



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 1st June 2023, starting at 7:00pm
at Hurworth Grange**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Janine Forster,

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 16 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

- The Chairman drew attention to the Parish Council surgery, which takes place at 6:30pm immediately prior to the month P C Meetings.

Each Councillor received a copy of the roster, and were asked that if they are unable to attend on their date, they should arrange for a deputy councillor.

2. Apologies for Absence

- None

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp - Allotments

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 11th May 2023

- The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Oughton .and Seconded by Cllr Willis.

5. Update on Actions

- a. 20 mph speed limit on Hurworth Road. – Cllr Tostevin stated that there was no update at this time.
- b. The Clerk reported that we not received a delivery date for the Strait Lane monitor yet. Also, the DBC Highway Dept, who are selecting the location and erecting the post, have not yet acted. Cllr Tostevin agreed to follow this up.
- c. The following statutory motions were put before the Council:-

The Council, having studied the documentation, confirm acceptance of the **Annual Governance Statement for 2023**

Proposed by Cllr Willis

Seconded by Cllr Crisp

Passed unanimously

- d. The Council, having studied the financial figures, confirm acceptance of the **AGAR Financial Statements** for the year 2022-23.

Proposed by Cllr Willis

Seconded by Cllr Oughton

Passed unanimously

- e. The Council accept the terms and conditions as set out in the **Bill of Rights**, which will be publicised for thirty working days from 5th June 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Willis

Seconded by Cllr Forster

Passed unanimously

- f. The Council having read the Internal Auditor's Report for the year to 31st March 2023, move to accept the report.

Proposed by Cllr Oughton

Seconded by Cllr Willis

Passed unanimously

6. Ward Councillor's Update

Ward Cllr Tostevin and Ward Cllr Walters reported: -

Following the Local Darlington Borough Council elections, we now have a new leader of the Council which is Councillor Steve Harker. In total there are 50 Councillors and as no political party gained overall control the Labour Councillors and Lib Dem Councillors will now be working together to form a majority to lead the Council.

We also have a newly appointed Mayor of Darlington which is Councillor Jan Cossins . This is a one-year term of office.

There are some planned roadworks for Hurworth commencing on the 5th June. This includes repairs to Strait Lane and works to footpaths and kerbing on the Grange Estate which will start on Avon Road, Fox Close and Hunters Close .

The Grange estate work is expected to last for 7 weeks.

The Ward Surgeries will be commencing soon and will be on the first Tuesday of the month at 5.30 to 6.30 by appointment at a location to be confirmed.

7. Public Participation

- a. A resident asked for details of how Hurworth Grange is managed. The Chairman invite the Clerk to provide a brief summary.
Hurworth Grange is owned by Hurworth Parish Council, and is leased to the charity Hurworth Community Association, on an ‘all repairing’ lease. This lease has been renewed regularly for 52 years. The Grange Bar is a tenant of the Community Centre and pays a rent and all profits are given to the charity. The Coffee Pot is an integral part of the Community Centre. The allotments are controlled by the Parish Council, and the playground is the responsibility of Darlington Borough Council.
- b. A resident expressed concerns about the safety of the smaller Grange entrance, and suggested that a gate be installed. The Clerk responded that this entrance must be disabled- friendly, as it is part of the circular route around the estate, which is designed to accommodate wheelchairs and children’s pushchairs and prams.
- c. Several residents expressed their dismay that the number 12 bus will cease to operate in mid July. The Chairman sympathised with the comments, but said that as it has just been announced, it was a little premature to discuss the subject. Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that there are some Section 106 funds, which were earmarked for an evening bus service, that possibly could be used as a short-term solution.
- d. A resident said that the congestion on the Grange internal road was causing problems and that the road signs needed to be better positioned.

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis **Cllr Willis reported:**

There have been 2 planning applications made since the April report

1) 69 Woodlands Way

Certificate of Lawfulness issued for removal of existing conservatory and erection of new

2) Anvil House, Church Row (Strait Lane)

Certificate of Lawfulness issued for installation of 2mm cable for 4m radio antennae

The cable will be attached to the west chimney from 2 trees in the garden

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis Footpaths/roads reported:

Footpaths/roads

Residents are complaining about the overall poor condition of the Roundhill Road pavement from Mowbray Drive to Westfield Drive – ongoing

Grass cutting of Manor Fields and The Green required – frequency? It is understood that this is every three weeks during the summer period.

Numerous footpaths are becoming overgrown with weeds/nettles etc

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

In the absence of Cllr Foster there was no report. The Clerk advised the council that he made arrangements to purchase the oak tree, as agreed at the last meeting.

11. Youth and Playground – No report

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

- a. There was no report, but the Chairman enquired about the broken bench on the pavement heading to Neasham. The Clerk reported that the bench had proved to be not worth repairing and advised that we should purchase a replacement. The council agreed to purchase one bench made from recycled produce. The benches of this type have proved acceptable and need little or no maintenance.

- b. A resident expressed is concern about an overgrown tree near Friars Pardon. Action the Clerk will identify this tree and have it inspected, as the ownership is unknown at this point. (It is probably one of the trees in Goblins Wood).

13. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The full details of traffic volumes and speed are shown separately on the HPC web site.

The average speed on Roundhill Road, Hurworth has reduced again and is now 22mph.

The other monitor locations are also following the trend with the average speed throughout is reducing. All locations are lower than 30mph average.

There are still some instances of high-speed driving, with speeds of over 70mph being recorded, but these could be emergency cases.

- b. No speed watch sessions were conducted in May. Some training sessions are required before the new team start active recordings.

14. Crime and Security – Cllr Oughton

The following crime details were reported in the month of May 2023: -

3 Vehicle crimes

3 ASB

1 Road related

1 Suspicious behaviour

5 RTC

The next PACT meeting will be held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 8th June starting at 6:30pm

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported:

The strait Lane allotments have one person on the Waiting List.

The supplier which the council has been using for purchase fertiliser can no longer provide the quantities we require, and price we have been paying.

Cllr Crisp is contacting alternative suppliers and hopes to resolve this problem within a couple of weeks.

Cllr Crisp took this opportunity to inform the meeting that the bus stop library has been trashed again last Friday evening. It appears coincidental that this behaviour occurs near the youth club, on youth club nights. The incident has been reported to our new PCSO.

16. Matters of Interest

- a. **Beech Tree Carving Project** – Cllr Forster reported that there has been no progress, but the speaker for the group will make a presentation at the July PC Meeting.
- b. **Church graveyard** – The Clerk reported that there have been many complaints about the state of the graveyard at All Saints Church. He explained that the graveyard is in two sections, with DBC being responsible for the westside of the church, and the east side is the responsibility of the Hurworth and Neasham Burial Trust.
The grass has now been cut and a ‘clean-up’ session has been planned for Saturday, 10th June starting at 10:00am, Volunteers are most welcome, bring your own tools. A skip has been booked.
- c. **Councillors’ declaration of election expenses.** Although there was no election, each councillor must complete and sign a form for DBC stating that they do not have a claim for any election expenses. The councillors present signed their forms at the end of the meeting. Also, all Declarations of Interest statements have now been completed.
- d. **Bellway.** Cllr Willis has had a response from a senior manager from Bellway, who is putting forward a ten -point plan. **A meeting will be arranged with Bellway and Cllr Willis and the Clerk.**

17. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for May 2023, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable May 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P D Allan	103854	Admin Exs April 2023	112.87
Cancelled	103855		0.00
CDALC	103856	Annual Subscription	488.26
G Wylie	103857	Poster	13.92
Cancelled	103858		0.00
N Goddard	103859	Planters	52.25
Zurich Insurance	103860	Annual premium	301.94
D Crisp	103861	Churchyard Refuse removal	150.00
G Wylie poster	103862	Poster	13.92
G Wylie poster	103863	Poster	13.92
Cambridge & Counties Bank	103864	12-month Bond	30000.00
HCA	103865	Newsletter	60.00
P Robinson	103866	Salary	514.38
P D Allan	103867	Salary	1220.80
Inland Revenue	103868	PAYE	352.60
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
A Leigh	103869	Honorarium	200.00
P D Allan	103870	Admin exs May 2023	58.58
Total expenditure May 2023			£33,555.74

VAT Refund received £2097.59

18. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31st May 2023 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report to 31st May 2023

BLUE=Allocated Green= committed Ringfenced funds £11,689

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[illegible]

Funds in Hand less													
ringed	65106	118303	116844	109424	103264	102701	95241	90801	84001	77301	72807	71917	
Revenue less													
expenses	53197	-1459	-7420	-6160	-563	-7460	-4440	-6800	-6700	-4494	-890	-5370	11499
Funds in Hand	118,303	116,844	109,424	103,264	102,701	95,241	90,801	84,001	77,301	72,807	71,917	66,547	Ringed

19. Association Reports

a. Hurworth Village Hall - Cllr Crisp gave the following report: -

The Sunday Cinema went from strength to strength this year.

Homemade soup and bread from 200pm and the film from 3.00pm was the order of the day and proved very popular indeed. No entrance fee or charges were made it was all by donation. Films have now ended for the summer season and will be back in September so watch this space.

The King's Coronation was equally popular and well attended in the Village Hall, with family, friends and neighbours coming together to watch this historic event, Refreshments were provided, again by donation. A good time was had by all.

11th June sees the Darlington Lions Club in the hall hosting Two's Company. An afternoon of light entertainment with all proceeds in aid of the Hell and Toe Children's charity. Tickets cost £10 each and includes refreshments. Tickets are available from Pat De Martino on 01325 720335.

16th June is the Quiz. Again, a very popular event. So much so this is already full.

25th June and its Armed Forces Day on the village green, The Hurworth Big Band will be there to entertain the crowds. Bring a chair and bring a picnic. This is a free event although there will be a bucket collection for Help for Heroes.

b. HCA – No report

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Russell reported: - The club has a problem at the moment. The size of the age groups has altered, and this has resulted in three teams within the same age group. The problem is that the club does not have enough pitches to cater for the matched which are scheduled from September of this year. No additional area has been located where football pitches could be created. The committee is working hard to find a solution.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

There was no further business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm