

Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council meeting

Held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 starting at 7.00pm



Attendees

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr. Andrew Leigh, Cllr Peter Willis Cllr Janine Forster, , Cllr Angela Allan, Cllr. Dorothy Oughton. Cllr David Crisp. Cllr John Howard.

Also, and 14 members of the public

1. Chair's Opening Address:

The Chairman welcomed the attendees, and started the meeting by introducing Peter Williamson.

Mr Williamson addressed the Council saying that he would like to join the Council, and would be prepared to take on the role of Tree Management, which is vacant at this time.

The Chairman then invited Mr Wiliamson to join the Council, who then signed the Acceptance Register, which was endorsed by the Parish Clerk.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Fiona Lennox, Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr. Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr. Paul Walters, Cllr Karen Mann,

3. Declaration of Interest:

Cllr Crisp - Allotments

4. Minutes from Meeting Held on 4th September 2025:

The Draft Minutes for the meeting held on 4th September, were accepted, proposed by Cllr Oughton seconded by Cllr .Allan, and passed unanimously.

The Draft Minutes for the Special Meeting held on 25th September, were accepted, subject to one change, requested by Cllr Forster. Proposed by Cllr Howard, Seconded by Cllr Oughton.

5. Matters Arising:

Rockcliffe Cricket Club.

The Chair reported that we have not received a decision yet, from DBC regarding the decision of whether the £7,000 funding committed by HPC is going to come from the section 106 money. Action still open.

6. Ward Councillors Update:

Ward Councillors Report October 2025

Bellway and Miller Sites

Work to the footpaths and roads continues on the Miller site and most residents seem happy with the progress. There are still a number of points to resolve before there is agreement from all residents to proceed with the works on the Bellway site. The ward Councillors and Highways team are currently in the process of speaking to residents. The possibility of adopting just the part of the Bellway site which has already been completed is also being considered by DBC and Bellway.

Stockton and Darlington Railway

The 200 year celebrations to commemorate the Stockton and Darlington Railway took place last weekend. Thousands of people across the region gathered to see the Replica of Locomotion One cross the Skerne Bridge which is the oldest working bridge in the world. It was a momentous occasion. All the associated celebrations were a great success.

Resident Parking Zones

Darlington Borough Council is reviewing its policy on Resident Parking Zones. The review looks at both existing Zones and suggestions from residents on any new Zones which they believe should be introduced. This is a town wide survey and includes Hurworth. The short survey can be found on DBC website or a paper copy is available from the Town Hall in Darlington. Surveys should be returned by 13th October 2025.

Dolphin Centre

Upgrades to the Swimming Pool in the Dolphin Centre took place last year and the pool is much improved and well utilised. Proposals are being submitted at the full Council Meeting tonight to approve release of finance to create indoor golf, interactive darts and shuffle board areas. There is also a proposal for a new studio of spinning and exercise equipment. These new facilities will be available to existing and new users of the Dolphin Centre and should help to further increase its attraction.

Flu Injections

Residents over the age of 65 are being encouraged to take up the offer of a flu injection this winter. The injections are available in surgeries, pharmacies and other locations across Darlington from October. There is also a programme available for Children's Flu prevention.

Local Plan

The local plan review is underway and the first draft will be considered in November. There is currently a call for sites for local green spaces. This is open to submission from local communities and includes recognition of green spaces which are of significant value to the community.

To be designated these spaces should be:-

Of significant importance, reasonably close in proximity to the community applying, demonstrably special to the community in terms of beauty, historical significance, character. Playing fields are also included.

This may be of interest and warrant an application to include some of the green spaces in Hurworth. The sites if approved will be included in the revised Local Plan.

7. Public Participation:

1. A resident requested that the trees in Church row flat compound require trimming: **Action Cllr Howard and Clerk**
2. Sue Dell, who is the Flood Warden at Hurworth Place address the Council. She is concerned about the coming winter, and the danger of flooding, both from the drainage behind the houses at Tees View, and the river rising. The environment Agency are installing new 'measuring units' at Croft bridge, but there is a delay. Sue says that the sandbags, held in the toilet block, are inspected every month, and there is a team of Flood wardens, who meet regularly.
The Chair was please to inform the meeting that the new parish Plan includes the resurrection of the Hurworth Contingency Team, and that Cllr Howard is leading this project. Cllr Howard said that he would get together with Sue Dell and her team, and that that will work together, to try to satisfy the concerns which have been expressed. **Action Cllr Howard.**
3. A resident was concerned about a current planning application for Meadowbank Close and whether it would increase the risk of flooding.

8. Hurworth Parish Plan 2025-30

The Chair reported on the current status of the new Parish Plan,

The Special Meeting advanced the Parish Plan considerably, and the Clerk advised the meeting of the current status;_

The revised draft Plan has been completed, and needs to be validated,

Four copies were printed out,

- One for the Chairman to check that all the objectives and commitments are accurate
- One for Cllr Tostevin, to read and improve upon the flow of the document, and ensure continuity.
- One for Cllr Willis, so he can ensure that the Projects which will materialise from the Plan, are correctly defined.
- One for Cllr Wylie, who has undertaken to convert the word-based version into a 'publish ready' format, either using AI or Publisher.

In order to complete the Plan, there are still seven topics, which the Council need to make decision, and decide which will be included in the final Plan.

It is hoped that these tasks will be completed by 31st October.

A Public Meeting will then be arranged, so that the residents formally 'accept' the 5-year Plan

9. Planning Applications: Cllr Angela Allan

Planning Report for September

Four planning applications were received in September. The planning applications received were as follows:

25/00855/FUL - 12 Snipe Lane, Darlington, DL2 1GP

Description

Erection of single storey extension to rear

25/00933/FUL -15 The Wayside, Hurworth, DL2 2EE

Description

Remodeling of existing bungalow to form two storey dwelling house, single storey extension to rear, dormer window to side (west), recessed terrace to first floor rear elevation and associated works.

25/00984/TF - Cross Bank Hill, 1 Blind Lane, Hurworth, DL2 2JB

Description

Works to 1 no. Sycamore protected under Tree Preservation Order 2002 (No.1) T1 - thin out lower limbs to remove over hanging/crossing branches and dead wood.

25/01004/FUL - Land at Mole End, Neasham Road, Hurworth, DL2 2AZ

Description

Erection of 1 no. three bed self-build dwelling with a detached garage/store, hard standing, landscaping and provision of a new vehicular access with entrance gates and wall.

10. Tree Report –

The Clerk reported that three dead elm trees have been felled within the Grange grounds, and the trees overhanging the pathway have been trimmed to allow light from the street lamps.

Two trees on the Village Green have been trimmed to lower the canopy, for vehicles to pass without touching them.

The oak tree planted for Cllr Peter Foster has died, and will be replaced.

Cllr Williamson reported as follows:-

Linden Court

At the recent MP’s local surgery residents from Linden Drive, reported that they were having issues with several trees.

MP reported this to DBC, who in turn sent their arborist who reported the following:

- Large branches hitting houses on the opposite side of the road.
- 2 Silver Birch trees at the side on No. 5 property hitting the side wall and roof of the property.
- At the rear of the row of properties, where there is a rear access, 3 trees have Ash Dieback and need removing.
- Numerous self-seeding trees have very bad form and need removing.
- Ivy needs severing on all trees.
- Large Sycamore at rear of No. 5 needs reducing away from the rear garden.

This report was forwarded by DBC to HPC to be dealt with.

A site visit was conducted on Tuesday 23th of September 2025 by Guy Foster (Arborist), Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and in attendance Peter Williamson, to confirm the findings by DBC Arborist.

Further investigations are being carried out to determine, referencing the Land Registry, who owns the land in question, before any work can commence. **Action Clerk and Cllr Williamson.**

11. Open Spaces & Environment Report – Cllr Fiona Lennox

No report

12. Allotments – Cllr Dave Crisp

There are five people on the Strait Lane Waiting List, and a similar number on the Grange Waiting List. A skip has been arranged to be placed at the Strait Lane allotments on 25th October. The Allotment Committee AGM will be held on

13. Highways & Traffic Report – Cllr Dorothy Oughton

Cllr Oughton reported

Report on traffic for September is as follows: -

Metal Bridge	Total vehicles	20,328
	Fastest	65 mph
	Average speed	25.3 mph
The Green	Total vehicles	30.951
	Fastest	57 mph
	Average speed	26.6 mph
Hurworth Road	Total vehicles	57,678
	Fastest	51 mph
	Average speed	23.6 mph
Linden Court	Total vehicles	141,424
	Fastest	66 mph

Average speed 27.5 mph

Roundhill Road	Total vehicles	62,046
	Fastest	51 mph
	Average speed	25.5 mph

14. Youth Activities Report

No report this month

15. Crime & Security Report – Cllr Dorothy Oughton

The following crime incidents were reported.

In total there was 48 incidents, but only the following details are available:-

3 Anti-Social Behaviour

1 Road related

It is understood that several of the incidents related to youths climbing and falling out of trees.

The local PCSO has agreed to attend HPC monthly meetings if requested.

Residents are encouraged to attend PACT Meetings, if they have any concerns or seek advice.

16. Rights of Way & Parish Walks – Cllr Janine Forster

Paths 6 & 7 Walked 28 September 2025.

Route description

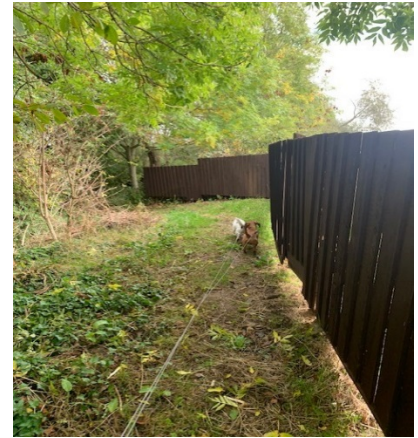
Follow Timmys lane (path 6), This path was diverted last year. The path now takes the track down to Cree beck, instead of across the field. Then right along the beck edge of the field, which is kept cut and easy to walk. This then joins the original path where a new opening has been made and a new fence put up making the walk to the concrete bridge much easier. (pictures 1-4)

Turn left after the bridge along the edge for the beck, then across the fields to Neasham road. The path is nonexistent at this time of year as all the crop fields are ploughed, which makes the walk difficult in the soil. (picture 5) The route crosses Neasham road, both stiles onto the road and off, have little space from the busy traffic and is a dangerous climb over.

Now on path 7 turn left behind Spring Cottage over 2 stiles and pass a small pond, these Stiles are in reasonable order.

The way continues towards Neasham Springs farm over the ditch bridge and stile, continuing on to the track road and through the farm, the path is easy to follow coming out at Low Maidendale farm.

From this point follow the track which passes the plantation wood, coming out onto Burma Road.



Action - As advised in previous reports on this route, the stiles over Neasham road need to be made safer with easier

And quicker access, possible kissing gates of similar.

17. Roads & Pathways Report and Hurworth Contingency Plan – Cllr John Howard

No report this month

Cllr Howard requests that we purchase some additional grit bins. These are to be deployed in Hurworth Parish, excluding the new estates at Elder Brook Park and Hurworth Meadows. A decision of these two estates will be made later. **Action Cllr Howard: number of new bins and location of them.**

18. Correspondence & Matters of Interest

- a. The Mustard Tree café are intending to install an electric automatic door, to assist the older generation of customers and the disabled. The total cost is £12,000, and they have already raised £8,000. They are enquiring whether the Parish Council to assist. After a short discussion, the Chair asked for a proposal. Cllr Allan proposed that the Council award them £4,000, Seconded by Cllr Oughton. The vote taken was 7 in favour, one against. **Action; Clerk** to arrange payment of this section 137 award.
- b. HMS Hurworth have written to the Council asking if we would like an officer and 25 of the crew to attend the Remembrance Day event on 9th November. The Clerk has made some provisional arrangements, which is for the crew to attend the service at All saints Church, the Captain to read the memorial speech, and then the church will be laying on a 'faith lunch' in the Village Hall. The Council are all invited and the Chairman and Cllr Tostevin will be laying wreaths. This is to be confirmed by HMS Hurworth.

- c. Christmas carols. The Village Hall will be organising the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on 30th November. There will be a lantern walk from the church to the Christmas tree. The PTA will not be participating this year, and the Hurworth Scouts may be asked if they would like to participate.
- d. Salt bins. The council has agreed to purchase some additional salt bins. **Action: Cllr Howard is overseeing this project.**

19. Accounts for Payment

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M Harrison	104220	V Green roads	325.00
Replacing 104216	104221	Cancelled	0.00
Tree Boy	104222	Tree work	553.50
Sevenside Defib	104223	Defib pads	146.40
WAVE	104224	Allotment water	142.87
		Allotment grass	
D Crisp	104225	cutting	300.00
G Wylie	104226	Posters	18.04
BT Comms	DD	Communications	64.32
Tree Boy Ltd	104227	Tree work	2225.70
P Robinson	104228	Salary	730.85
P D Allan	104229	Salary	1388.60
Inland Revenue	104230	PAYE	474.80
P D Allan	104231	Admin expenses	79.48
Total for month			6449.56
Receipts			
Litter Picker rebate	4505		
Interest	272		

20. Financial Report

The Financial Report for the five months to 30th September 2025 was presented by the Parish Clerk

Financial Report 30th September 2025

	<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>May-25</u>	<u>Jun-25</u>	<u>Jul-25</u>	<u>Aug-25</u>	<u>Sep-25</u>	Ringfenced funds £11,689					<u>Mar-26</u>
							<u>Oct-25</u>	<u>Nov-25</u>	<u>01/12/2025</u>	<u>Jan-26</u>	<u>Feb-26</u>	
Revenue												
Precept	80000											
Litter Picker ref & VAT		1718				4505					4600	
Rent & interest			273	1410		272		70			60	420
Grants - Other				6363				2000				
Allotment rent										1740		

Total Revenue	80000	1718	273	7773	0	4777	0	2070	0	1740	4660	420
Expenditure												
Salaries & NHI	2110	2193	2591	3614	2429	2594	2650	2650	2850	2650	2650	2850
Gen. Admin												
Expenses	1056	706	175	129	209	134	550	340	310	340	850	300
Trees	247	0	347	1545		2779	270	500	545	220	800	650
Open Spaces		225	1040	216			250	100	240	650	200	370
Section 137	1000	684	1037	1200			4000	300	300	500	1000	1500
Projects & Plan									1500	400		
Repairs & Insur		313					120		180			300
Newsletters &												
Posters	799	323	74	29		15	850	230		80	80	850
Youth Activities								500		300		200
Paths/ RoW								600		320		250
Allotments	142	241	141		100	443		420			300	
Highways/ Defib						451		850	500		400	
Handyman							100	100	200	200	200	100
Hurworth Grange support			2000	10112								
Capital & Legal exs	5356			259					2000	259		
VAT	59	3	258	503	18	32						
Total Expenses	10769	4688	7663	17607	2756	6448	8790	6590	8625	5919	6480	7370
Funds in Hand less ringed												
Revenue less expenses	53915	123146	120176	112786	102952	100196	98525	89735	85215	76590	72411	70591
Funds in Hand	123,146	120,176	112,786	102,952	100,196	98,525	89,735	85,215	76,590	72,411	70,591	63,641

The final Bill of rights has been posted on the Council notice boards and web site.

21. Association Reports

1. Village Hall

The following events are scheduled for the next month.

27th and 28th September the Village Hall hosted the McMillan charity coffee morning free of charge.

5th October - Soup and Cinema - Maria. The story of Maria Callas starring Angelina Jolie

26th October - Dave Crisp's Halloween Spooktacular

1st November - Autumn Craft Fair. 10.30am to 2.00pm. Free entry

The four planters have been removed to the allotments, and are being replaced with ornamental large pots

2. Elderbrook Park and Hurworth Meadows Report

Cllr Mann submitted the following report:-

HPC Monthly report for Elder Brook Park and Hurworth Meadows Estates October '25.

- The estates eagerly await the arrival of the public waste bin from the opposite side of Neasham road. Confirmed to be in situ by Friday 3 October
- Amount of builders' litter has reduced after a series of complaints by residents Much still remains in the hedgerows, in the reserve and along the paths near to the construction site. Thought being given to getting a group together to litter pick on a regular basis.

- Escalation of nighttime prowlers on the estate and the Police have been called regularly. Need to ensure these are included in the Hurworth Crime figures.
- The management of green spaces by Trust Green will only commence once everyone has paid the yearly maintenance fee. The site is being handed over in sections so until that is complete little maintenance will be undertaken. Up until that time the estate is reliant on the developer's landscape contractors to undertake work. I will be reminding the developer of their obligations until they leave the site in 2027.
- Attended a meeting with the Ward Councillor Lorraine Tostevin and Parish Clerk. This was to understand more about the local area around the estates. It was very useful.

3. Hurworth Grange

Cllr Wylie submitted the following report:-

The Stable Block roof has now been completed, featuring a small overhang finished with the spare tiles that were left over.

The Hurworth Grange Country Fair was a great success and enjoyed by many. The wonderful weather made the day even more memorable. Special thanks

go to the Country Fair Chair, Lynn Wylie, and the committee for their hard work and dedication in organising the event.

There will be another open meeting between the Grange and the public on Thursday, 16th October at 5:00 pm in the Hadwin Lounge.

Looking ahead, CK4 will be performing on Saturday, 11th October, with a setlist including popular hits from Bon Jovi, Tina Turner, Harry Styles, Journey, and more.

In addition, The Rolling Stones Story will take the stage on Saturday, 1st November. Tickets for both events are available from the office or the Hurworth Grange Bar.

22 Any Other Business

1. Cllr Allan stated that she would be attending the tenants monthly meeting on Monday 6th October to discuss the concerns mentioned in several of the surveys completed. The main concerns relate to the state of the pavements in the village for wheelchair users and parking on pavements.
2. Cllr Willis stated that DBC has still not improved the pathway on Roundhill road, which has been reported several times. **Action Clerk**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10pm.