



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 3rd March 2022
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, and Cllr Kelvin Russell

Also:

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

1. Chair's Opening Address

We start the meeting with some very sad news.

Councillor Elly Hedley passed away early last week. After retiring as a teacher, she wanted to be active on the Parish Council, and had an interest in the newsletters. Elly also joined and promoted the Speedwatch programme. Elly, with the help of her husband John, created wonderful facts and figures, highlighting the areas where Speedwatch needed to patrol. During Elly's tenure, and with her dedication, these figures have reduced significantly.

Elly also supported meetings away from the Parish Council meetings and was very much a proactive councillor.

A minute's silence, in honour of our friend Elly Hedley, was held.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr Foster

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH
- Cllr Crisp – Allotment
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 3rd February 2022

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

5. Update on Actions

a. Apsris School Update - Cllr Munro was not present at the meeting.

Cllr Munro had advised that there had been no progress with the parking and traffic issues raised on **Action FEB 5.1**

The cheque for £300 has been delivered to CACYM (Friday Youth Club).

b. Roundhill Road traffic calming

Cllr Tostevin stated that DBC were still considering the comments which have been submitted to them. No decision has yet been made, and Cllr Tostevin will follow this up again. **Action Cllr Tostevin ref FEB 7.1**

c. Benches

The two benches to replace the vandalised benches on Croft and Hurworth Road have been installed.

The new oak bench, which is to replace the old and broken church bench, has been delivered and will be installed as soon as the weather allows.

d. HPC Monthly Meeting

The June 2022 has been rescheduled to be held on the second Thursday on June (9th June). This is to cater for the Jubilee celebration schedule. This will be publicised in advance on the notice boards, Facebook and the HPC web site.

6. Public Participation

- There were no questions raised by the public at the meeting.

Councillor Reports

7. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Councillor Willis reported:

There have been 3 planning applications during February

- 1) Low Maidendale Farm, Burma Road
Conversion of old agricultural buildings into 5 dwellings
- 2) Miller Homes
Change of one house style on the site

- 3) Rockcliffe Cricket Club
Change of 2 pavilion windows for access doors

I am not aware that any of these applications will be contentious regarding the Parish Council.

8. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Councillor Willis reported:

- 1) Roundhill Road – traffic calming
DBC to consult residents as to whether it is working as intended
- 2) 20 mph zone near school on Roundhill Road – awaiting start date from DBC
- 3) Cllr Tostevin has looked at footpath between Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive on Roundhill road and does not consider it to present a problem but accepts in slopes into the road

This was raised by a resident some months ago and I am of the opinion that the footpath is not safe particularly in winter when icy.
There is an increased footfall on this footpath and a large number of pushchairs/prams using it; I have observed the difficulty they have during adverse weather.

Cllr Russell suggested that he look at the path to give his opinion and would report back on his thoughts over the condition of the path. **Action Cllr Russell ref MAR 8.1**

- 4) The new footpath in Wayside has now been completed

9. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster was not present at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that two walnut trees have been donated to the Grange, and Cllr Foster has expressed his delight as they are already over seven feet tall and will grow into fine trees. A letter of thanks has been sent to the resident who generously donated them to the Council.

Cllr Stamp drew attention to potentially dangerous trees on the boundary of the Manorfield but was unsure of the ownership of the trees. After discussion, it was apparent that the fir trees belong to a resident, and the other trees belong to DBC. In regard to the trees in the grounds of a resident, the Clerk was asked to contact the resident to ask them to make the trees safe and to contact DBC in regards to the trees on the Manorfield. **Action Clerk ref MAR 9.1**

10. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp, Cllr Munro & Cllr Russell

a. Playground Update - Cllr Stamp reported:

The playground revamp is planned to start on the 21st March. Work should take no longer than two weeks, meaning all work will be completed by Friday 1st April.

There is a possibility that Streetscene will be able to start on Monday 14th March, although this is dependent on another job being completed, so Monday 21st March is

most likely.

b. Hurworth Albion Update - Cllr Russell reported:

Cllr Russell reported that the maintenance programme, completed on the middle playing pitch last year, cost £10k. Durham FA have provided support in the maintenance programme.

11. Open Spaces – Cllr Lynn Wylie

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

At the time of writing this report, remedial works, around completion and tidying up the garden area, are in the process of being completed.

EPICH have agreed to support a programme of improvement works and planting (continuing with the Victorian planting theme, woodland plants such as Rhododendrons, Hellebores, Snowdrops etc), and this work will be undertaken in tranches (to be planned) once the above remedial works have been completed.

12. EPICH – Cllr Lynn Wylie

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

A meeting was held on 17th February to discuss upcoming projects and approve the March 2022 Hurworth Grange Heritage Orchard Management Report.

The Hurworth Grange Heritage Orchard Management Report provides detail of the work that EPICH will be responsible for, in the Heritage Orchard, for the next 6 months; this has been submitted to the HPC for reference.

Grass cutting in the Heritage Orchard was discussed and an email has been sent to the HPC Clerk and the Grange Manager confirming that no grass cutting is to be undertaken without EPICH approval; the only regular grass cutting will be to maintain the edging alongside the path; as currently in place. To maintain the wildflower meadow, in the Heritage Orchard, the grass will not be cut until late August/ late September, and this will be arranged by EPICH.

The EPICH bees will be moving from Clervaux to Rockcliffe Hall this Spring to the new apiary facility at Rockcliffe Hall.

The proposal put forward, by Lynn Wylie, to improve the garden area alongside the new path was accepted as a project to be supported by EPICH. However, it was agreed that it would need significant effort and planning to break it down into smaller project areas, to make it more manageable; it will most likely require support from other volunteers, and this will be advertised on social media nearer the time. As previously reported, the HPC have allocated £1000 towards this work, and it is hoped that work can commence around Easter time.

13. Highways and Traffic

John Hedley submitted a detailed traffic report for the month of January 2022. As this is a substantial report with graphics, full details can be viewed at <https://www.hurworthonline.com/speeding>

14. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton & Cllr Dorothy Oughton

a. Parking Update - Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

Cllr Amanda Oughton summarised the schedule of crimes received from the police. There were no serious crimes reported in February, and the latest crime figures and detail can be viewed at <https://www.hurworthonline.com/crime-report>

A PACT Meeting was held immediately before this council meeting, and three members of the police attended.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported that there were no Speed Watch sessions held in February, partly because of the bad weather conditions, and partly because of the shortage of volunteers. The Chairman said that he will 'advertise' the need for Speed Watch volunteers on Facebook **Action Cllr Graham Wylie ref MAR 14.1**

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported that all the allotments are now occupied, with tenancy agreements signed. The new tenants are enthusiastic and have already started working on their plots.

The waiting list currently stands at 2 people.

An informal allotment group will be meeting on 4th March to discuss the arrangements for the Easter Sunday Children's Party and the annual Allotment Fun Day later in the year.

16. Matters of Interest

Projects Update

a. Queen's Jubilee

Cllr Crisp reported that a 'Street Party' is being organised by the Village Hall for Sunday 5th June. This event will be held on the village Green. The programme will include children's entertainment and a fancy dress competition. During the afternoon there will be three bands performing and, in the evening, there will be karaoke.

The event is free to all, on a 'bring your own food and refreshments' basis. However, All Saints Church will be having tents selling strawberries and cream and afternoon tea. In the evening Hurworth Albion will be offering a BBQ.

b. Skate Ramp

The chairman stated that we have received quotations from contractors to resurface a section of the skateboard ramp. The lowest quotation of £7,200 will be accepted, and the work can start this month. The Council endorsed the recommendation.

The Chairman reported that an estimate has also been received to install all weather ramps on the skateboard. This estimate is for £15,800. The Council agreed to postpone any discussion on this until the users of the skateboard have been consulted.

c. Jean's Garden

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported that a professional landscape gardener was coming this weekend to survey Jean's Garden, with a view to commencing this project shortly.

d. Hurworth Fun Run – Cllr Russell

Cllr Russell reported that the arrangements for this community event are now well advanced. They have received welcome support from Darlington Harriers, who have offered their help with the online entry system, as well as the run routes. There will be a 3km and a 5km route. The entry fee will be £3.

Medals will be awarded for those who complete the course. They are expecting approximately 500 entries.

The main expenses are:

Medals	£1,300
Insurance	£250
Start and Finish lines	£200
Bouncy Castle	£100
DJ	£100

The organising committee had calculated that the shortfall in costs was £825. A motion was tabled by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie that the council should provide a Section 137 award for £825. The motion was carried unanimously, with Cllr Russell not voting. **Action Clerk ref MAR 16e.1**

e. Arriva Update – Cllr Amanda Oughton

Cllr Amanda Oughton informed the meeting that there has been no progress due to Arriva waiting for the impact of Covid to pass before they are able to re-assess transport needs.

f. Hurworth History Plaque

Cllr Lynn Wylie informed the meeting that the design and content for the Village History Plaque is now complete. A copy of the artwork was distributed for the Councillors to peruse. The board will be erected outside of the old post office where the Parish Council used to have their notice board. Cllr Lynn Wylie said that it is their intention to prepare another History board which will address the history of the West end of Hurworth and Hurworth Place. The Chairman gave thanks Jaime Westwood on the amount of work she has devoted to this project and the excellent quality of the finished product and has agreed a payment in kind of £250 to be made to Jaime.

17. Accounts for Payment

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

Cllr Russell asked what the Capital payment was for. The clerk explained that this related to a loan outstanding from the purchase of Hurworth Grange, which is with the Public Works Loan Board. Attempts to settle the debt have been set aside as the penalty to settle early outweighs the ongoing loan interest.

<u>Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable February 2022</u>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
P Robinson	103635	January salary	329.28
G Johnston trees	103636	Tree work	425.70
G Wylie	103637	Poster	10.08
CACYM	103638	Section 137 award	300.00
Marmax	103639	2 replacement benches	809.52
G Johnston trees	103640	Tree work	117.00
P D Allan Defib packs	103641	Defibrillator packs	112.78
Woodberry	103642	Oak bench	628.80
HCA	103643	Newsletter	60.00
P. Robinson	103644	Salary	414.65
Inland Revenue	103645	PAYE	192.00
P D Allan	103646	Salary	1227.60
P D Allan	103647	Admin expenses	42.87
Bank charges	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Public Loans Board	DD	Loan payment	258.62
Total expenditure February 2022			4931.20

18. Financial Report

The Financial report to 28th February 2022 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

The Council reconfirmed that they will financially support both the Hurworth Country Fair and the Village Hall Outdoor Concert. Each event will receive £2,000.

Financial Report to 31st January 2022														
BLUE-Allocated	Ringfenced funds £12,689													
	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Total	Yr to Date
Revenue														Budget
Precept	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund			1880		3119							3200	8199	4999
Rent & Interest	354	600	2			3			2				961	961
Grants & Donations									1000				1000	1000
Allotment rent										850	270		1120	1120
Total Revenue	59354	600	1882	0	3119	3	0	0	1002	850	270	3200	70280	67080
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1330	1451	1330	1963	2074	1963	1963	1473	2164	2380	20882	18502
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	970	762	185	173	605	81	183	172	472	54	300	4322	4022
Trees	0	265	0	0	455	149	270	293	909		542	450	3333	2883
Open Spaces	515	47	195	22	17	520	40	0	500			200	2056	1856
Section 137	110	1400	608	2925	300	935	590	500	100	1200	937	4500	14105	9605
Projects	0	0		0	938	340	0				874	1400	3352	1952
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		0		0	135					100	235	135
Newsletters & Posters	10	128		60	0	676	120			60	60	60	1174	1114
Youth Activities & Scarecrows						0	0					200	200	0
Paths/ Grt/ Heritage Trail							0	450				200	650	450
Allotments	15		193	360		61		200	35			200	1064	864
Highways							0					200	200	0
Handyman				200		0	0	175	180			100	655	555
Parish Walks						0	100						100	100
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000			2850	258		1800	-1800			259		4367	4367
VAT		6	92	812	224	120	28	144		76	241		1743	1743
Total Expend	3465	4156	3180	8865	3635	5369	5238	2108	3859	3281	4331	10290	58438	48148
													11842	18932
Funds In Hand less ringf	64836	120724	117168	115870	107005	106429	101063	95825	93717	90860	88429	83768		
Revenue less expenses	55888	-3556	-1298	-8865	-576	-5366	-5238	-2108	-2857	-2431	-4661	-7090	12689	
Funds In Hand	120,724	117,168	115,870	107,005	106,429	101,063	95,825	93,717	90,860	88,429	83,768	76,678	Ringed	

19. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The HCA AGM is planned to take place on the 15th March, and we are looking for new members to join the group (the HCA is currently 3 Committee members short). If anyone is interested, please call in to the Grange to register your interest before the 14th March.

Work is well underway planning for the Country Fair (Saturday 17th September) with the next Committee meeting taking place on 2nd March (at the time of writing this report, the meeting was in the future, so an update will be added to the PC Minutes accordingly).

The date has been set for the 2022 Christmas Fair, and it will be held on Sunday 4th December. Again, planning has commenced on this.

Several previous stall holders have already expressed an interest in taking a stall at both fairs, and several new potential stall holders have been approached.

The Easter Fun Run preparations are well underway with several food type stalls booked and invoiced to attend. As well as the stalls, there are plans for other supporting activities such as an Easter egg raffle and face painting too.

There is lots of work underway or being planned for the next few months; following a slight delay, the Coffee Pot toilet block is due to be completed by early to mid-March; work on the gutters will commence late March/ early April; replacement of the pipework will be completed during the summer months.

Covid is still having an impact on Grange events/ groups, but as at the 15th of February, the 11 weddings were all confirmed, and the Grange is looking to be very busy from April onwards; things are looking very positive.

The Chairman reported that the water leak under the Grange car park has been repaired. However, the contractor has informed HCA that there is another leak, located somewhere between the leak which has been repaired and the miniature railway.

Cllr Lynn Wylie advised that to repair this will mean either digging a trench across the car park to the railway track, or, as an alternative, a mole device can be used, which will avoid major disruption to the Grange. The quotation for the trench solution is £3,200, whereas the mole solution is £4,000.

The motion was tabled by Cllr Crisp, and Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton, and the Council agreed unanimously that HPC will fund this repair and will accept the mole solution at £4,000.

The Clerk advised that a resident has requested to plant a tree in Hurworth Grange grounds as a memorial. The Council declared they have no objection

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

Nothing further to report.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

The Chairman referred to the potential traffic dangers for the lollipop lady on Roundhill Road. It had been previously suggested that the lollipop lady wears a mini body camera, which she is agreeable to, but DBC were not prepared to purchase one. To ensure the safety of the lollipop lady, the Parish Council decided to purchase a mini body camera. **Action Clerk ref MAR 20.1**

The Chairman suggested that a tribute should be published in the next newsletter and asked for support with this. **Action Cllr Graham Wylie and Cllr Stamp ref MAR 20.2**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:19pm
