Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council meeting Held on Thursday 1st May 2025 starting at 7.00pm



Attendees

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr. Andrew Leigh, Cllr John Howard, Cllr Bree Stamp. Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr. Fiona Lennox, Cllr Angela Allan, Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Karen Mann; Cllr Catherine Hartigan

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 to the meeting.

- 1. The Chair demonstrated how the new presentation system for future meetings will operate. The benefits include visual presentations of reports and illustrations of planning applications, Rights of Way reports and any other presentations being made.
- 2. The Chair welcomed representative of Rockliffe Cricket Club, who will be making a presentation at this meeting. The club is looking for funding of £7,000 to extend their pavilion
- 3. The Chair reported that the Council has just held their Annual Meeting, and the details of the new committee are available. He himself has been elected Chairman for 2025-26 and Cllr Lennox has been elected Vice Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Dave Crisp, Cllr. Peter Willis,

3. Declaration of Interest

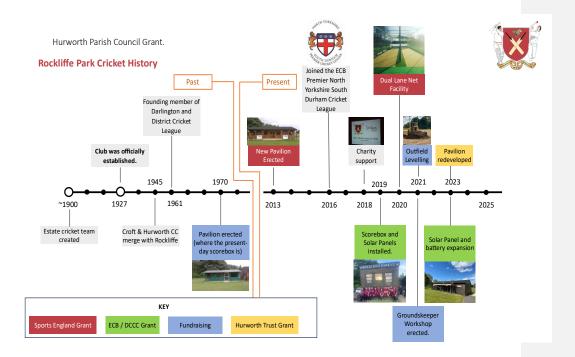
Cllr Wylie - Hurworth Grange CIO

Cllr Leigh - Hurworth Albion

4. Presentation given by Rockliffe Cricket Club.

Richard Howell gave an excellent presentation, which enlightened his audience with the history of Rockliffe Cricket Club, as depicted in the following time line.

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The club has progressive future plans, which will benefit our parish, outlined as follows;-

Future Plans

• Introduction of Girls Cricket Team

All junior age groups, funds training sessions by funding sports hall hire, coached sessions, and opportunities for people to develop coaching skills.

• Increased junior cricket development

Fund additional age group training, correct and safe equipment, and coaching sessions.

• Development of Pavilion

New changing room to accommodate the increase in women's and girls' cricket and ensure facilities are modernised for current regulations regarding women and girls cricket.

• 100 Year Anniversary celebration in 2027.

We plan to host several events throughout the week for all involved in the club and the local community.

Rockliffe will invest any grant money into the 3 key development areas of the club.

• Pavilion Redevelopment

This will allow the club to increase the usable space, allowing for the area to be used for more events, moving and redevelopment of the changing room to accommodate girls' cricket.

Girls Cricket Development

Purchase of equipment specific for girls' cricket.

• Women's Hardball Cricket Development

Purchase of equipment for women's hardball cricket

Further Information on their plan

The primary reason for the new changing room is the expansion of our Club, particularly with the establishment of a girls' section, building on our existing Women's team. Additionally, modern

regulations necessitate updates to our facilities. Our plan is to construct the new changing room this season and, over the winter, modernize the existing home changing room and expand the function area. Although we initially hoped to build an entirely new changing room facility, the costs and SJOG requirements have made this option unfeasible.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Cllr Howard asked how much money the club currently has, and what is the breakdown of the £7,000 requested. The break down was summarised as £6,200 for the building extension, and they require a further £1,800 for new equipment; however, the request to the council is for £7,000.

Cllr Stamp raised the question of how much money is still unallocated in the Section 106 Fund. Nobody could answer this question, so it is now an Action Item for the **Clerk and Ward Councillors**.

A proposal was tabled to provide the £7,000, Proposed by Cllr Leigh, and Seconded by Cllr Wylie, the vote was unanimous in favour.

It was agreed that Michael Bean, the club Secretary will send further details, including the plan of the extension, after which the Council will be able to conclude the agreement.

The Chairman thanked Richard Howell and Colin Ward for their excellent presentation.

5. Minutes from Meeting Held on 3rd May 2025

The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 3rd April, were accepted, proposed by Cllr Forster seconded by Cllr. Howard and passed unanimously.

6. Matters Arising -

Hurworth Parish Chronicle

Cllr Wylie reported that Chronicle has been completed and has been distributed during the last ten days.

The Chair thanked Cllr Wylie for the hard work he has put into getting the details together and publishing the chronicle.

7. Hurworth Council Parish Plan 2025-2030

The Chair updated the meeting with the outline arrangements which in summary are

The process

- 1. Reaching out to all residents, and obtaining your comments and future wish list
- 2. Analysing the details collected, and summarising under various headings
- 3. Evaluation Consideration of the findings, introducing the factors of practicality.
 - · Costs involved,
 - · timescale, and
 - · who and how many benefit from the suggestion.
 - · Legal and DBC Planning requirements
- 4. The short list
- 5. Construction of the 5-year Parish Plan
- 6. Distribution

The target timescale is: -

- 1. Reaching out starts 1 st April 2025, finishes 31 May 2025
- 2. Analysis, summarise and evaluation finish by 30th June 2025
- 3. Preparation of the Parish Plan for adoption by 30 Inne

4. Adoption by the Parish Council 4th September 2025

8. Hurworth Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly will take place at Hurworth Grange on Friday, 30th May, starting at 7.00pm.

The format will be: -

First half - 6 speakers, and the theme throughout will be 'Hurworth in the Future'

Refreshments break

Open Forum for the public

Suggestion sheets will be offered to all attendees, who we hope will note and return their comments and suggestions.

There will be a free buffet and drinks.

9. Ward Councillors Update

Ward Councillors report 1st May 2025

Hopetown -upcoming events

Star Wars Day Come to Hopetown for a galactic Star Wars themed day on Sunday May 4th. There will be walk out characters, space-themed activities, music and more and it's all free of charge.

Hopetown VE 80 Celebration

This will take place on Monday 5th May between 10am-5pm offering a special day of connection, commemoration and remembrance – just as communities did 80 years ago.

Hopetown Rails and Tails

This is an opportunity to take your 4-legged companions for a fantastic outdoor fun day; complete with have-a –go areas, photography spots and 7.5 acre park to explore. This event takes place on the 10th May and booking is essential.

Darlington Food Festival

This event opens on the 2^{nd} May and runs to the 5^{th} May and is in the Darlington Market Square. There is live entertainment every day, with bands, local performers and even a circus workshop. All the entertainment is free and there will be stalls selling street food, sweet treats, artisan beers and much more.

Local Plan Review- Statement of Community Involvement

This is a document which sets out how DBC will involve local communities, businesses and stakeholders when preparing the local plan and other planning documents. The draft statement of community involvement is subject to a 6 week consultation and is available now to be viewed on line at www.darlington.gov/planningpolicy or at local libraries or the contact Centre in the Town Hall.

Destruction of houses on new estate

It was shocking to learn of the willful destruction using a JCB of some of the new houses on the housing estate opposite the Stadium. This particular part of the housing development is within Eastbourne Ward albeit many of the adjacent houses are in Hurworth Ward. Darlington Borough Council is working closely with the Police to try and establish the circumstances surrounding the incident. This act has obviously set back the timescales for the completion and occupation of these new properties.

Hurworth Scouts

It was disappointing to learn that the Hurworth Scouts are intending to close down in July 2025 if some new volunteers don't come forward to help run the Scout meetings and events. We don't know at this stage whether there are any implications in terms of the ongoing extensive fund raising for a new Scout hut in Hurworth. If there is anyone interested in volunteering then please contact the Scouts directly. The contact details recently

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Bus service 6/6a

We are delighted to be able to report that Hurworth will finally have an extended bus service. Stagecoach will be running an improved daytime service and a new evening service. These additions are being funded by DBC using the 106 monies secured as part of the conditions for approval of the Bellway and Miller homes estates. The new service will commence on 4th May 2025. The bus stop timetables will be updated but this may not happen before the service commences.

Bellway / Miller Homes

A meeting is being arranged to bring together both Bellway and DBC officers to try and seek a solution and subsequent agreement for the surfacing and subsequent adoption by DBC of the roads and footpaths on the estates. Matt Vickers MP is convening the meeting and I understand that both Bellway and DBC have agreed to attend. Ward Councillor and some residents will also be invited to attend.

Cllr Stamp requested an explanation about what topics the public or Parish Council can 'comment on'/ Also how are the comments submitted. Cllr Tostevin said she will investigate and report back with clarification. **Action Cllr Tostevin.**

Cllr Tostevin stated that Matt Vickers MP has intervened to try to bring the Bellway – DBC handover to a conclusion

Cllr Howard expressed his deep concern that the new speed bump outside the school has surface areas at each side for blind people, but there are no traffic lights. Cllr Tostevin agreed, and stated she would raise this concern with DBC. Action Cllr Tostevin

10. Public Participation

- *A resident said that the rubbish bin near at the bus stop near the school is partly broken, and therefore the rubbish was falling out. It needs to be replaced. **Action Cllr Lennox and Clerk**
- *A resident said that the Annual Meeting should be a public meeting. This used to be the case, when the Assembly was held simultaneously. Now that the Annual Meeting is in 2 parts, with a separate Assembly, the regulations are slightly different. The Chairman and council can select whether to have a single 'meeting; or two-part event.
- *A resident complained about dog dirt in the churchyard, and it would be better if the dogs were not allowed within

The Clerk responded that the DBC Environmental Department made similar comments after they cut back the grounds in the churchyard last September. They threatened to cease providing the service as it was disgusting.

This was reported to the church management and they put up new notices, and raised the issue in the church newsletter and on Facebook. The good news is that the parish council has received a message stating that they have just carried out their Spring cutback, and the grounds were very clean, and a great improvement. The Trustee of the Hurworth and Neasham usually inspects the eastern end every Sunday, and is satisfied that the grounds are clean.

The Chair suggested that a spring could be attached to the gate, which would keep any stray dogs out. He said he would inspect the gate. **Action Cllr Leigh.**

11. Planning Application

Cllr Willis submitted Planning Application report, for April 2025.

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HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS - April 2025

Planning

The has only been 1 planning application during March

1) Rockcliffe Spa Hotel

Listed building consent for steam cleaning of external stonework

12. Tree Report

No activity in April 2025.

13. Open Spaces & Environment Report

Open Spaces and Environment - Fiona Lennox - 1st May 2025

Tees River Trust

The Trust are continuing to spray our stretch of the riverbank this month for giant hogweed. They have scheduled in for May to do the Hurworth loop (around the Blind Lane/Rockliffe section) and the river towards Neasham. Japanese Knotweed will be treated later in the summer.

A follow up on the request we had for HPC to sign a Landlords Agreement for Tees Invasive Species Project (which would give them formal permission to go onto our land to perform their work). This has not been signed yet as we questioned whether it's really for the parish council to sign, as we only own a small part of the land they treat, and we've had no response as yet. If they still need this, I am sure we will hear from them again.

Waste Bins

Update on bins. Will discuss with Ward Councillor on ones we are still waiting on a response for: -

- Glebe Lane, Dog waste bin has fallen off, replacement requested REPLACED
- Church lane waste bin is looking a bit past its sell by date, replacement requested CHASE
- Top of Manor Fields dog waste bin was never replaced after being destroyed by the workman doing the tree work, replacement requested - CHASE

New Bench

The new bench has been put in place at the village green and I'm sure it's proving to be a very welcome resting place during this lovely hot weather we are having.

13. Highways & Traffic Report

Cllr Allan gave the following report:-

Traffic Report for March 2025

The traffic report covers the five monitored areas within the village. The summary shows the average speed, fastest speed and total vehicles recorded in each of the five areas for the month.

Traffic Report for April 2025

The traffic report covers the five monitored areas within the village. The summary shows the average speed, fastest speed and total vehicles recorded in each of the five areas for the month.

Location Fastest Speed Average Speed Total Vehicles

The Green	57 mph	27.4 mph	34,676
Hurworth Road	63 mph	23.4 mph	52,075
Linden Court	60 mph	27.6 mph	140,097
Metal Bridge	50 mph	25.5 mph	25,067
Roundhill Road	54 mph	25.6 mph	107.323

A more extensive analysis is shown on the HPC website.

We thank Mr John Hedley for extracting and compiling this valuable information.

14. Youth Activities Report

Cllr Stamp reported that she had had a meeting with Hurworth House School, and that they were keen to become involved in Hurworth village events.

They intend to prepare scarecrows for the Festival, and also agreed to submit Suggestion forms for the Parish Plan.

The Aspris cinspector for head office was visiting, and informed us that Hurworth Albion Football Club will not be able to obtain a long-term lease for the playing field. Apris are keeping it in reserve for their own use in

A meeting has been held with members of the Village Hall, who have agreed to help with the organization of the Scarecrow Festival. Leaflets have been designed and will be distributed shortly, advertising the event, and encouraging scarecrow entries, within the area of the festival.

Cllr Stamp has been making enquiries about the amount of funds which are still available from the section 106 allowance, which is earmarked for 'Youth activities'. Cllr Tostevin agreed to follow up on this enquiry. Action Cllr Tostevin.

15. Crime & Security Report

Cllr Angela Allan gave the following report: -

Crime and Security Report Crime and Security Report Meeting 01.05.25

Incidents

Hurworth Period 01.04.25 - 30.04.25 Incidents reported - 28

Date	Location	Incident Details						
		Anti-social behaviour						
12.04.25	Hurworth Grange	Report of youths at location - were not found to be causing issues						
12.04.25	Hurworth Place	Large number of youths behind the field near the location - possible						
		fire mentioned – youths dispersed upon Police arrival but no sign of any fires.						
17.04.25	Hurworth Moor	Suspicious Activity						
		Page 7						

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For awareness – there was a report of a male flagging down passing motorists, saying he has broken down and asking for money

24.04.25 Strait Lane

Road Related

Tree on road causing an obstruction - Darlington Borough Council were made aware.

This incident was not part of the monthly police report but should be included given the criminal damage caused. The incident was reported in the Northern Echo on 29.04.25. The information is taken from the Northern Echo article.

27.04.25

Hurworth Moor

Criminal Damage

Investigations are continuing after a man driving a JCB reportedly ploughed into a string of new-build homes in Darlington. The houses damaged are part of the new development off Neasham Road. All of the houses are unoccupied.

16. Rights of Way & Parish Walks

Cllr Forster gave the following report: -

Hurworth Parish council public footpath walk report April 2025

For path 15 - Walked 28th April 2025.

From snipe lane, the path walks through Blackwell golf cause, it is a straight road to the wood kissing gate and through the small wooded path, over the tarmac road (that leads to the sewage treatment plant). Pictures 1-3

The path walks along the field edge coming out onto the road to North Oxen-le-Fields, turn left onto the road for approx. 50 yards, then turn right onto the path along the field edge and left through the kissing gate and through the wood into the field. The path walks through 2 fields towards Oxneyfield farm down the farm road, and out through the kissing gate onto Croft Road. Pic

<u>Summery</u> Path 15 is an ease well walked path, no issues and all stiles/gates are easy to use and in good order. The walk takes approximately 1 hour.











Report by Janine Forster – Parish Councillor

17. Allotments Report

Cllr Crisp reported that all the allotments were now active, and potatoes are being planted.

The main gate gatepost requires attention, and this will be repaired with the next two weeks.

The Allotment Fun Day, to be held on 2^{nd} August has been confirmed, and Cllr Crisp asked the Council if they will fund the event, as previously, with a £400 contribution. The Chairman put forward the motion, Seconded by Cllr Wylie, and the motion was passed unanimously.

18, Roads & Pathways Report

Cllr Forster reported that further work was carried out in front of the Grange during the Easter break. This has now been completed.

19. Hurworth Contingency Plan.

Cllr Howard reported - No report.

20. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

1. **Hurworth Scouts.** It appears from a Facebook statement, that the Grange scout group is going to disband, unless they can attract some scout leaders. A deadline of the end of July has been placed on the decision.

Hurworth Parish Council has donated, through match funding, £3,000 towards the purchase and construction of a new scout hut within the grounds of Hurworth Grange.

Cllr John Howard expressed his opinion that the £3,000 should be recovered from the Scouts. The Chair supported this suggestion and a motion was put before the council. The motion was carried in favour of recovering this money. Action Clerk

2. The Chair read out a section of a letter from the **Hurworth Campanologists**, who are asking for £800, to purchase a bell synchronization system, so that the group can hold bell practice, without actually swinging on the ropes. The group had experienced problems during the winter both from the severe cold in the church loft and with the notice so close to their hearing.

After some discussion, the Chair put the request to a vote; the outcome was 8 in favour with 1 against. was taken. It was agreed that the Clerk will send the full retails to all the councilors, and a final decision will be made by email confirmation.

The Clerk informed the council that he had approached the Rogers Trust to go 50/50 with the 'grant', they have sent the group a formal application.

3. Christmas fairy lights.

For the last four years the council has received an invoice from nPower for the cost of the electricity used to power the fairy lights on the Christmas tree. The cost of the electricity has been around £40 on average calculated from the number of days and number of lights. However, in addition nPOWER has been making A Standing Charge of £300 each year. HPC has never agreed to this and never signed a contract, hence we have always refused to pay it. We have taken this matter to the Ombudsman, who is currently investigating the issue. This year nPOWER has the Standing Charge Standing Charge to almost £600, plus the usage.

We have approached DBC to see whether we cab get the electricity directly from they, rather than dealing with nPOWER and their unmetered department. DBC have responded that it DBC electricity

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which we are using, and it should not be charged to us nPOWER but they can make no comment about the standing charge. This is ongoing.

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4. Statutory Motions

The Chair informed the meeting that the Internal Audit has been completed and the Council has a clear bill of health. A copy of the Internet Audit report has been sent to all councillors, prior to this meeting.

The Chair then tabled the following motions; -

- a. The council accepts Annual Governance Statement 2024-25, the vote in favour was unanimous.
- b. The council accepts Accounting Statements 2024-25, the vote in favour was unanimous.
- c. The council accepts Internal Auditors Report 2024-25, the vote in favour was unanimous.

21. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of payments made in the month of April 2025, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

Accounts for Payment April 2025

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hurworth Grange CIO	104139	Church newsletter	60.00
Laptop and software	104140	Laptop and software	588.95
Hurworth Grange CIO	104141	Parish Plan survey printing	140.00
Cheque returned	104142		0.00
Tree Boy Ltd	104143	Tree work	247.50
Council screening equipment	104144	New meeting screening	4671.60
Vantage Global	104145	Print Chronicle	679.00
Hurworth Grange CIO	104146	Photocopying	15.00
P. Robinson	104140	Salary	598.99
Inland Revenue	DD	PAYE	385.80
P D Allan salary	104147	Salary	1208.60
BU-CU Power	104148	Allotment strimmer	169.99
BT Comms	104149	Telecoms	119.88
CDALC	104150	Annual fees & Good Councillor Guides	1125.00
P D Allan exs	104151	Stationery, software, etc	197.70
Hurworth Village Hall	104152	VE Day and Armed Forces Day events	1000.00
Total for month			£11,208.01
Precept received	£80,000		

22. Financial Reports

The Financial Accounts as at 30^{th} April 2025, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

	Apr- 25	Report 30th May-25	Jun -25	<u>Jul-</u> 25	Aug- 25	Sep- 25	Oct- 25	d funds £1 Nov- 25	Dec. 25	<u>Jan-</u> 26	Feb- 26	<u>Mar-</u> 26	<u>Total</u>	
	25	Way-25	<u>-23</u>	23	23	23	23	23	25	20	20	20	Iotai	
Revenue														
Precep													80000	
Litter Picke Rent &		1288			4400						4600		10288	
Interest				100	80			70			60	420	730	
Grants Allotme						2000							2000	
rent										1740			1740	
Total										1140			1740	
Revenue	80000	1288	0	100	4480	2000	0	70	0	1740	4660	420	94758	
Expendi		1200	v	100	4400	2000	·	70	•	1740	4000	420	34730	
e Salarie	s &													
NHI	2193	2450	2650	2450	2450	2650	2450	2450	2650	2450	2450	2650	29943	
Gen.														
Admin														
Expense	S 1312	250	300	200	300	210	550	340	310	340	350	300	4762	
Trees	247	265	550	510	540	1250	270	500	545	220	800	650	6347	
Open Spa Section 1		80 500	600 2400	650 2000	50	310 500	250	100 300	240 300	650 500	200 1000	370 1500	3500 10000	
Projects 8		500	2400	2000		500		300	300	500	1000	1500	10000	
Plan	100	1000		600	1000	500			1500	400			5100	
Repairs 8 Newslette			300	240		650	120		180			300	1790	
Posters	799	230	80	80		80	850	230		80	80	850	3359	
Youth Ac Paths/ Ro		500 200	130	300		1500 300		500 400		300 320		200 250	3000 1900	
Allotments		200	300	360	200	60		420		320	300	230	1782	
Highways			500					850	500		400		2250	
Handyma		100	100	200		100	100	100	200	100	100	100	1200	
Capital &	Grange support		5400						200				5600	
Legal exs	5356		500		258				2000	259			8373	
VAT	59													
Total														
Expenses	11208	5575	13810	7590	4798	8110	4590	6190	8625	5619	5680	7170	88965 5793	
Funds in F	land less												88965	
Revenue	less			10461										
expenses	53915	122707	118420	0	97120	96802	90692	86102	79982	71357	67478	66458	11689	
	122,70	118,42	104,61	97,12	96,80	90,69	86,10	79,98	71,35	67,47	66,45	59,70	Ringe	
Funds in F	land 7	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	7	8	8	8	d	

23. Association Reports

1. Village Hall No report.

2. Hurworth Albion Football Club

Cllr Leigh reported that the current committee have resigned, and that a new committee is taking over, with the new Chairman being Francis Ward.

3. Hurworth Grange

Cllr Wylie reported:

Hurworth Grange's entrance and corridor have recently had a facelift, giving the space a much warmer and fresher feel.

The stable roof replacement is scheduled for June — the earliest date available from the roofer.

Don't miss the ever-popular Classic Car Event on Sunday, 11th May.

The following week, on Saturday, 17th May, we'll be hosting the Spring Fair. With 40 stalls offering a wide variety of treats and treasures — including chocolate, alcohol, garden furniture, glassware, cheese, jam, books, and jigsaws — there's something for everyone.

And be sure to keep an eye out for the food vans, which visit every Friday and Saturday!

24. Any Other Business

There were no items of Any Other Business.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm.