have been no complaints or comments.
- b. Conversion of the **Hurworth Fisheries**, 12 Church Row, Hurworth. Application 24/00427/FUL.

This is for substantial alterations and extensions to the existing buildings. The existing fish shop will be converted into a deli, and a new building will be constructed behind the existing property, to create a bistro. All comments should be made to DBC before 24th December 2024. **Action:** The chairman and clerk

9. Tree Report

Cllr Debra Williamson gave the following report: -

TREE REPORT 5th DECEMBER 24

Goblins Wood – Sycamore Tree has now been felled.

Sewerage Issue Being Caused by Tree Routes

Peter and I had a meeting with a resident from Hurworth who had a concern that tree roots in the village are causing him a sewage problem in his garden. We advised we would make some enquiries, as to what can be achieved and whose responsibility it is. The resident was quite happy and said he would leave this is our hands.

Croft Riverbank

A letter from the Environment Agency was received in relation to a tree which was rotten and was to be felled on Croft Riverbank. A five-day notice was applied for, and permission was granted. This tree has now been felled.

Village Tree

A letter has been received from a resident that branches from a tree in a conservation area are now reaching her chimney pot and first floor bedroom window.

We are putting in a conversation tree application to DBC so the tree can be pruned.

Allotment Pathway

Members of the public have complained that if walking down the back of the allotments it is impassable due to overgrowth. We asked our arborist to take a look, and it has been agreed that the overgrowth needs to be cut back allowing access between the back of the houses and the allotments.

Ivy on Wall

There is an ongoing issue with Ivy growing on a protected wall, we need to get this removed to ensure no damage is caused to the wall. It has been agreed our arborist will remove the ivy.

Residential Root Damage

A resident has complained that tree routes are causing damage to her house. These trees are the responsibility on HPC. This is in the hands of our Insurance Company Zurich Insurance, and we await their response.

10. Open Spaces & Environment Report

Fiona Lennox – 5th December 2024

Christmas Decorations

Hurworth Green and the main tree in the village looks amazing, thanks to all involved!

The smaller green at Strait Lane next to Otter and Fish. Lovely decorations, colourful and bright.
Hurworth Parish Council proud to have supported and donated to both these displays.

Other

We have given permission for an elderly resident to install a memorial bench on the grass area near the river at Croft Bridge. The request came via StreetScene.

We have the bills for the work that David Parker does for us in the village, such as looking after the war memorial, flowers, and grass/hedge cutting at Westfield Drive. We will ask David to continue with this work next year as it's important to keep the village looking well.

The village Litter Picker returned to work on Monday, 3rd December, after being on sick leave for 4 months. We thank John MacDonald who substituted during his absence.

11. Highways & Traffic Report

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

Traffic Report

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

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	55 mph	average speed	24.4 mph	Total traffic	22,952
The Green	fastest	56 mph	average speed	26.2 mph	Total traffic	34,679
Hurworth Road	fastest	48 mph	average speed	23.6 mph	Total traffic	56,871
Linden Court	fastest	72 mph	average speed	27.6 mph	Total traffic	133,398
Roundhill Road	fastest	54 mph	average speed	25.3 mph	Total traffic	61,292

More extensive details are available on the HPC web site.

12. Youth Activities Report

In her absence, Cllr Stamp submitted the following report: -

1. The Scout Hut and their 80k target - Angie Graham, Lead Volunteer has given an update. The Scouts continue to fundraise to reach their target and had a night hike fundraising event on the 30th Nov and a Roseberry Topping in the dark event in Dec, with a spot of extreme ironing at the top. The gift from the Parish Council has not been spent or match funded yet, but drawings for the new hut have been received and are being reviewed. Once this is done, they will be applying for planning permission.
2. Xmas gathering - FoHP/PTA worked with The Village Hall to put on a fantastic event for a switch on of the Christmas tree lights. They raised some much-needed funds for the Primary School.

3. The Christmas Fair was held on the 3rd December at the Primary School with all the village welcome, it was a great turnout and although the final total of funds raised is TBC it was a great event.
4. FoHP/PTA have also agreed to work with Peter Alan (Parish Clerk) on the re-invention of the Scarecrow festival - details TBC
5. Hurworth School Rewards Evening is on the 17th December from 5.30pm. Peter Allan intends to attend as a representative of HPC.

13. Crime & Security Report

Cllr Oughton reported as follows: -

The police reported that 34 incidents had been reported to them. Of these the following were categorised as crimes: -

Road Related	1
Anti-Social Behaviour	4

14. Rights of Way & Parish Walks

Cllr Peter Williamson reported: -

Rights of way report update 4/12/24

It's that time of year again and people need to take extra care while out walking, making sure they are using the correct type of footwear for the conditions under foot (mud/water).

Footpath 1 - Coach Lane to Emerson Road

Due to the DBC rights of way officer being sick, there is no update on what repairs will be done. There have been more reports of vans crossing the grass where the broken bollard is.

Footpath 11/Teesdale Way

There is no update on either of the above due to the DBC Rights of Way Officer is off sick. We are not escalating this at present, as his return to work is due shortly.

If escalated, the person responsible would have to start from the beginning and could only delay things further. The ROW Officer is very efficient and very quick to respond normally.

15. Allotments Report

Cllr Crisp reported that activities on the allotments have now virtually ceased due to winter conditions.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11th December at Hurworth Grange, starting at 6:30pm.

16. Roads & Pathways Report

Cllr Forster reported that there was nothing to report.

17. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

- a. The work on the roof of the Hurworth Grange garage block has been delayed. This time slippage has allowed time for a grant to be applied for; the application has been submitted.

b. **Hallam Land proposal and consultancy.** Cllr Tostevin stated that she raised this matter at the DBC Planning Meeting in November and was reassured that any application for building houses on this site, or within Hurworth Parish during the next two and a half years will be refused. The DBC is clear that Hurworth has already undertaken its allocation.

c. **Hurworth Parish Council Contingency Plan.** The Chairman referred to the presentation made at the November meeting relating to establishing a Plan, with funding, so that the Parish is prepared for an imminent crisis. Cllr Peter Foster has been the Contingency Officer, and several people had volunteered to be on the Contingency team. Cllr Foster is unable to continue in this roll, and it was agreed that Cllr John Howard would take over the leadership and form a group to address this need.

18. Projects 2024-2025

Cllr Forster reported that the wood carving project is now complete. The Clerk has completed the End of Project report and submitted all the invoices. The balance of the grant should be received within 14 days.

Cllr Forster stated that the group would like to stay united and to undertake another project. A proposal will be submitted at the next meeting.

19. Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AC Metals	103077	Skip hire, allotments	384
Cumbria Clock Co Ltd.	103078	Church clock maintenance	234
DBC Festive lights	103079	DBC lamppost connection	50
Tree Boy	103080	Felling tree in Goblins Wood	1170.5
Hurworth Grange CIO	103081	Room rental & printing	92.7
Friends of the Community	103082	Donation for the 2025 Wassail	130
All Saints Church Chronicle delivery	103083	Delivering Parish Chronicles	150
L&J Brewster tree carving	103084	Completion of the Wood carving project	1350
AW Events	103085	Sound loop	216
Vantage Global Chronicle printing	103086	Printing 1800 Parish Chronicles	679
P Robinson	103087	Salary	292.7
John MacDonald	103088	Salary	540
P D Allan	103089	Salary	1220.6
Inland Revenue	103090	PAYE	432
A, Jones	103091	Donation for strait Lane festival lighting	300
P D Allan	103092	Software & administration exs	247.31
Total payments			£7,488.81

20. Financial Reports

The Financial Accounts as at 30th November 2024, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

	Financial Report 30th November 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
<i>Precept</i>	65000												65000	65000
Litter Picker ref & VAT				1230	4370						4800		10400	8400
Rent & Interest			1559		100	329	169		120			100	2377	500
Grants		750							2740				3490	6980
Allotment rent		20								1180			1200	1160
Total Revenue	65000	770	1559	1230	4470	329	169	0	2860	1180	4800	100	82467	82040
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2148	2148	2302	2348	3344	2897	2231	2485	2250	2250	2250	2250	28903	25400
Gen. Admin Expenses	1378	347	216	85	2	293	174	474	300	245	250	300	4064	4060
Trees	0		2250	693	517	828	1467	1170	560	500	400	350	8735	5000
Open Spaces	1000	51	180	220	0		84	130	480	200	400	370	3115	5500
Section 137	1752	20	4008	1750	1500	1400	250	545	300	200	1000	500	13225	11200
Projects	0	60						1350	1500	800	600		4310	8000
Repairs & Maint			600						180	0	0	300	1080	1800
Newsletters & Posters	60	74	74		84	60	73	889	120	120	120	850	2524	3150
Youth Activities										300		200	500	3000
Paths/ RoW			4960				0			570		250	5780	1600
Allotments			634			125	449	320			300		1828	1500
Highways			20						500		400		920	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		125						
Total Expenses	7536	2703	15819	5786	5710	6330	4792	7488	6390	11044	9320	5470	86975	73727
													-4508	8313
Funds in Hand less ringed	67360	124824	122891	108631	104075	102835	96834	92211	84723	81193	71329	66809		
Revenue less expenses	57464	-1933	-14260	-4556	-1240	-6001	-4623	-7488	-3530	-9864	-4520	-5370	11689	
Funds in Hand	124,824	122,891	108,631	104,075	102,835	96,834	92,211	84,723	81,193	71,329	66,809	61,439	Ringed	

21. Association Reports

1. Village Hall

Cllr Crisp reported the Village Hall November update.

November

Sunday Film – “Before Dawn.” A harrowing account from the trenches of WW1 based on a true story of a young Australian sheep farmer. Attendance was ok but, maybe next time something less gory?!

Public speaker Dave Dean – The Hidden North East. Hidden gems on your doorstep including secret hideouts for troops should we have been invaded during WW2

Tracie Jacobs hosted a charity Duck Painting to raise money for St. Theresa’s Hospice. The Village Hall played its part by offering up the venue for free for this charity event.

Children’s Lantern Parade, Bagpiper, and Mrs. Bagshaw switching on the fantastic new Christmas Tree lights. A true team effort from the Parish Council, Francis Ward, the PTA, All Saint’s Church and of course the Village Hall.

December

Sunday Film – “One Life” starring Anthony Hopkins. An inspiring tale of Nicholas Winton who helped save 669 Jewish children from the Nazi’s during WW2.

Village Hall Christmas Quiz is this Friday night and as always it sold out and there’s a waiting list.

NYE Celebrations – Tickets cost £10.00 each. Bring your own food, enjoy the entertainment and help welcome in the New Year with friends and neighbours.

January 2025

Sunday Lunch – 19th January sees Jem Rose classical guitarist (and local lad) provide a musical interlude during your Sunday lunch enjoyment. Tickets cost £12.50 each and must be booked in advance.

2. Hurworth Albion F C

Cllr Leigh reported that parking at the football ground was still a problem but was being addressed. The problem is likely to ease, as it is expected that several matches will be cancelled during the winter period, due to bad weather.

3. Hurworth Grange

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

Hurworth Grange Report

The previously untidy windows and the patio area door have been replaced, matching the bar windows. This improvement enhances the area for visitors walking to the bar and for events like weddings, which often use the patio for photographs.

Work on the roof over the stable block has been delayed but is scheduled to begin soon.

The Christmas Fair was a great success. Special thanks go to the organiser, Lynn Wylie, along with the Hurworth Grange Community Centre Team, the Coffee Pot staff, and the Hurworth Grange Bar team for their hard work on such a busy day.

New Year's Eve is fully booked, with a reserve list now in place.

The Wassail, a free community event to wake up the orchard, will take place on January 5th at 4:30pm meeting outside the Coffee Pot.

The CIO will meet on December 18th to plan additional repairs and updates for the building.

22. Any Other Business

There was no topics discussed.

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.08PM.