



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held  
on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, starting at 7:00pm  
at Hurworth Grange**

**Attendees**

**Parish Councillors present:**

Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Peter Foster,

**Also**

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 4 members of the public.

**1. Chair's Opening Address**

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

a. He reminded the Councillors that the Finance Meeting will follow the end of the public meeting.

b. Remembrance Day is on 12<sup>th</sup> November and two wreaths have been ordered, for the Council to lay after the service at All Saints Church.

**2. Apologies for Absence** Cllr Charlotte Marie Kay,

Cllr Fiona Lennox, Cllr Charlotte Marie Kay, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Lynsey Probert, Cllr Kelvin Russell.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

**4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Oughton and Seconded by Cllr Forster.

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## 5. Matters Arising

### a. **Twenty mph limit on Hurworth Road consultation**

Cllr Tostevin reported – The Scheme will go ahead subject to Cabinet approval, however there are some outstanding suggestions from the resident responses regarding the parking restrictions outside the school and a pathway between the rear of Friars Pardon and the rear of the Grange which require further consideration.

### b. **Bellway Estate**

Cllr Willis was not available to attend this meeting, but has informed the Chairman that he has still been unable to arrange a meeting with the Bellway management. Action remains.

### c. **Spar shop**

Cllr Walters informed the meeting that the Spar shop has arranged for the deliveries to be in the twilight period, between 6; 00am and 6:30am. He has cleared this arrangement with DBC. . Matter closed

### d. **Minutes recording query**

**Errata:** - With reference to the HPC Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, item 20, Any Other Business, a resident reported a 'motorcycle' driving on the Hurworth Grange field. This is hereby corrected to an 'e scooter'. Matter closed.

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## 6. Ward Councillor's Update

The Ward Councillors gave the following report: -

1. The former Darlington railway museum site has received a multimillion pound investment to celebrate 100 years of the Darlington Stockton Railway (2025) and will re- open in 2024. The new name for this Centre will be Hopetown. It is hoped that the Centre will receive worldwide acclaim as a new visitor attraction.
  2. There have been several incidents of fly tipping in and around Darlington. One person has been fined £40, with £130 costs. Some residents feel this fine is too low, but the Head of the Communities at DBC feels that it still sends out a stern message. It has been suggested that the level of fine should be increased however; this is a matter for the courts to determine. There have been further incidents of fly tipping in the Burma Road area.
  3. There has been no further progress made in relation to the new road opening onto Neasham Road close to Skipbridge. To date no planning application has been submitted and Highways who have made certain stipulations have agreed to take further action if their proposed actions are not heeded by the owner.
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4. There will be a delay to the building of the new 141 Houses on the estate opposite the stadium due to the number of credits available in relation to nutrient neutrality. There are credits for 51 houses but a further ninety are still outstanding.

## 7. Public Participation

A resident expressed is concern about the condition of the Rights of Way around the Middlesbrough training ground. He stated that the drainage is poor and there is an amount of standing water. Cllr Forster volunteered to make an inspection and report back. **Action Cllr Forster.**

The same resident raised the ongoing issue regarding the alteration to the route of the right of way within the Rockcliffe Hall area. The heavy rain and oncoming winter weather are making the new route almost impossible to use. The ward councillors agreed to look into the progress of this issue, which is between DBC and the land owner. **Action Cllr Walters/Tostevin**

## Councillor Reports

### 8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis submitted his report, and Chairman read it out to the meeting, viz: -

#### Planning

There have been 2 planning applications made since the June report

#### 1) 8 Hawkswood Hurworth Place

Erection of single storey rear extension and outbuildings

#### 2) Rose Villa Timmys Lane

Demolition of existing dwellings, barn, stables

Erection of one wheelchair accessible detached dwelling with detached garden studio/store and parking provision

I have had no success regarding progress contacting Bellway re outstanding landscaping issues  
Unable to establish contact with Dave Coates – DBC planning department – regarding Bellway original planning application or the wall erected at 12 Manor Road

## **9. Roads and Pathways Report**

Cllr Forster submitted the following report: -

### **Footpaths/roads**

Arrangements have been made for the grit bins to be filled during November. Cost £741.

There have been no complaints raised during October, and the Village Green potholes will be discussed later in the agenda.

### **b. Village Green pot holes**

The Chairman reported that we have received three quotations for this project. The prices are substantially different, and the Chairman wishes to speak to two of the contractors to ensure that they are both working to the same specification. A decision will be made after the clarification has been made. **Action Cllr Leigh.**

## **10. Trees – Cllr Foster**

Cllr Foster reported that despite all of the heavy rain, the trees for which we have a responsibility are all in good condition.

Cllr Foster has made an inspection, as he had concern that the rain may disturb or loosen the roots, but fortunately all is well.

### **a. The tree on Coach Lane**

The tree was inspected, and StreetScene asked to cut off the broken branch and trim the tree canopy. The canopy has been trimmed, but the broken branch remains.

b. **The tree on Roundhill Road** which is leaning badly, could potentially become more dangerous, and an email has been sent to Phil Haynes, who is head arborist at DBC.

c. There are seventeen trees in a plantation near the Neasham Darlington road which have contracted Asd dieback disease, and need treatment. The owner has been contacted and has agreed to attend to them.

## **11. Youth and Playground –**

Hurworth House School has requested a meeting to discuss ways in which their pupils could participate in community events.

Cllr Oughton, Cllr Forster and Cllr Crisp have offered to attend a meeting, which the Clerk will now arrange. **Action Clerk**

A children's get-together is being arranged to switch on the Christmas tree lights.  
Arrangements have been made with DBC to provide the electricity from the nearby lamppost.  
HPC has signed an agreement with DBC to provide the power at a cost of £50.

## 12. Open Spaces –

Cllr Charlotte Marie Kay was not present at the meeting, but had transmitted suggestions to the Chairman

Cllr Kay drew attention to the pathway which runs from the Glebe to Hurworth Place, and suggests that the condition of this pathways in poor condition and requires more substance. Cllr Tostevin had already reported that suggestions relating to this path were being considered as part of the 20mph changes at Hurworth School as it is recognised that it is used as a School Route.

**Action Cllr Tostevin.**

Cllr Marie Kay also recommended that there should be a substantial pathway leading to the Tawny Owl inn.

## 13. Highways and Traffic

**Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:**

### a. Traffic Report

The averages for the two months September are as follow, also the highest speed recorded: -

Metal Bridge                      The monitor requires re-booting ; **Action Clerk**

The highest and average speeds are as follows:-

|           |               |                       |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| The Green | fastest 75mph | average speed 26.9mph |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|

|               |               |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Hurworth Road | fastest 66mph | average 26.8mph |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|

Linden Court                      fastest 69mph                      average 27.8mph

Roundhill Road                      fastest 48mph                      average 22.1mph

- b. A PACT Meeting was held at Hurworth Grange on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

*Full details of the traffic volumes and statistics are available for your perusal on the HPC web site.*

#### **14. Crime Report**

Cllr Oughton provided the following Crime report, provided by the police:

Transit van stolen from Hurworth Moor

Theft of lead flashing from the roof of All Saints Church

ASB Youths causing a nuisance outside the Grange.

Cllr Oughton also reported that the parking opposite the Bay Horse on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, where at least 4 or 5 cars parked completely on the pavement outside the Church making it impossible for an able-bodied person to walk past safely never mind a wheelchair or pushchair/pram. It meant walking on the road. I know a person reported it but I don't know any outcome.

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#### **15. Rights of Way**

Cllr Willimson reported as follows: -

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**FOOTPATH NO: 5 REPORT**

**DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2023**

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**ROAD NAME/PATH: STRAIT LANE – COACH LANE**

**REPORT:**

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Footpath off Strait Lane (Opposite Timmys Lane) and behind houses, all clear.

Following the footpath around the allotments to Lychgate, is over-grown with nettles and over hanging bushes.

Lychgate to Church Lane is a good tarmac pathway.

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**FOOTPATH NO: 6 REPORT**

**DATE: 03 OCTOBER 2023**

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**ROAD NAME/PATH: TIMMYS LANE - NEASHAM ROAD**

**REPORT:**

Timmys Lane - Rose Villa

Good, sound, farm track with no issues, clear and visible signs

**Rose Villa - Neasham Road (across farmers' fields)**

Planning permission submitted to Darlington Borough Council, to alter the right of way route, instead of going across the field to follow edge around the field.

**Separate report to follow:**

**STILE 1 (end of field)**

Signs are badly faded and need replacing this is in the process of being done

**FROM STILE 1 - PATHWAY BETWEEN 2 WIRE FENCES - CONCRETE BRIDGE**

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Pathway overgrown and requires cutting back. Concrete Bridge in good condition and solid. Signs faded.

### **FIELDS 2 AND 3 - NEASHAM ROAD**

No visible signs on either field to indicate route, as all buried in hedgerows, requires cutting back.

### **STILE 2 - NEASHAM ROAD**

Condition good and solid. Although over grown with ivy and needs cutting back.

Pictures at end of report

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**FOOTPATH NO: 8 REPORT**

**DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2023**

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### **ROAD NAME/PATH: - CHURCH LANE – ROUNDHILL ROAD**

#### **Report:**

At the top of Church Lane turn left on to footpath towards Roundhill Road, no issues at present. Good tarmac path

### **FOOTPATH 6 PICTURES**

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GRID REF: 31210 10300



GRID REF: 31505 10479



GRID REF: 31505 10479



GRID REF: 31621 10595



GRID REF: 31644 10749



GRID REF: 31644 10749

**Action Cllr Williamson.**

At the October meeting, Cllr Foster stated that a heavy chain has been put around a style to prevent use. It was agreed that Cllr Russell will be asked to cut and remove this and make the style save. Cllr Williamson has investigated this problem further, and will be arranging for the chair to be removed, and at the same time the gate to be made safe.

Cllr Foster expressed his concern that there are two signs at the Burma Road, displaying 'Cross Here' and pointing to the A66 as the pathway to cross the main road. His felt this was potentially extremely dangerous, as children may follow the signs and try to cross the main road. After a discussion, the Chairman closed the conversation saying that HPC would take no action, as this is, indeed, the designated route.

**16. Allotment Report**

Cllr Crisp did not attend the meeting.

The Halloween Party at the Village Hall, which the allotment committee arranged, was a huge success and well attended, with lots of fun for the children. The witch was bit scary, but played her part well.

**Cllr Oughton also reports that**

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## 17. Matters of Interest

- d. **Correspondence** – Chair. Following the October meeting, we received a letter from a resident, containing several questions, A reply has been sent covering all the questions.  
Other correspondence has been covered under other headings.
- e. **New Hurworth Grange lease** – The Chairman reported that we are waiting for the lease to be legally reviewed. This is expected to be finalised in November.
- f. **Council Notice Boards** - The Parish Clerk advised the Council that the two council notice boards are now in very poor condition. One has been temporary replaced with a notice board which had been used in earlier years. The other is in distress.  
Also, now that there over 100 residents of Hurworth Parish living on the Elder Brook Park estate, it is the Council's duty to provide council information, and a notice board is required.  
There is a large range of notice boards, and the Council will select an appropriate model, once the pricing has been obtained.  
**Action Clerk to follow up.**

## 18. Projects 2023-24

- a. **Beech tree carving project** – Cllr Forster reported the progress on the Tree Carving Project.

### **Tree Carving Project - 24.10.2023**

£2000.00 arts funding is being applied for through Durham via The Hurworth Grange

Discussed tools and usage, and materials needed for carving sessions.

Skills building sessions for carving are being arranged, and contact to be made with primary school, scouts and linden court for seasons to be held, so involving the whole community and all ages

Taster sessions to be on the mornings of 22nd and 29th November at the grange, information to be posted on Hurworth Live.

Arts funding application also being looked into.

As the Tree stump is holding water in the centre, looking into making a channel so this can be drained away.

**b. Emerson Road footpath** – This is Cllr Oughton’s proposed project.

Three quotations have been received.

The Council wish to go ahead with the project, and after discussion selected the quotation from Darlington Borough Council. One of the other quotations was attractive but the Council felt more comfortable working with DBC, who also cut the grass in the immediate area.

The motion to proceed with the DBC quotation of £4027 was tabled by Cllr Leigh and Seconded by Cllr Forster, and the vote was unanimous in favour.

**Action Clerk to make the arrangements.**

## 19. Accounts for Payment

The Accounts Payable Schedule for October 2023 having been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

### Accounts for Payment -October 2023

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Details</u>                | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| G Wylie        | 103916            | Posters                       | 15.84         |
| HCA            | 103917            | Hurworth Grange insurance     | 2944.45       |
| Nigel Goddard  | 103918            | Planters                      | 63.00         |
| M Harrison     | 103919            | Hedges and odd jobs           | 220.00        |
| HCA            | 103920            | Photocopying & paper          | 20.24         |
| M Harrison     | 103921            | Guttering                     | 150.00        |
| Wel Medical    | 103922            | Defib battery                 | 192.00        |
| All Saints PCC | 103923            | Christmas tree festival award | 250.00        |
| HCA            | 103924            | Newsletter                    | 60.00         |
| G Wylie        | 103925            |                               | 28.99         |
| M Harrison     | 103926            | Guttering                     | 150.00        |
| P Robinson     | 103927            | Salary                        | 514.38        |
| P D Allan      | 103928            | Salary                        | 1220.80       |

|                          |        |                |                |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Inland Revenue           | 103929 | PAYE           | 352.60         |
| P D Allan                | 103930 | Software & exs | 135.30         |
| <b>Total expenditure</b> |        |                | <b>6317.60</b> |

**Action** - Cllr Andrew Leigh and Cllr Peter Willis will be registered with Barclay's Bank. **Action still open.**

## 20. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

**The Financial Reports are available for perusal on the HPC web site.**

## 21.. Association Reports

### a. Hurworth Village Hall –

In the absence of Cllr Crisp, The Chair of the Village Hall, Lynne Drumm gave the report: -

#### Hurworth Village Hall

Since the last Parish Council Meeting in October Hurworth Village Hall has;

- Hosted the cinema on your doorstep – Swimming with Men. A great turn out with approximately 25 in attendance.
- Zoe has hosted another sewing/quilting workshop.
- The Gong Whisperer – Sound Bath Meditation has also returned.
- Darlington Lions Club has hosted a charity fund raising event in aid of St Theresa's Hospice. £750 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. The Village Hall are pleased to be able to offer the venue free of charge for this event.
- We have also hosted our first craft fayre. All things on display were handmade or written by residents of Hurworth and Neasham. A great day out was enjoyed by all those taking part and attending.

- Dave Crisp's annual Halloween Spooktacular was, once again, a fantastic event for adults and children alike. All credit to Dave for organising this.

The cinema on your doorstep (first Sunday of every month) continues to grow in popularity. Hot homemade soup from 2.00pm with a film starting at 3.00pm prompt. And admission is, as always, by donation.

**Keep an eye out for the following films.....**

November the 5<sup>th</sup> – Allelujah starring Jennifer Saunders, Judy Dench and Derek Jacobi

December 3<sup>rd</sup> – I Wanna Dance with Somebody – The Whitney Houston Story starring Naomi Ackie

January 7<sup>th</sup> – The Banshees of Inisherin – starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson

February 4<sup>th</sup> – Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny – starring Harrison Ford

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Great Escaper - starring Michael Caine

**And.....**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Vision Board Workshop – contact Yvonne Ewington – 07722 227253

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Fused Glass workshop – **SOLD OUT**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Wreath / Door Ring and Festive Sheaf workshop. Only a few places left so please contact Barbara Lawrence on 01325 720177 to book your place.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Children's Film – 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse.' **PLUS** a visit from Santa and his elves. All children must be accompanied by at least one well behaved adult. Entry is £5 for each child and tickets must be booked in advance. Contact Bill Drumm – 07799 467817.

**b. HCA - No report.**

**c. Hurworth Albion – Cllr Leigh reported: -**

All the arrangements are in hand for the Firework Night on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Hot and cold refreshments will be available and 1000 people are expected to attend.

## 22. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

There were no topics raised.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.22pm**