

Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council meeting

Held on Thursday 3rd October starting at 7.00pm



Attendees

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr. Andrew Leigh, Cllr. Dave Crisp, Cllr. Fiona Lennox, Cllr. Dorothy Oughton, Cllr. Bree Stamp, Cllr. Debra Williamson, Cllr. Peter Williamson

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr. Paul Walters and 9 members of the public

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the attendees

1. The Chairman was pleased to introduce Cllr Bree Stamp, who joined the Parish Council during September. Bree used to be on this council and was the principal person who arranged for DBC to carry out a full refurbishment of the Grange playground. The Council welcome Bree back on to the team, and we are sure she will soon be making an impact.
2. Council Vacancy. The council has advertised the vacancy for one councillor, and applications will be welcomed up to the closing date of 12th October 2024. The follow process will be followed, if there is more than one applicant.

Applications to join the Parish Council will be accepted up to 12th October.

The most convenient way to apply will be by email to the HPC office, or by a written letter addressed to the HPC office.

All applicants will be given the chance to attend an interview.

The Chairman, plus two Councillors will form the interview committee.

The Clerk will be present, to give guidance and advice.

A list of questions will be prepared, so that every candidate gets the same questions.

Notes will be taken, and when all the candidates have been interviewed, the three Councillors will make their selection.

Prior to a final decision, the remaining Councillors will be informed, and will have an opportunity to comment or raise an objection.

The decision will then be taken by the Chairman, and a public announcement will be made.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Lindsey Probert, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Peter Willis,

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Leigh – Hurworth Albion F C.

Cllr. Crisp - Allotments

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 5th September

The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 5th September were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Oughton, seconded by Cllr. Crisp, and passed unanimously.

5. Matters Arising – Outstanding Issues

The broken fence between Westfield Drive and Emerson Road has not been repaired. The fence borders the Manorfield, and therefore is the responsibility of DBC.

Action: Cllr Peter Williamson and the Clerk will make appropriate arrangements.

6. Ward Councillors Update

Ward Councillors Report 3rd October 2024

Roundhill Road

The surface on the road was renewed in early September. This has resulted in a number of complaints about the quality and finish of the new surface. A meeting between the Highways team and the contractors took place this week and it has been agreed that remedial works identified at the site meeting would be carried out at the contractor's own cost within the next 3-4 weeks.

The section of carriage surface which has been described as "bumpy" was carried out using a surface dressing which requires bedding in and the vehicular traffic will compress the surfacing until it gives a smoother finish.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to surface every road in Darlington in the bituminous material and so a variety of treatments are used which are appropriate to the use.

The following link [Darlington BC-Highway Schemes](#) gives more detail on the different types of surfaces used in Darlington.

Hopetown

This is the new visitor attraction in Darlington which was officially opened last week as a celebration to mark the 199th year of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. It is a fabulous centre and well worth a visit. To date there have been over 35,000 visitors. Special events will feature throughout the year and there is plenty lined up for the Christmas season including a Santa's Grotto, storytelling and wondrous winter walks in the enchanted forest reindeer trail.

7. Public Participation

A member of the public asked further information on the traffic counters on Roundhill Road and what is happening with them.

Action: Dorothy Oughton to investigate.

Question was raised about the tree survey that is in progress

The Arborist that is doing the tree survey, once completed will provide:

- Aerial views of all the trees that are the responsibility of the council.
- The Location of the trees, species, the condition and any action required.

The first section, which is Goblin's Wood, has been completed, and the format is excellent, with more information than the older versions.

8. Planning Application

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

9. Tree Report

Cllr Debra Williamson gave the following report: -

Goblins Wood - Sycamore Tree with TPO

A 5-day notice for a Sycamore Tree at Goblins Wood, which has a TPO on it is to be felled due to it being dangerously damaged. We are awaiting acceptance.

15 Friars Pardon – Trimming back of trees has now been completed.

Emmerson Road Pathway – Leading to Church Lane –

The Willow tree has been completed

All Saints Church –

Complaints have been made that the swifts cannot get into the bird boxes due to the size of the trees. It has been agreed with the Arborist from DBC he will take responsibility for this, and his staff will be doing the work taking, 1.5 metres off the trees.

The Grange – Removal of Branches

The tree on the right of the Driveway, branches that had fungus on them have been removed and the tree is all good again.

Driveway of the Grange has now been cleared of weeds and debris. This will be done again at the beginning of the year

Tree Survey

The tree survey is to be completed within the next 2 weeks.

10. Open Spaces & Environment Report

Cllr Lennox gave the following report: -

Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed– River Tees

We are continuing to work with Tees River Trust to communicate on locations where there are reports of either of these growing. Spraying and treatment took place during the summer months by the team at the Trust.

Residents, please report any further issues of this to HPC.

Community Benches.

The annual inspection and maintenance are almost complete, with only 6 benches remaining that may need attention.

Community Safety Coordinator

I attended a meeting on 17th July at Firthmoor Community Centre with Dawn Knight, the new Community Safety Coordinator at Durham Police & Crime Commissioner's Office in Durham.

Dawn and the team offer a service to get the message out into the community to advise what to do if you are a victim of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ensure people know how to report these types of incidents and who you should report it to. There are different types of ASB and you should report the issue to the appropriate agency: -

- Online
- via web chat (where available)
- by phone
- in person
- in writing

If you have access to a desktop or mobile device, the quickest way to report your incident is online. You can use the interactive signposting guide to help you report your incident to the right agency

<https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/asb>

Anti-Social Behaviour – Living a Nightmare DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE!

Tackling Anti-Social Behavior:

Anti-social behaviour is any behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress to a member or members of the public. While County Durham and Darlington are safe places to live with low levels of serious crime, anti-social behaviour continues to disrupt the lives of far too many residents. There are many different types

of anti-social behaviour, some are dealt with by police, some dealt with by your local council, and some dealt with by other agencies. You may feel like you have nowhere to turn for help. You may have reported the incident/s, but no-one seems to be doing anything, and no-one is listening, but the anti-social behaviour is continuing. Don't suffer in silence! Responding to and tackling antisocial behavior incidents are a top priority for partners and police across County Durham and Darlington. We have strong procedures which allow the police, councils, housing providers, health providers, other organisations, and communities to work in partnership with each other to tackle anti-social behaviour incidents. Initial reporting - If you have not yet reported the anti-social behaviour to the relevant authority, then you must first do this to allow them to respond and tackle the problem.

The website <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/asb> explains which agency, e.g., Police, Local Council, Housing agency etc., will deal with the different types of complaints.

I hope to be able to invite Dawn and her team to attend an HPC meeting over next few months to explain more.

11. Highways & Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported the following details for the traffic for the month of September 2024: -

Traffic Report

The averages for the month of **September 2024** are as follow, also the highest speed recorded: -

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	55 mph	average speed	29.9 mph	Total traffic	37.13
The Green	fastest	66 mph	average speed	26.8 mph	Total traffic	56,929
Hurworth Road	fastest	45 mph	average speed	22.8 mph	Total traffic	51,576
Linden Court	fastest	63 mph	average speed	27.6 mph	Total traffic	142,251
Roundhill Road	fastest	51 mph	average speed	29.1 mph	Total traffic	53,249

More extensive details are available on the HPC web site.

12. Crime & Security Report

Cllr Oughton reported as follows: -

Crimes reported in the month of September 2024: -

Hurworth Moor – Loose Pony

Theft = 2 Trailers from a farm

A vehicle from Hurworth Road

ASB = 2 One at Hurworth Grange, and one at West End

Cllr Oughton commented that she felt that this is not a complete report, and she is expecting further details from the police.

13. Rights of Way & Parish Walks

Cllr Peter Williamson reported: -

Footpath 1 Starting at Coach Lane and onto Emerson Road

On the footpath between Coach Lane and Emerson Road, there is one loose and one broken bollard they are in the process of being replaced/refurbished by DBC.

Further along the path when meeting Minster Walk this has been completely cleared.

At the other end of Footpath 1 on Neasham Road the Landowner has constructed a completely new stile for access to the path. Further down, the Landowner is replacing an existing stile, improving the ground condition and level the footpath, to assist walkers.

Footpath 5 Strait Lane – Lych Gate

Where the hedge running along the edge of the allotments has fallen, making the pathway almost impassable. This is in the process of being dealt with by HPC.

Footpath 6 Timmys Lane

This has been moved/modified and has now been certified by the Darlington Rights of Way Officer.

Further along this footpath the Landowner has improved the pathway with new fencing and opening the stile access onto Neasham Road opposite Low Spring Cottage.

Footpath 11- Teesdale Way between the Railway Line and Rockcliffe Hotel

This footpath is notorious for flooding in the winter months. An agreement by Darlington Rights of Way Officer and the Landowner to resolve the flooding. Work is due to commence the week of the 14th of October making the pathway safe to walk all year round.

Footpath 12 There has been two new stiles erected by the Landowner, one at the bottom of the hill after the Railway bridge.

A new signed marker post has been erected on the Lane to show directions to either Footpath 13 or continue along Footpath 12 to Teesview Road, where another new stile has been replaced by the Landowner.

Footpath 13 Croft Road and Footpath12,

This short pathway is a tarmac surface which runs along Linden Drive, there has been 2 new signposts erected by DBC, showing directions.

14. Allotments Report

Cllr Crisp reported that the rain and poor weather had put a dampener on the activities on the allotments.

One allotment holder, at Strait Lane, has not responded to a request to tidy up their allotment.

The construction of the allotment shed at strait Lane is now complete and will be made secure within the next two weeks.

15. Roads & Pathways Report

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

However, the Clerk reported that DBC are planning to fill the grit bins shortly.

A member of the public confirmed that grit bins have been installed on the Miller and Bellway estates.

16. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

1. The contract to renew the roof on the Hurworth Grange garage block has been awarded, and the work is scheduled for November.

2. We have still not had a response from DBC granting us permission to install a notice board on the **Elder Brook Park** housing estate. A further letter has been sent, as we understand the person dealing with this has left DBC employment.

3. Cllr Debra Williamson reported that there is good progress with the preparation of the Parish Chronicle. Several sections have been completed, and other articles have been promised. We are confident that we will make the scheduled November distribution date.

17. Projects 2023-2024

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

However, it was noted that feedback about the tree carving was very pleasing, and there was a complimentary article and photograph in the Northern Echo.

It is understood that the tree carving project should be completed by 30th November 2024.

18. Accounts for Payment

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

Accounts for Payment September 2024			
Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
Huworth Scouts	103052	Match funding, Newbus Grange event	1400.00
Wave	103053	Allotments water	124.94
Hurworth Grange CIO	103054	Envelopes	26.32
Latimer Hinks	103055	Lease agreement, final payment	690.00
Paul Robinson	103056	Litter Picker salary	686.20
P D Allan	103057	Salary	1220.80
John MacDonald	103058	Litter Picker salary	475.88
Inland Revenue	103059	PAYE	514.40
P D Allan	103060	Printer cartridge, postage, ex's.	84.18
Hurworth Grange CIO	103061	Church newsletters	60.00
BT	DD	Telecommunications	219.07
Tree Boy Ltd	103062	Tree work, 3 tasks	828.00
Total Expenditure			£6,329.79

19. Financial Reports

The Financial Accounts as at 30th September, having been distributed to all Councillors, were formally accepted by the meeting.

	FINANCIAL REPORT to 30th SEPTEMBER 2024							RINGFENCED FUNDS £11,689					Total	Budget	
	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25			
REVENUE	65000														
PRECEPT															
Litter Picker ref & VAT				1230	4370						4800			65000	65000
Rent & Interest			1559		100	329			120			100		10400	8400
Grants		750					1240	1500						2208	500
Allotment rent		20								1180				3490	6980
TOTAL REVENUE	65000	770	1559	1230	4470	329	1240	1500	120	1180	4800	100		82298	82040
EXPENDITURE															
Salaries & N	2148	2148	2302	2348	3344	2897	2750	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	29187	25400
Gen. Admin	1378	347	216	85	2	293	550	240	300	245	250	300	300	4206	4060
Trees	0		2250	693	517	828	270	1500	560	1900	400	350	9268	9268	5000
Open Space	1000	51	180	220	0		400	100	480	200	400	370	3401	5500	
Section 137	1752	20	4008	1750	1500	1400	400	2000	300	200	1000	500	14830	11200	
Projects	0	60					150	400	1500	800	600		3510	8000	
Repairs & Maint			600				120	80	180	0	0	300	1280	1800	
Newsletters	60	74	74		84	60	850	120	120	120	120	850	2532	3150	
Youth Activities								500		300		200	1000	3000	
Paths/ RoW			4960				0	100		570		250	5880	1600	
Allotments			634			125		220			300		1279	1500	
Highways			20					500	500		400		1420	1500	
Handyman							100		200	100	100	100	600	1500	
Hurworth Grange Support							5500			3500			9000	0	
Capital & Less Expenses	760			575	258	575	0			259			2427	517	
VAT	438	3	575	115	5	152									
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7536	2703	15819	5786	5710	6330	11090	8010	6390	10444	5820	5470	89820	73727	
FUNDS IN HAND	67360	124824	122891	108631	104075	102835	96834	86984	80474	74204	64940	63920			
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	57464	-1933	-14260	-4556	-1240	-6001	-9850	-6510	-6270	-9264	-1020	-5370	11689		
FUNDS IN HAND	124,824	122,891	108,631	104,075	102,835	96,834	86,984	80,474	74,204	64,940	63,920	58,550	Ringed		

The Council agreed that the loan to the Hurworth Albion F.C. has been extended to 30th November 2024.

20. Association Reports

1. Village Hall

Cllr Crisp and Lynn Drumm reported that the Sunday films had started again and would continue throughout the winter.

The hall is getting a lot of bookings and is attracting new community groups.

An Autumn Mosaic Event has been arranged for the afternoon of 13th October.

The Autumn Craft and Book fair is scheduled for 20th October 10.00am until 2.00pm

The organisation of the Christmas tree event is now underway, and liaison with the PTA group is in hand.

The new Christmas lights have now been purchased.

2. Hurworth Albion F C

Cllr Leigh reported that the new season has started, and the teams have played their first matches.

The Management has tightened up, to ensure that the parents are supporting the club, and paying their subscriptions.

The club will not be organising a Firework Display event this year. The event takes a lot of organisations, and the volunteers are not able to make the time commitments for this November event.

3. Hurworth Grange

The Chairman of Hurworth Grange CIO, Graham Wylie, submitted the following report: -

Renovations at the Grange are now underway. The windows by the patio have been sanded, and the rotten wood has been replaced, ready for painting. The roof of the stable block will be replaced soon, and the CIO extends its thanks to the council for providing half of the funding.

The Grange will host a Charity Race Night on October 26th, starting at 7:30 pm.

For more information, visit the website.

Petpals is organising a charity Ceilidh on November 2nd, beginning at 7:00 pm.

For details and tickets, please contact Petpals.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and committee members for making the Hurworth Grange Country Fair a great success!

www.hurworthgrange.com

21. Any Other Business

No items were brought forward.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.
