

Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council meeting
Held on Thursday 2nd January 2025 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. Bree Stamp;

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr. Paul Walters and 8 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the attendees

1. Council Vacancy. Three applications have been received. The Chair, the clerk and one other Councillor will interview the candidates and make a selection.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Peter Foster is on leave of absence.

Cllr. Peter Willis, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr. Fiona Lennox

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Crisp – Allotments

4. Minutes from Meeting Held on 5th December 2024

Cllr Tostevin requested a modification to the draft Minutes, item 5, relating to the Bellway estate. The sentence 'The handover to DBC can be expected in January 2025'. was removed.

The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 5th December were modified accordingly, and accepted, proposed by Cllr Oughton, seconded by Cllr. Crisp and passed unanimously.

5. Matters Arising – Outstanding Issues

1. Hurworth Grange replacement of the garage roof. Work has not yet started. A grant application has been submitted, on behalf of Hurworth Grange CIO, and a decision is expected by mid-January. The work is expected to start before the end of January.

6. Ward Councillors Update

Ward Councillors' Report 2nd January 2025

1. Cllr Walters said he had nothing to report
2. Cllr Tostevin drew the Councils attention to two consultations: - the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Pavement cafes, both can be viewed on DBC website. Residents are able to post their comments.

7. Public Participation

1. A resident raised the question, again, about Footpath 11. The footpath is virtually unusable at present due to flooding. What is being done to get the path relocated to its original routing? The chair explained that this is with the DBC Planning Team, and the matter can only be settled with the landowner. The landowner has made it clear that he does not wish the path to go through his field using the previous route. At present, there is nothing this council can do to assist the resident.
2. A same resident asked the Council to improve the surface of the Right of Way behind the Grange possibly using the Precept. Cllr Peter Williamson stated that making it higher through resurfacing, could cause flooding problems for householders on the Grange housing estate. Furthermore, the land owner had already assisted with the style, and is not prepared to do further work. The Chair added that this resident appears to be the only person concerned, and that many Hurworth residents would not want tarmac surfaces on country walk paths.
3. A resident raised the problems still outstanding on the Bellway estate. Cllr Howard read out a message from DBC that stated that they will not register the estate until a number of outstanding issues are rectified and the residents are content. Cllr Tostevin stated that DBC will not take over the responsibility and potential liability of

adopting the Bellway or Miller estates, until they are satisfied that all the outstanding work meets the agreed building standards. Section 38 had been discussed, but will not be applied at this time.
Finally, Cllr Tostevin agreed to go back to DBC, and enquire as to the current position on both estates. **Action Cllr Tostevin**

8. Planning Application

In the absence of Cllr Willis, there was no Planning Application report.

- a. Conversion of the **Hurworth Fisheries**, 12 Church Row, Hurworth. Application **24/00427/FUL**. Several residents have lodged comments on the DBC web site, principally expressing concern about parking congestion. The Council decided to 'make no comment'.
- b. Reference - **APP/N1350/C/24/3349389**, The Council has lodged a comment in support of DBC actions relating to the enforcement appeal on Neasham Road.

9. Tree Report

Cllr Debra Williamson gave the following report: -

Nothing to report for December.

10. Open Spaces & Environment Report

In the absence of Fiona Lennox –

There was no report for December

11. Highways & Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported the following details for the traffic for the month of December 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	21.3 mph	Total traffic	21,931
The Green	fastest	66 mph	average speed	23.8 mph	Total traffic	30,017
Hurworth Road	fastest	60 mph	average speed	23.8 mph	Total traffic	55,675
Linden Court	fastest	57 mph	average speed	27.4 mph	Total traffic	131,295
Roundhill Road	fastest	48 mph	average speed	25.2 mph	Total traffic	58,219

More extensive details are available on the HPC web site.

12. Youth Activities Report

Cllr Stamp submitted the following report: -

She is enquiring into the activities of the Darlington Youth Group, with a view to complimenting their Hurworth plan. She is currently waiting for feedback.

13. Crime & Security Report

Cllr Oughton reported as follows: -

HURWORTH FIGURES - 01/12/24 - 29/12/24

There have been 34 incidents reported for December, including the following:

02/12/24 Strait Lane Animals/Wildlife

2 reports of horses on the side of the road

07/12/24 SPAR, Hurworth Green Burglary - Business

Under investigation

11/12/24 Strait Lane

Report of a pony on the road

21/12/24 Blackthorn Lane/Roundhill Road

Male seen acting suspiciously in the area

21/12/24 Blackthorn Lane Vehicle Crime

Under investigation

14. Rights of Way & Parish Walks

Cllr Peter Williamson reported: -

Nothing to report.

15. Allotments Report

Cllr Crisp reported that there are four people on the strait Lane Waiting List, and we are expecting to have four plots available in January.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 11th December at Hurworth Grange. Allotment rents for 2025 will remain at £20 per plot.

16. Roads & Pathways Report

In the absence of Cllr Forster there was nothing to report.

The Clerk reported that DBC Highways Department have declined our request to a road mirror at the entrance to Newbus Grange.

17. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

a. **Hurworth Grange insurance premium.**

The Chair withdrew this item from the agenda.

18. Projects 2024-2025

Cllr Forster has submitted a detailed proposal for another Wood Carving project. The discussion on this was deferred by the Chair, while it is considered. This project may attract a grant, and could become a grant dependent project.

Cllr Peter Williamson expressed his view that he, and several residents feel that the Carved Tree project is not complete, as the top of the tree has not been addressed. He would also want to see a financial budget report before a decision is considered.

Action: The Clerk is to get a full report of finance required before the next meeting.

19. Accounts for Payment

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

Accounts for Payment December 2024			
Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
Tree Boy	104093	Tree work	225
Cancelled cheque	104094		
G Wylie	104095	Poster	15.66
David Parker	104096	Open spaces maintenance 12 months	614
Tree Boy	104097	Tree work	567
DBC	104098	Winter road grit	931.22
WAVE water	104099	Allotment water	22.61
Mazars audit	104100	External audit	378
Eden Landscapes	104101	Plaques and Odd jobs.	280
P Robinson	104102	Salary	686.2
P D Allan	104103	Salary	1220.8
Inland Revenue	104104	PAYE	395.4
P D Allan	104105	Software& admin Expenses	125.17
Total payments			£5,461.06

20. Financial Reports

The Financial Accounts as of 31st December 2024, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

Financial Report 31st December 2024													Ringfenced funds £11,689	
	1st December	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
Precept	65000												65000	65000
Litter Picker ref & VAT				1230	4370						4800		10400	8400
Rent & Interest			1559		100	329	169		277			100	2534	500
Grants		750							2780				3530	7060
Allotment rent		20								1180			1200	1160
Total Revenue	65000	770	1559	1230	4470	329	169	0	3057	1180	4800	100	82664	82120
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2148	2148	2302	2348	3344	2897	2231	2485	2302	2100	2110	2250	28665	25400
Gen. Admin Expenses	1378	347	216	85	2	293	174	474	433	645	250	300	4597	4060
Trees	0		2250	693	517	828	1467	1170	792	500	400	350	8967	5000
Open Spaces	1000	51	180	220	0		84	130	614	200	400	370	3249	5500
Section 137	1752	20	4008	1750	1500	1400	250	545		300	1000	500	13025	11200
Projects	0	60						1350			600	500	2510	8000
Repairs & Maint			600							0	0	300	900	1800
Newsletters & Posters	60	74	74		84	60	73	889	13	120	120	850	2417	3150
Youth Activities										300		400	700	3000
Paths/ RoW			4960				0			570		250	5780	1600
Allotments			634			125	449	320	23		300		1851	1500
Highways			20						931		400		1351	1500
Handyman									280	100	100	200	680	1500
Hurworth Grange support										4000	5400		9400	0
Capital & Legal exs	760			575	258	575	64			259			2491	517
VAT	438	3	575	115	5	152		125	73					
Total Expenses	7536	2703	15819	5786	5710	6330	4792	7488	5461	9094	11080	6270	86583	73727
													-3919	8393
Funds in Hand less ring	67360	124824	122891	108631	104075	102835	96834	92211	84723	82319	74405	68125		
Revenue less expenses	57464	-1933	-14260	-4556	-1240	-6001	-4623	-7488	-2404	-7914	-6280	-6170	11689	
Funds in Hand	124,824	122,891	108,631	104,075	102,835	96,834	92,211	84,723	82,319	74,405	68,125	61,955	Ringed	

It was noted that Hurworth Albion still need to repay the £1,000 which was advanced to them for the 2023 Fireworks event.

21. Association Reports

1. Village Hall

Cllr Crisp reported the Village Hall had a busy month with three events, culminating with the Christmas Tree festivities.

The monthly movies will continue this Sunday afternoon, and this amenity is drawing a bigger audience every month. Lynn Drumm’s soup is a big attraction.

A New Year’s Eve party brought the end of 2024 to a joyful end, with games and dancing prior to the First Footing of the hall. Cheers to all!

2. Hurworth Albion F C

Nothing to report.

3. Hurworth Grange

Hurworth Grange Community Centre wrapped up 2024 on a high note, with a lively, packed bar ringing in the New Year.

Looking ahead, we’re hopeful the Wassail event will go ahead as planned on January 5th, weather permitting. January also brings an exciting Elvis tribute performance, while February promises entertainment from the renowned Beer Pigs—tickets will be available soon!

The Grange Committee is set to focus on enhancing the Centre’s appearance and grounds in the coming months, including repairs to the stable block roof.

The Centre is a versatile venue, perfect for all kinds of events, from birthdays and weddings to parties. For more details or to get in touch, visit our website: www.hurworthgrange.com.

22. Any Other Business

The Chair made the following announcements

1. A resident of Hurworth is making a claim for potential damage which may be caused by tree roots. This is being dealt with by our insurance company, Zurich Insurance Corp. This may end up that we have to remove a large 100-year-old tree. We will receive further advice presently.
2. We have an ongoing dispute with Npower, regarding them charging a ‘Standing Charge’, for which we have never signed a contract. Correspondence is ongoing.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.