

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via ZOOM,
on Thursday 1st April 2021**

Parish Councillors present

Cllr Graham Wylie (Chairman), Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Elaine Hedley,
Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr David Crisp,
Cllr Peter Willis.

Also

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

432. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell.

433. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie – HCA

Cllr Crisp – Allotments

434. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, and described how the meeting would be conducted in ZOOM mode. He expressed his hope that the next meeting can be held at Hurworth Grange.

435. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th March 2021 were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie and seconded by Cllr Hedley.

436. Public Participation

No matters/ issues were raised.

437. Planning Applications

Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report regarding planning applications submitted in the month of March 2021.

Planning applications				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	03/03/2021	03/03/2021	21/00229/FUL	None
Address	7 Elmfield Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2JJ			
About	Erection of two storey extension to north west elevation, porch to south west elevation, garden room to south east elevation and associated internal works			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	09/03/2021	09/03/2021	21/00244/FUL	None
Address	10 Southfield Close HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2ER			
About	Demolition of existing garage, erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and attic conversion including dormer extension to rear roof slope			

3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	12/03/2021	12/03/2021	21/00267/FUL	None
Address	18 Grange Avenue HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HE			
About	Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extension			
4	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	24/02/2021	15/03/2021	21/00201/FUL	Ecology Officer - No issues
Address	Land North Of End View Cottage Neasham Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON			
About	Erection of 1 no. two bed residential dwelling with detached triple garage, construction of access drive and associated works			
5	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	16/03/2021	19/03/2021	21/00288/FUL	None
Address	Meadowbank Close HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON			
About	Alterations to existing access to form gated access, re-location and construction of refuse store and installation of 5 no. additional bollard lights			

6	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	17/03/2021	19/03/2021	21/00302/FUL	None
Address	36 Manor Road HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HJ			
About	Erection of dormer extension to rear and infill door to front elevation			
7	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	16/03/2021	19/03/2021	21/00288/FUL	None
Address	Meadowbank Close HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON			
About	Alterations to existing access to form gated access, re-location and construction of refuse store and installation of 5 no. additional bollard lights			
8	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	08/03/2021	30/03/2021	21/00242/FUL	None
Address	6 Blind Lane HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2JB			
About	Erection of extension to existing detached garage including porch, installation of 3 no. roof lights and additional hardstanding			

The Council has submitted four Planning applications during March 2021.

438. Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported as follows:

A tree, which was discovered to be dead on The Green between Priory School and the Bay Horse Inn has been removed.

The tree surveys have been completed and received by the Council.

Cllr Crisp requested that another load of chippings be delivered to Strait Lane allotments, Lychgate end, so that the external pathway can be surfaced.

Cllr Foster said that there lots of spring flowers coming through the areas which have been covered in chippings during the winter period.

439. Pothole and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis reported as follows:

DBC and Miller Homes have agreed that Miller Homes will install a permanent pathway alongside Roundhill Road.

The date for the major roadworks has still not been decided, and Cllr Tostevin stated that it will take several weeks, as it needs to go through the 'Notification Stage'.

However, several large potholes have been filled in by DBC, but many more require attention.

440. Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp reported as follows:

1. Playpark

34 of the required 40 dwellings are now sold at the Miller estate, so only another six sales before we get the rest of the 106 money to enable the project to start at Hurworth Grange Play Park

2. Priory School

The School has expressed their keen interest in getting involved with community projects, any ideas welcome from other members including EPICH, Open Spaces, HCA etc.

3. Community events

There is an Easter egg hunt put on 'My Heart of Hurworth' with an event organised for Good Friday (the Council is not involved in these arrangements).

441. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:

Open Spaces Report – April 2021

Work with Peter Foster, Peter Allan and a resident, commenced on 23rd March to create a Tree Database, which in turn will lead to completion of a review on the PC Tree Policy.

This work will provide a comprehensive database and guide for all the trees within the Parish and will support the ongoing tree maintenance and agreeing the tree budget.

There is a lot of work involved, and at the time of writing the report, a database template has been created and the resident has kindly offered to complete it with the known detail, and they will investigate (e.g. contact Land Registry) where further detail is required.

Once this database is completed (expected late April/ early May), a review will be completed of the PC Tree Policy and it will be fully updated to incorporate work by EPICH, Open Spaces Policy and any new detail/ information raised from the Tree Database.

EPICH Report – February 2021

Heritage Orchard

Following extensive and unplanned pruning last year, and the further unplanned pruning completed earlier this year, EPICH have created a comprehensive ‘Orchard Maintenance Plan’; this is being presented to the PC at the April meeting.

Coach Lane

Following the tidy up last September, the group are planning to meet at 10am on 4th April to sow wildflower seeds along the verges in Coach Lane; yellow rattle seeds have already been sown, to help restrict grass growth along the verges to allow for wildflower seeds to grow.

A resident sowed wildflower seeds a couple of years ago, to great success, and the flowers received lots of lovely feedback from people using the lane, as well as making a great feature.

Woodland Walkway at the Grange

Wildflower plugs are being ordered and it is expected that planting will take place before the end of April. There will be a lot of plugs to be planted, and it is hoped that volunteers can be mustered through Hurworth Live to support the EPICH volunteers.

Lychgate Orchard

Members met on the 25th March and planted 500 ‘bulbs in the green’ which will not only enhance the area for human visitors, but will also provide excellent biodiversity for wild creatures and insects alike.

It was disappointing, despite posters being put up, that the fly tipping of garden waste is still happening.

New Members

The group have welcomed three new members; more are very much welcome, even if it is just to come along and help out with planting and general tidy ups.

At this point Cllr Peter Foster declared that he was resigning from the ‘Duty of Care subcommittee. He agreed to be available if his advice is required.

442. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley reported:

March Traffic Report:

Traffic Volume: The table below compares **Average Daily Vehicle Counts**. The first column shows typical *pre-covid* figures for February 2019. The last column shows the percentage increase in March compared to February. **All 5 locations show an increase in Average Daily traffic volume.** The figures are still well below the *pre-covid* counts for February 2019.

	February 2019	February 2021	March 2021	% Increase
Metal Bridge	N/A	608	776	27.6
The Green	N/A	864	1076	24.5
Hurworth Road	2994	1161	1650	42.0
Linden Court	4684	2674	3139	17.4
Roundhill Road	2098	1106	1479	33.8

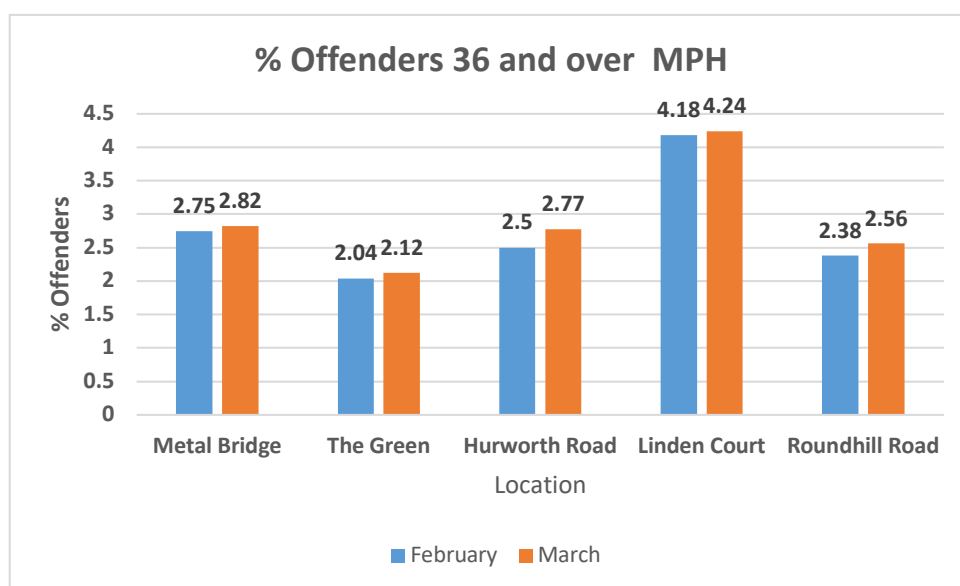
Traffic Speed: The table below compares average speeds for February 2019, February 2021 and March 2021. **Average Speeds for March are up at 4 locations compared to February, but are all still slower than the pre-covid 2019 figures.**

	Average Speed MPH		
	February 2019	February 2021	March 2021
Metal Bridge	N/A	25.1	25.9
The Green	N/A	26.7	27.1
Hurworth Road	31.2	27.8	28.0
Linden Court	29.3	27.7	29.2
Roundhill Road	28.0	24.8	24.8

In April 2020 our worst ever speeding figures were recorded on Hurworth Road. **The average speed was 32.8 MPH and 15% of traffic was doing 35.9 MPH or more.** The latest figures are less concerning.

Percentage of Traffic Speeding Offences:

The next chart shows the percentage of motorists who would have in the eyes of Durham Constabulary have committed a speeding offence at each location in February and March. (36 MPH and over)



(Note: last month's figure for Roundhill Road should have been **2.38% and not 0.6%**)

The percentage of offenders is slightly higher in all 5 locations in March than it was in February.

We are unable to compare these figures with those for 2019 as the old system recorded at 5 MPH intervals e.g. 5<10 MPH, 10<15MPH. We now use 3 MPH intervals as this highlights vehicles doing **36 MPH and above (offenders)**.

The percentage of drivers doing 36 MPH or above is a cause for concern. It is possible to highlight at which times during the day most speeding occurs.

The Speedwatch sessions will resume as soon as permission to do so is received from Durham Constabulary. Once again the sessions will target the problems which are highlighted in the Speed Monitor Data.

Full details of the traffic statistics can be found at: <https://www.hurworthonline.com/> under (...more) Speeding or under (Parish Council) in the Document Archive.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton has informed the clerk that she intends addressing the parking situation throughout the village. The subcommittee has ceased to function since Cllr Winnett left the Council.

443. Matters of Interest

1. Annual Meeting

The Chairman advised the meeting that the May meeting on 6th May, will be the Council's Annual Meeting.

The Chairman displayed a list of the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors, and requested all Councillors to inform either the Chair or the Clerk to declare their interest in becoming Chair or Vice Chair, and to indicate what topic they would like to address in the new council year.

The deadline for entries will be 30th April.

The Clerk will distribute the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting, which embraces all the topics and associations.

2. Annual Assembly

It was agreed that the Annual Assembly will be on a separate date and would be staged as a Community Event. The suggested date is to be between the last week of June/ early July.

Cllr Stamp suggested that the theme should be 'Community Groups and Community Events'. All agreed.

444. Council's Outlook for the Future

- The Clerk was invited to speak, and highlighted a few points, which should be considered going forward into this new council year.
Several Councillors, including the most recent members have received no formal training. This is largely because of COVID 19, but arrangements should be made as soon as practical.
- The Council has become a little 'disjointed' and may not all be pulling in the same direction. This is probably because of the lack of group contact. However, this should be addressed.
- The budget for 2020-21 shows a large underspend, which suggests that the Council has become 'passive', rather than 'pro-active'. The Council needs to decide which path to take in this current year.
- There appears to be a change in the attitude of 'Duty of Care', and the Council needs to ascertain exactly their approach in the coming year.
- The Annual Assembly could be used to extend the Council's intentions, including new projects, for the current year.

Cllr Graham Wylie displayed a picture of a plaque which he has selected for the 'History of Hurworth'. The Council expressed their approval and it was agreed that he would choose the colours and arrange for the Clerk to order it. The cost is £690.

445. Accounts for Payment

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable March 2021

Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
EPICH	103495	Section 137 award	500.00
Wrights	103496	Stationery	119.45

Sustainable Furniture	103497	Outdoor bench	565.00
G Wylie	103498	Posters	14.39
DBC Grit	103499	Refilling salt bins	383.41
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
DBC Planning	103500	Planning application	132.00
DBC Planning	103501	Planning application	132.00
Hurworth Village Hall	103502	Outdoor concert support	2000.00
Hurworth Country Fair	103503	Section 137 award	2000.00
BT	DD	Communications	157.88
A Iles	103504	Salary	479.60
P D Allan	103505	Salary	711.80
Inland Revenue	103506	PAYE	137.20
WAVE	103507	Allotment water	11.95
Johnston Trees	103508	Tree surveys and tree work	1692.00
HCA	103509	Newsletter & photocopying	114.04
P D Allan	103510	Speeding posters, allotment Exs, and admin.	139.89
CDALC	103510	Training	10.00
DBC Planning	103511	Planning application	99.00
DBC Planning	103512	Planning application	99.00
Total Expenses payable for March 2021			9500.91

The refund of the Litter Picker salary was received in March.

446. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st March 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries have been raised. This is the final Financial Management Report for the year 2020-21.

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total	Budget	Variance
Revenue														2020-21	
Precept	59000												59000	59000	0
Litter Picker & VAT refund		3189			100	2905						3095	9289	9000	289
Rent, interest & sundry					100	30		20				2	152	500	-348
Grants, Recovery of legal costs				310		4200	650						5160	2000	3160
Allotment rent										820	250	90	1160	1180	-20
Total Revenue for month	59000	3189	0	310	200	7135	650	20	0	820	250	3187	74761	71680	3081
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI Gen. Admin	1538	1228	1329	1438	1329	1328	1437	1328	1329	1438	1343	1328	16393	16600	207
Expenses	958	192	1106	79	122	80	193	390	97	343	162	330	4052	5000	948
Trees		2366	148	333	0	1224	693	0		293		1692	6749	7500	751
Open Spaces & EPIC			82		1000	0	544	22	100	25		500	2273	7000	4727
Section 137	800	317	0	1310		2952	3210	770		100		4000	13499	10500	-2999
Projects			40		133	212	92	0	4489	50		933	5949	12000	6051
Legal Costs & training		500				0	0	0		0		10	510	1500	990
Newsletters & notices			234		60	60	60	68	593	60	60	60	1275	3400	2125
Paths/ Walks/ Heritage Trail		54		40		0	0	0		0			94	2000	1906
Allotments			15	300	0	234	125	450	23			37	1184	1250	66
Highways						0		354				389	743	1000	257
Handyman			160	110	0	100	0						370	1200	830
Capital & N Plan			18		259					259			536	1518	982
VAT	25	287	48	76	0	18	30	182	908	58	27	221	1880	1600	-280
Total Disbursements	3321	4944	3200	3686	2903	6248	6384	3564	7539	2626	1592	9500	55507	72068	16561
Revenue less Expenses	55679	-1755	-3200	-3376	-2703	887	-5734	-3544	-7539	-1806	-1342	-6313	19254	-388	
Funds in Hand less ring fence	45,423	101101	99346	96146	92720	90667	90954	85230	81676	74137	72331	70989	64676		

447. Crime Figures for February

Cllr Amanda Oughton submitted the following Crime figures for the month of February 2021:

Hurworth Crime Figures

[Crime Figures for March 2021: 01/03/2021 – 31/03/2021](#)

[05/03/2021- ALARM- AUDIBLE ONLY](#)

Reports that Hurworth School alarm has been going off. On Police attendance alarm had gone off. Unknown reason for activation, area search of accessible areas completed and no sign of suspicious activity.

[07/03/2021- SUSPICIOUS/ INSECURE](#)

Reports that someone overnight has gone onto a property in Sockburn Lane, Neasham. No CCTV to show this, gates to property had been opened, however nothing appeared to have been moved/ taken from the area.

[09/03/2021- SUSPICIOUS/ INSECURE](#)

Caller wanted to make Police aware of potentially stolen/ abandoned vehicle on Church View, Hurworth. Checks done on vehicle show no reports, Officers attended and checked the vehicle. After relevant checks, owner information was obtained and vehicle was removed.

[12/03/2021- HIGHWAY DISRUPTION](#)

Caller reporting a tree has fallen and is blocking the road, past Strait lane heading towards Neasham. Contact made with council to remove the tree, who responded straight away.

[12/03/2021- HIGHWAY DISRUPTION](#)

Caller reporting 3 planks of 8ft long wood on the A66, on the West bound side of the road. Officers attended, however appeared wood had been removed prior to attending the area.

12/03/2021- HIGHWAY DISRUPTION

Caller reporting debris on the road, (wood/ pallets), on the approach to the roundabout near to Mowden Park Rugby Club, Hurworth Moor. Council attended and removed debris from the area.

17/03/2021- ROAD RELATED OFFENCE

Reports of a Land rover vehicle pulling a trailer with a hay bale, however one of the trailer's back wheels, is shaking massively. Caller has tried to alert driver who is currently on Croft road. Relevant checks done in regards to the vehicle. Observations passed to all Officers to be aware. No further calls received in relation to this incident.

21/03/2021- SUSPICIOUS/ INSECURE

Reports of 4x young males with 2x dogs on leads walking in the Linden Drive area. Caller was suspicious of them and wanted to alert Police in case they could be linked to dog theft/ poaching in the area. Resolved without Police deployment due to lack of further information. No further calls in regards to this incident.

21/03/2021- SUSPICIOUS/ INSECURE

Unknown male walking in the Railway Terrace area, described as acting suspiciously. Police attended and stopped male. All appeared genuine, no offences.

27/03/2021-HIGHWAY DISRUPTION

Caller reporting a group of approximately 6x teenagers on route from Hurworth to Darlington on bicycles. Concern for their safety as they are not wearing the appropriate clothing/ lighting to be seen. They are causing a nuisance in the road. Officer has attended the area and was unable to locate the group.

28/03/2021- THEFT & HANDLING

Dinsdale Golf Club reporting 5x males trying out-buildings and acting suspiciously when going around the site. Appear to have only taken chain barrier from the front entrance. Incident has been crimed, investigation pending as CCTV available.

30/03/2021- THEFT & HANDLING

Theft of a plastic store bin in Rockliffe Court. Incident has been crimed and investigation ongoing.

30/03/2021-HIGHWAY DISRUPTION

Reports of a group of 6x males taking turns on an off-road bike, on Burma Road, Hurworth Moor. Officers have attended the area, no trace of the males or the bike.

30/03/2021- ASB- NUISANCE

Reports of a group of 5x teenagers in the Snipe Lane area. They are throwing rubbish around/ causing problems near to the pond. Officers have attended and walked through the park along to the pond, however no sign of any youths.

448. Association Reports

a. HCA Meeting

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:

Hurworth Community Association Report – March 2021

A meeting was held on 16th March via Zoom. The following provides a high level view of what was mentioned/ discussed:

- Heating repairs are ongoing - new radiators have been fitted in the offices, and the bar is still to be done
- The Grange office will be moved on the 1st April
- Lease renewal is complete, and copies of the lease were still to be sent to the Parish Council

- Two grant payments have been received from Darlington Borough Council totalling £6,000. There is another £2,000 due in March
- The Bar refurbishment is well underway - the bar has been moved, a new bar area created, the lowered false ceiling has been removed and the walls plastered
- The Bar Committee had commissioned a local designer for specifications, colours, furniture etc (which, as she is from Hurworth, she has done for half her usual fee)
- It is planned that the bar will reopen, for external service, on Saturdays and Sundays from the 17th April
- Oaktree Windows are moving from their showroom in the Stable to a smaller office within the Grange. This leaves their showroom as a possible venue for a coffee shop. A list of pros and cons were discussed by, with the major ones being the potential for new business, gaining customers from the playground and having no conflicts with Grange Events to the loss of rental income and staffing costs.
- There are concerns about the Grange grounds and main entrance pathways which need attention, such as renewal of the paint on the steps and speed humps
- The Hurworth Road entrance is in desperate need of repair and improvement; the opening is too small for prams & wheelchairs and the pathway has been eroded by the heavy rains. The Committee were advised that budget has been provided for this work to be completed during the 2021/ 22 Financial Year by the Parish Council

449. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

The Chairman asked for suggestions of items to put into the community notice boards. Having a list of future events isn't feasible, as the notices need to be suitable so that they can be read by passing motorists.

It was agreed for a notice, to be put into the notice boards, that the newly refurbished Grange Bar will be opening on 17th May.

It was suggested for future notices to include detail when the Grange Coffee Shop will be opening (expected to be 1st June).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm