



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 6th April 2023, 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 Kelvin Russell, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Janine Forster, and Cllr Bree Stamp.

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou, 16 members of the public and guest presenter (from DBC) Andrew Casey.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public. He also informed the Council that they are now in purdah and must be careful not to canvas while participating; this applies to both the Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors. However, there will be no election for Hurworth Parish Council as there were only seven candidates and they are duly elected.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Andy Casey, Head of Highway Network Management at Darlington Borough Council. The public had been encouraged to attend this meeting, which will encompass a public consultation with Andy Casey about the proposed changes to the traffic and parking control on Hurworth Road.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Peter Foster.

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Crisp – Allotments
- Cllr Stamp - Allotments
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 2nd March 2023

The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie and Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton.

5. Public Consultation

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin introduced Mr Andy Casey, who made a verbal presentation which was followed by a question-and-answer session. The audience were advised that DBC have not yet decided on the final solution, and that residents concerns and ideas will be considered ahead of the final decision.

Residents raised several points and made suggestions which were discussed. Mr Casey answered the questions, elaborated on the proposed project plan, and encouraged residents to complete the online questionnaire.

The Chairman thanked Mr Casey for his attendance.

6. Update on Actions

- a. **Speed Monitor for Strait Lane – Cllr Tostevin ref Mar 6.2** - The Chairman informed the meeting that a solar powered monitor has been ordered. DBC will erect the post. Action closed.
- b. **Coronation Celebration & Grant Application – Clerk ref Feb 19.1** – The Chairman informed the meeting that the grant application had been unsuccessful and proposed that the Council contribute £2,000 to fund the Coronation Event on Hurworth Village Green. The Council agreed unanimously. Action closed.
- c. **Otter and Fish Traffic Island – Clerk ref Mar 13.1** – traffic island has now been repaired. Action closed.
- d. **Welcome to Hurworth Sign – Clerk ref Mar 18.1** – arrangements have been made for the sign to be erected (near to the Bellway development). Action closed.

7. Ward Councillor's Update

- a. **Number 12 Bus Service Update** - Cllr Tostevin told the meeting that, at this time, there is no further update on this matter.
- b. **Crossing at Linden Court Update** - The discussions regarding changing the pedestrian crossing at Linden Drive have concluded that there is not a practical alternative, so the matter is closed.

8. Public Participation

- No matters raised.

Councillor Reports

9. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

- 1) 62 Friars Pardon - Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey extension.
- 2) 12 Evesham Drive - Erection of front porch and single storey side elevation. Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof.
- 3) Blind Lane - Erection of barn for storage of hay, farm machinery and tools.
- 4) 97 Woodlands Way - Erection of Double garage.
- 5) Rockcliffe Fold Blind Lane - Single storey extension.

10. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

- 1) Cllr Russell's report on condition of footpath between Westfield Drive and Mowbray drive has been sent to Councillor Tostevin who has forwarded it to the Highways Team at DBC. It is understood DBC do not intend to take further action on this matter.
- 2) Still waiting for report on Roundhill Road traffic calming scheme. DBC are, having carried out their own assessment, have closed this matter.
- 3) Still waiting for final plans for school crossing scheme and update on congestion issues at junction of Roundhill Road and The Green. This was partly covered in the discussion with Mr Andrew Casey at this evening's meeting.

11. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported:

In the absence of Cllr Foster, there was no report.

12. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp

Cllr Stamp reported:

There had been no activity in March.

13. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported:

The bench audit work has commenced again, and it has been noted that the bench, which is located between Neasham and Hurworth, is badly broken. The bench will need workshop repair, and this has been arranged.

14. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

Full details and graphs of traffic volumes, and daily average speeds and percentages of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit are shown on the HPC website.

The traffic volume in March was 68,502 recorded vehicle passes, with an overall average of 27.2mph; although many days do show an average speed of 32.7mph. As always, there are a few vehicles that drive far too fast through this congested area.

The Chairman thanked Mr John Hedley for collecting and compiling these excellent reports.

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported:

All the allotments are taken, and with the better weather, many of the tenants are now very active on their plots.

We have to report that some asbestos cement was discovered on an allotment, and which was reported to the Environment Department at DBC.

The Environmental Department were very proactive and inspected the site, giving recommendations on how to dispose of the material. Asbestos cement is not dangerous, but it was better to take this action and have it recorded. We thank Cllr Tostevin for her assistance in helping to quickly resolve this potential problem.

16. Matters of Interest

a. Election Timetable –

It was intended to discuss the election timetable at this meeting, but as there will not now be an election, this is no longer required. The next HPC Meeting will be the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday, 11th May 2023. The newly elected councillors will sign their Acceptance of Office prior to this meeting.

16. Accounts for Payment

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable March 2023			
Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
G Wylie	103814	Poster	10.08
CDALC training	103815	Training	10.00
G Johnston Trees	103816	Treework	495.00
HCA	103817	Printing	60.00
Eden Landscapes	103818	Allotment fence project	500.00
Eden Landscapes	103819	Allotment fence project	674.00
WAVE	103820	Water rates	17.30
Data Protection Org	103821	Data Protection licence	40.00
D Crisp	103822	Fuel costs allotment	40.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
HCA Country Fair	103823	Section 137 award	2000.00
Johnston trees	103824	Treework	351.00
HCA	103825	Newsletter	60.00
G Wylie	103826	Poster	10.08
Johnston trees	103827	Treework	315.00
P Robinson	103828	Salary	573.55
P D Allan	103829	Salary	1220.80
Inland Revenue	103830	PAYE	367.40
P D Allan	103831	Admin expenses	72.51
Eden Landscapes	103832	Handyman work	125.00
Eden Landscapes	103833	Allotment fence project	400.00
D Crisp	103834	Refuse tip expenses	45.00
David Parker	103835	Grass cutting. Fountain maint - 12 months	500.00
BT Comms	DD	Telecom expenses	195.04
Total expenditure for March 2023			8084.06
Litter Picker refund received	£3,505.50		

The Clerk asked the Council permission to make the budgeted payment under Section 137, to pay HCA the award of £2,000 for the council's contribution to the Outdoor Concert to be held at Hurworth Grange, in July. The motion proposal was put to the meeting by the Chairman, and accepted by the council unanimously.

17. Financial Report

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

Financial Report as at 31st March 2023															
BLUE = Allocated	BLUE = 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						3505	8284	8200	
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			56			106	306	650	
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0	
Allotment rent & Music Revenue										460	560	40	1060	1180	
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	56	460	560	3651	81397	69030	
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1995	2114	2033	2204	2324	24871	23800	
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	336	136	284	31	119	3796	4060	
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	1854	419	1654		1161	5470	5000	
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64			98		500	4374	5500	
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200		398		200	2000	12251	10000	
Projects & Events	70	1546	1958	425		0	0		2107	0	1174	1574	8846	12000	
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	993			1250	0	8477	3000	
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	68	10	68		137	1393	3000	
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0							0	3000	
Paths/ Grit/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494						929	2000	
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0		285			102	1231	1400	
Handyman	0		0			100	160	45				125	430	1500	
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0						55	500	
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000	499		258		1015	517	
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	217	584	8	250	42	1997	0	
Total Expenses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	10886	3508	6552	4145	5367	8084	75135	0	
													6262	75277	
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	90997	87489	80993	77308	72501		-6247	
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-10886	-3508	-6496	-3685	-4807	-4433	12689		
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	90,997	87,489	80,993	77,308	72,501	68,068	Ringed		

The Clerk stated that a copy of the Risk Assessment for the year 2023-24 had been distributed to all the Councillors. A proposal to accept this document was proposed by Cllr Dorothy Oughton and Seconded by Cllr Russell. The vote was carried unanimously by the seven councillors who have been re-elected.

18. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The Coffee Pot, despite the short days and inclement weather, continues to do well; as we move into summer, it is expected to report higher takings than last year. The Coffee Pot has proven to be a brilliant success for the Grange and a hit with villagers and visitors to the Grange alike.

The snug, in the Grange Bar, has now been fully refurbished and makes a wonderful addition to the recent improvements made to the Grange Bar. Special thanks go to Dave Probert for all his hard work and craftsmanship in making the snug a lovely place to sit and have a drink.

A plaque in memory of John Layfield, who was an amazing supporter of the Grange, is being ordered and it is hoped that it will be installed outside the Coffee Pot early this summer.

Plans are underway to ensure that there is a full calendar of events including the annual Car Show, Music For All, barbecues, live bands, Duck Race, the ever-popular Hurworth Grange Country Fair and the Christmas Fair. Watch out on The Grange Website and village notice boards for more details.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

The Village Hall is very busy. The Sunday afternoon film with soup is proving very successful and attracting more people each time. The Hall will be open on the Saturday of the Coronation with the big scene showing the actual event, and refreshments will be served, with no charge.

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Russell reported:

We are coming to the end of the season, and a number of sessions have been arranged with Middlesbrough teams to be held in the summer period. This means that more teams are coming to Hurworth.

This has created a problem as the club does not have enough full-sized pitches.

Alternative venues within Hurworth are being sought, and these include schools and Hurworth Grange.

19. Any Other Business

- No matters were raised.

20. Chairman's Final Comments

- The Chair, confirming that this will be his last meeting on the Council, thanked all the members of the Council and the Clerk for the effort and contribution they have made over the last four years. Both he and Cllr Lynn Wylie will continue to support the Grange and plan to arrange events in the future.
- The Clerk thanked all the Councillors for their contributions to the successful operation of the Parish Council, and in particular thanked Graham and Lynn Wylie for the huge effort they have made, taking on many challenges and devoting a large slice of their time. 'They will be missed'.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm