



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 3rd November 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 Peter Foster, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr David Crisp, and Cllr Janine Forster.

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Tostevin, and 1 member of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

a. Remembrance Day

The Chairman drew attention to the Remembrance Day service at All Saints Church on Sunday, 13th November.

The Commander of HMS Hurworth is intending to attend the service and lay a wreath at the cenotaph. The church is laying on a faith lunch at which The Commander will be introduced to some of the residents.

b. Precept 2023

A Finance Meeting will be held on 22nd November starting at 6:30pm. All Councillors are encouraged to attend as the intention is to agree upon the Precept for 2023. Councillors are asked to inform the Clerk, prior to the meeting, of any projects they wish to be considered, and any other suggestions or comments they wish to express about the budgeting to the next 24 months. They were also reminded that there will be an election in May 2023, to elect Councillors for the next 4 year period.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Amanda Oughton and Cllr Bree Stamp

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie – HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie – HCA
- Cllr David Crisp – Allotments and Village Hall
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 6th October 2022

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

5. Update on Actions

- Update on progress to the request for a speed monitor at the Birches on Strait Lane - Cllr Tostevin reported that DBC were not inclined to install a monitor on Strait Lane, but the matter is still open. **Action Cllr Tostevin ref SEPT 14.1**
- The Appeal Hearing for the planning application for the traveller site on Neasham Road will be held on 15th November. After checking earlier records, the Clerk advised that there are no records in the office regarding an objection, but the DBC system at that time was via on-line input. **Action Closed**
- Several youngsters have requested whether a rail can be added to the skate park. It was suggested that Cllr Munro obtains quotes for the work. Cllr Munro has held discussions with youth leaders and with youngsters regarding the requirement. The width of the skateboard area is too narrow to fully satisfy the requirement. However, a quotation has been requested for a solution within the boundaries available. **Action Cllr Munro ref OCT 11.2**
- Dog waste on Hurworth Albion field. Cllr Leigh advised that the action was with him and not Cllr Stamp. He has reported this matter to DBC and is awaiting a response. **Action Cllr Leigh ref OCT 12.1.**
- Concern about the undergrowth encroaching onto Snipe Lane (near to Geneva Woods). The Clerk to contact the DBC Public Rights of Way Officer to request that the pathway is cleared. The Clerk has written to the DBC Countryside Officer regarding this problem and requested the site be visited and action taken. No response received to date. Clerk to follow up with a telephone call. **Action Clerk ref OCT 13.1**
- The pathway hedge surrounding the allotments needs cutting now that the nesting season is finished. StreetScene has confirmed that the

work is scheduled and will be done soon. **Action Closed.**

- g. Chippings are required along the pathway that runs around the Strait Lane allotment perimeter. Cllr Crisp cancelled this request as there are no volunteers to spread the chippings. The Chairman and Cllr Leigh offered to help, so the chippings will be required. Cllr Foster says there will be a large amount available when the large Beech tree is felled next week. **Action Closed.**
- h. Concern regarding the state of the Knellgate. Letter to be sent to the residents responsible for the upkeep of Knellgate. The Clerk informed the meeting that he had visited the site and agreed that it is very untidy. A letter has been sent to the residents and it was agreed that the Action will remain open to allow for monitoring. **Action Clerk ref OCT 21.1**

6. Ward Councillor's Update

- Cllr Tostevin advised that there is nothing new to report.

7. Public Participation

A resident raised the concern regarding accessibility of the Parish footpaths and asked what was the Council's plan? The resident's main concern was in relation to the footpath between Blind Lane and the Rockliffe Hall boundary. The resident wanted to know when the surface of the path would be sorted and asked when the kissing gates would be installed?

Cllr Lynn Wylie replied that, as minuted previously, the matter is in the hands of the DBC Legal Team. DBC have advised the landowner that the route of the path has been changed without the correct legal permissions. The most recent update (October) from DBC is that they are awaiting a response from the landowner to provide documentation confirming the legal route of the footpath, and until this matter is resolved, the Parish Council are unable to proceed with any plans to install kissing gates.

Cllr Lynn Wylie reminded the resident that, at the meeting earlier in the year (between her, Cllr Graham Wylie and the said resident), it was agreed that Cllr Lynn and Graham Wylie would discuss the possibility of the installation of kissing gates at the landowner and Rockliffe Hall boundaries. This meeting was subsequently held and both landowners advised that they would be happy to support this. However, until the matter of the legalities around the landowner changing the route of the path are resolved, this can not be taken any further.

The resident expressed disappointment that the DBC Public Rights of Way Officer seemed to be the cause of stopping the matter being resolved and doesn't respond to emails asking for any updates. Cllr Lynn Wylie explained that DBC cannot allow a landowner to just change the route of a path without correct legal permission; if DBC failed to take the appropriate action, this would set a precedence for other landowners to change routes of public rights of way across their land, which none of us want.

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

Three planning requests -

- 1) Copse Haven, Roundhill Road - Retrospective application for open front timber shelter with moveable bench and dog ramp in the Northeast corner of the current dog walking field.
- 2) 38 Friars Pardon - Single story extension including conversion of garage for domestic use.
- 3) Rockcliffe Fold, Blind Lane - Single story extension.

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

Still concerned that drains have not been fully cleaned – road still floods at start of the Green.

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported:

The large Beech tree next to the playground in Hurworth Grange is dead and deemed dangerous. Darlington Council have already removed the TPO, and the tree will be felled within the next few days (early w/c 7th November). After a discussion it was agreed that part of the trunk will remain as a statue to remember what a fine tree it was.

The trees in Hawkswood may require trimming, one resident has requested work to be carried out near their house.

The Council may be required to reduce the second Oak tree at Fox Close, following advice from Zurich Insurance company.

A large Oak tree in the grounds of Hurworth Grange has died during the summer. It is believed that the cause is that it has been standing in water. The tree will need to be felled.

11. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp & Cllr Munro

Cllr Stamp could not attend this meeting but submitted the following report:

- a. **Play-Park** – The zipwire has lost its tension and this has been reported to DBC.

Cllr Munro reported:

- a. Several people have asked if an area could be used for netball and basketball. Hoops would need to be installed either on a wall or on poles. Cllr Munro said she will investigate further to try and identify a suitable location for this and associated costs. **Action Cllr Munro ref NOV 11.1**
- b. The Friday Night Youth Project has had a difficult time since the pandemic and are short of funds. Cllr Munro tabled a motion to award them £200 under section 137. This was seconded by Cllr Leigh and passed unanimously.

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported:

He has been surveying the open spaces areas and intends to present a project for discussion at the Finance Meeting.

13. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The average speed on Roundhill Road has now dropped to 26mph, the lowest on our records. This supports the view that the traffic calming, installed by DBC, is working well.

Full details of the traffic statistics are included on the HPC web site.

b. Speed Watch

Cllr Oughton has now contacted all the volunteers who have offered to join the squad, and they are planning a meeting at Hurworth Grange.

c. Junction Lines

DBC has recently painted new white lines on several roads in Hurworth. However, they have not renewed the junction lines at Lychgate or Bryans Close. Cllr Oughton says this could potentially cause accidents. The Clerk advised that he will contact DBC Highways to discuss.

Action Clerk ref NOV 13.1

14. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton

Cllr Amanda Oughton was not able to attend this meeting, and no report was submitted.

The Crime details will be added later when they are received from the police. The full report with details is available on the HPC web site.

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported:

The Halloween party held in the Village Hall was very well attended and was a great success.

Allotment 9a has now been vacated and the next resident on the waiting List has been informed.

There are still 4 persons waiting for plots at Strait Lane and at Hurworth Grange.

The skip for Strait Lane was postponed as the road is impassable due to scaffold. The new date is Friday, 18th November.

The Allotment AGM will be held at Hurworth Grange on Wednesday, 30th November starting at 7:00pm.

16. Matters of Interest

a. Grange Guttering –

The chairman reported that the project to replace the guttering around the Grange building was almost complete. The contract has over run and is also over budget. The reason being that the condition of the building, where the gutters are attached, had deteriorated much more than first realised, and in many places new fittings were required. Also, there is a section at the north side which could not be reached using the original cherry picker, so a longer reach cherry picker is required.

The original award for this project was £3,000, but the final figure is now expected to be £4,400.

A motion was tabled by Cllr Willis, and Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton stating that the Parish Council will agree to pay for the cost overrun. The motion was passed unanimously, with Cllr Graham Wylie and Cllr Lynn Wylie declaring an interest and not able to vote.

b. Plaque on the Village Green –

Cllr Lynn Wylie has approached a sign company for quotes to install a plaque on the existing sandstone memorial (as reported previously the date is incorrect and a stonemason has advised that it can not be corrected, and further to this the lettering on the plaque is ineligible without them being highlighted by paint).

Two quotes have been requested:

- an acrylic plaque backed in brushed brass at a cost of £175 + VAT
- A bronze plaque at a cost of £2025 + VAT

It was suggested that, as the plaque is in such a prominent position and a memorial for all the victims of the plague, it needs to be a high quality and appropriate commemoration.

Further discussion was held around alternative options as it was agreed an acrylic plaque would not be considered a suitable commemoration and whether the existing sandstone plinth is suitable for use as a base for the bronze plaque.

Cllr Lynn Wylie suggested that the Council investigate options and speak to a stonemason regarding a suitable granite plinth for a plaque to be mounted on, or a granite memorial engraved with the existing text (including the correct date of 1645).

It was agreed to investigate alternatives to allow a cost comparison between the bronze plaque and alternative replacement memorials.

Action Clerk ref NOV 16.1

17. Accounts for Payment

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable October 2022			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nigel Goddard	103752	Planters	64.00
M Harrison	103753	Gutters	440.00
Hurworth Albion	103754	Loan & Setion 137 Award	2500.00
Eurocell	103755	Guttering	777.36
Atkinson	103756	Guttering	197.54
D Crisp allotments	103757	Section 137 community event	200.00
M Harrison	103758	Gutters	500.00
M Harrsion	103759	Gutters	430.00
DBC Grit	103760	Filling grit boxes	593.88
M Harrison Fox Close	103761	Repairs to pathway	160.00
HCA Fair	103762	Sect 137 Hur Country Fair 2022	2000.00
Model Engineers	103763	Sect 137 award	500.00
HCA newsletter	103764	Newsletter	60.00
P Robinson	103765	Salary	440.70
P D Allan	103766	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103767	PAYE	327.20
Eurocell	103768	Guttering	283.76
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Comms	DD	BT communications	181.80
			10,886.14

18. Financial Report

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

Financial Report as at 31st October 2022																
BLUE = AllocatedBLUE = Allocated					Ringfenced funds £12,689											
	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		
Revenue														2022-2023		
Precept	59000												59000	59000		
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796					3400		8179	8179		
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			40		40	0	224	600		
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	12747		
Allotment rent										1160			1160	1160		
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	40	1160	3440	0	81310	69000		
Expenditure																
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1950	1950	2050	1950	1950	24051	23800		
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	320	300	180	160	220	4070	4000		
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	2800	560	435	400	650	5227	5000		
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64	150	220	200	200	370	4916	5000		
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200	300	500	500	300	500	11753	10000		
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	0	2400	1500		600		8491	12000		
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	900	1200	360	0	300	8994	3000		
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	60	60	650		120	2060	3000		
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0		200		300		200	700	3000		
Paths/ Grt/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494			494		250	1673	2000		
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0	200			200		1244	1400		
Handyman	0		0			100	160	300	200	100	100	100	1060	1500		
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0		200				255	500		
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000		259			517	500		
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	443					1339			
Total Expenses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	10886	8023	6690	4938	4560	4660	76350	75200		
													4960	75200		
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	90997	82974	76324	72546	71426		-6200		
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-10886	-8023	-6650	-3778	-1120	-4660	12689			
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	90,997	82,974	76,324	72,546	71,426	66,766	Ringed			

19. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

Final planning of the Christmas Fair is well underway. Just under fifty stalls are expected to attend the second Grange Christmas Fair on Sunday 4th December. Following feedback from the stall holders, that the fair was too long last year, opening times for this year will be 10am until 2pm. On the day, the Coffee Pot will be open and providing hot food and drinks.

Plans have also commenced on the second Grange Heritage Orchard Wassail, which will be held on Sunday 8th January from 4pm. Last year was a tremendous success and enjoyed by well over 100 hundred people. We are planning for up to 150 people to attend this year. The Coffee Pot have agreed to open, and we will have the Black Diamond Morris dancers, along with singing in the courtyard after the ‘waking up the orchard’ ceremony.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

The hall is very busy with several groups using the facility every week.

Every weekend leading up to Christmas is booked, with several events being organised by the Village Hall committee.

A Valuation Session has been arranged, when people can bring time pieces, old or new, for an evaluation.

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Leigh reported:

The fireworks evening on 4th November is fully organised and ticket sales are good.

A wide variety of food will be on sale, throughout the evening. There will be marshals tending the event and offering assistance when required. The gates open at 6:00pm and the firework display will start at 8:00pm. The weather forecast is good, so it should be a great community event.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- a. Cllr Dorothy Oughton suggested that when a defibrillator is not operational, a notice should be attached to the cabinet stating where the nearest unit is located.

The Clerk outlined the system, which is, the user must call 999, and the police will tell them where the nearest unit is located.

The 4 units in Hurworth are registered on the ‘Circuit’, which holds all the information, and is updated continuously to show usage and whether the unit is available or not in operation. Messages are sent via email to the Clerk giving details of any unit which has, or may have, been used. Also, there are reminders about pad usage and dates for renewal. Placing a notice on the unit stating where

to find the nearest unit if this unit is down, would duplicate the Circuit system, and the time delay in moving to another unit would be too long.

- b.** Cllr Foster had attended a meeting of the Teesside International Airport and passed around a document, which had been available at the meeting, to show the developments planned to take place at the airport.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm