



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

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr Dorothy Oughton and Cllr Amanda Oughton.

Also:

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

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody attending the meeting.

Interviews were held to select the Council's new Litter Picker, and we are pleased to announce that Mr Paul Robinson has been appointed for the position. He started work on 18th January, and we welcome him joining the team.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chou, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Kelvin Russell and Cllr Elaine Hedley.

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH, Cllr Crisp – Allotments.

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 6th January 2022

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

5. Public Participation

A resident asked when the bus route will be changed, so that the buses operate in both directions. He understood that Bellway and Miller Homes had pledged substantial funds through the Section 106 process.

Cllr Tostevin explained that the Section 106 funding only becomes available when 80 percent occupancy on the estate is reached: Occupancy means people having completed the house sale process and moved into their house, not the number of houses 'sold'. It is understood that Bellway expect to reach this figure by end of summer 2022 and Millers expect to reach this figure by end May 2022.

The resident stated that he understood that the Section 106 funding had to be spent in the village. Cllr Tostevin explained that this is not the case, but funding has been earmarked for both the schools and for the night bus service. Currently DBC is in discussions with Arriva regarding the bus services throughout the borough.

The same resident then enquired when the 20mph traffic control will be implemented at the Primary school. Cllr Tostevin stated that the consultation process has now closed, but details of the plan and timescale have not yet been publicised.

Mrs Lynne Drumm thanked the Council for their contribution of £1299, towards the replacement of the chairs at the Village Hall. The new chairs have been delivered and are a big improvement. At this point she asked whether the item on the agenda regarding the Village Hall could be discussed at this point. The Chairman agreed.

Cllr Crisp outlined the event, which the Village Hall are planning, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event will be held on Sunday 5th June and will start at noon and continue into the evening. The church will be providing refreshments during the afternoon, and Hurworth Albion will be offering a BBQ in the evening. A full programme of entertainment has been arranged.

The total cost of staging this community event will be £1,600, and Cllr Crisp tabled a motion, seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton that the Parish Council should fund the event. A vote was taken, and motion passed unanimously.

A resident expressed their concern about the safety of the lollipop lady who controls traffic on Roundhill Road, at the Primary School. It was suggested that she should wear a body cam; however, the meeting's thoughts were that it is not traffic speed, but inappropriate driving by a few impatient drivers.

A resident was concerned at the traffic leaving the Priory School, (now Aspris). The taxis are leaving the site without due care and attention and on one occasion, a taxi hit a resident's dog. It was talked about installing speed bumps, or having staff around at taxi time to guide the taxis out of their grounds. **Action Cllr Munro (ref FEB 5.1)**

Councillor Reports

6. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

It was reported:

Two applications:

- Hill Top Farm, Roundhill Road – Erection of detached double garage and workshop
- Spring Cottage, Neasham Road – Alteration and enlargement of existing dwelling which includes demolition of external buildings. Partial change of use of adjacent land for car parking, removal of hedgerow and 1.8m boundary wall, fence and gates.

In response to a question from the public, Cllr Tostevin stated that the planning application for the development on Neasham Road, opposite EuroJag is ongoing, and is now being addressed in the Courts.

7. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

It was reported:

No progress regarding the Traffic Calming Audit Report – have asked Lorraine for a response – the longer this takes the more difficult it will be to make any changes as residents are eventually getting used to the current mode of operation.

No progress on upgrade of pavement between Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive – have asked Lorraine for a response.

New footpath on Wayside almost complete.

In response to the report and to questions raised by a resident, Cllr Tostevin explained that the Roundhill Road traffic calming system has been re-examined by DBC. It is suggested that a survey is carried out to ascertain whether residents are now content with the design of the traffic calming installation. However, there is no guarantee that DBC will make any significant changes. **Action Cllr Tostevin (Ref FEB 7.1)**

8. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported :

The recent strong winds have caused a lot of damage in the parish, but action was swiftly taken to ensure that traffic and properties were protected, and broken branches removed quickly.

One large Chestnut tree, located near the playground at Hurworth Grange, has been felled. It was partially dead, having monitored carefully for several months, and the strong winds made it a major risk to the public.

Cllr Foster explained to the meeting that the ditch on the north boundary of the Grange is completely blocked, and this is causing the water to spread into the surrounding ground, which is rotting the tree roots. There is evidence of this from the large tree which blew down in the recent high winds; the roots had shrivelled and hence the tree had lost its stability. There is a serious risk that other trees, on the northern boundary, could incur the same fate. He recommended that the ditch should be cleared out for the full length within the Grange grounds.

The Clerk prompted the Chairman to inform the meeting that this responsibility lies with HCA as they are responsible for the grounds and upkeep thereof. HCA has been made aware of the potential problem and are obtaining two quotations to carry out the work.

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

a. Playground Update - Cllr Stamp reported:

- The work to complete the Grange Playground has again been postponed. This is due to the delay in receiving the equipment which is on order by DBC. The revised date for completion is 21st March 2022.

b. Priory School and Youth Club Update - Cllr Munro reported:

A meeting was held at the Priory Hurworth House School on 13th January, attended by Cllr Munro and the Parish Clerk. Priory Group has been taken over by Aspris Children's Services; this has resulted in a name change.

The Clerk gave an update on the developments and improvements at the Community Centre including EPICH's recent activities.

The school expressed their keenness to help EPICH and also to participate in community events; they stated that they will support and enter the Scarecrow Festival.

There have been 20 reports of vandalism to staff and visitors' vehicles at the front of the school. As a follow up of this meeting, Cllr Dorothy Oughton discussed the situation of the cars being damaged, and a report has been sent to the school.

The Head of School clarified that the sports field will not be sold; it is currently on loan to Hurworth Albion.

Cllr Munro reported that she had visited the youth club and met with Martin Stand. The club is being used, but because of the cold winter conditions, events are not being organised, as they may be poorly attended.

The Youth Club needs laptops/ PC equipment. The current equipment is very old and there are only limited numbers available, meaning that people are having to wait their turn, or are limited to how long they can play at a time. An appeal for secondhand IT equipment has been made, so if anybody has a contact for businesses or schools, which may be willing to donate items, this would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr Munro tabled a motion requesting the Parish Council to make a Section 137 Award of £300, to support the purchase of some equipment. The motion was Seconded by Cllr Bree Stamp, and the vote was unanimously accepted.

c. Hurworth Albion Update

In the absence of Cllr Russell there was no report

d. Hurworth Fun Run Update - Cllr Russell reported:

The Chairman tabled a motion that the Parish Council should hold a community Fun Run in April 2022. The motion was Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie, and the vote in favour was unanimous.

Outline details, for the Fun Run, were provided by the Chairman;-

We hope that you can come and join us in supporting this amazing event at the Grange Community Centre on Saturday 16th April starting at 11am. With the support of Oxford Garage and Hurworth Parish Council, we're organising this event to help local charities and groups within the Hurworth Parish. The event is open to everyone and will give the opportunity to raise much needed funds for your local groups.

To enter visit the <http://www.hurworthonline.com> to see the different entry options for this event

10. Open Spaces – Cllr Lynn Wylie

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

Open Spaces Report – February 2022

Work has been completed on the 'all-weather path' extension (between Jean's Garden and the Grange entrance opposite Elmfield Road). It is hoped that, with the long-awaited path extension, it will give the village a much-improved access to the Grange grounds in all weather. Remedial works, around completion and tidying up the path and garden area, are in the process of being completed. The new path has opened up access to the garden area and it has become rather apparent that the area is in need of some care and attention.

From my request, funding has been offered by the PC to help bring the garden back to life, and it has been suggested to the EPICH Chair that EPICH look to undertake a programme of planting (continuing with the Victorian planting theme, woodland plants such as Rhododendrons, Hellebores, Snowdrops etc). A decision is expected at the February EPICH meeting; if EPICH feel that they are unable to support such a large commitment, then other areas of resource will be investigated.

A further email has been sent to DBC (26th January) to advise that the Manor Field trees (which DBC are responsible for, damaged during Storm Arwen, have not yet been looked at and remain in a dangerous state. An update will be given at the meeting if a response has been received from DBC.

An update has been received from DBC regarding the damaged stile on the path that runs up from Minster Walk and the dangerous steps alongside the railway line at Railway Terrace. The stile still needs to be investigated. However, on a more positive note, the steps, reported in December, have now been surveyed by the DBC Construction Manager, and will be replaced as soon as DBC have acquired the materials, and have a suitable time/ground conditions to do so. The new steps will be shorter and safer to use too, and a small channel will be dug next to the stile for the runoff water.

11. EPICH – Cllr Lynn Wylie

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

As reported under HCA, the EPICH organised Wassail, held on 17th January in the Grange Heritage Orchard, was an amazing success with over 100 people attending. There was lots of singing, noise and a toast of spiced apple drinks accompanied with home-made apple cake to wake up the orchard.

Projects and Plans for 2022

As expected, January/ February are quiet months for EPICH. There is a meeting planned for 17th February to discuss upcoming projects and an update will be provided at the March PC meeting.

12. Highways and Traffic – Cllr Hedley

Cllr 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>

Cllr Dorothy Oughton informed the meeting that a meeting is going to be held with Andrew Casey, Head of Highways, DBC on 4th February. The agenda for this meeting included:

- The HPC Parking Report and suggested actions.
- Congestion difficulties at the Spar shop.
- E scooters
- Vandalisation problems at Hurworth House School
- A notice requested at the end of Strait Lane
- A sign to slow traffic down near The Birches

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

Latest crime figures and detail can be viewed at:

<https://www.hurworthonline.com/crime-report>

14. Allotments – Cllr Crisp:

Cllr Crisp reported:

Most, of the rents for the year 2022, have been collected. Two plots have been reassigned to new tenants.

There are currently three people on the Strait Lane Waiting List. There are no changes at the Grange allotments.

Several allotment tenants have formed a group called 'Friends of the Allotments', and they intend to organise community events. The next event will be held on Easter Sunday.

The allotments are in good order. A load of chippings has been obtained and plot holders are using this to improve the pathways.

The grass will be cut this year by Colin Dugmore and David Crisp at no cost to the Council.

15. Matters of Interest

a. Projects Update

The Chairman reported the progress on the Council's projects. The guttering for the Grange building has been postponed until April, and the pipe work in the cellar has also been postponed until into the summer. These will now fall into the 2022-23 financial year.

The redesign and implementation of Jean's Garden has been postponed and will now fall into the 2022-23 financial year.

The Village History board will be installed before the end of March 2022.

Cllr Stamp reported that the waste bin project had stalled because StreetScene wish to reduce the number of bins in Hurworth, whereas the Parish Council is requesting additional bins. Discussions are continuing.

The new plaque to be located near Lime Cottage is being addressed, and Cllr Dorothy Oughton is obtaining quotations.

The Chairman has obtained one quotation for the project to upgrade the skateboard rink. Another quotation is being sought.

Cllr Forster reported that she had submitted a list of the broken or damaged stiles in the parish and would follow this up with DBC.

b. Benches

Two benches have arrived and will be installed in February. These will replace the benches which were vandalised on Croft Road.

A quotation has been obtained for the bench to replace the Church's bench on the Village Green. **Action Parish Clerk (ref FEB 15.b)**

16. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for January 2021, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted with no queries raised by Councillors:

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable January 2022

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£s</u>
G Wylie	103627	ZOOM & posters	24.47
G Wylie	103628	Software licences	225.15
Hurworth Village Hall	103629	Section 137	1200.00
HCA	103630	Newsletter	60.00
HCA	103331	Photocopying	72.74
P D Allan	103632	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103633	PAYE	245.40
P D Allan	103364	Admin & PC expenses	223.61
Barclays bank	DD	bank charges	2.30
Total amount for January 2022			3281.27
Allotment rents received			850.00

17. Financial Report

Full report detail is available to view at <http://www.hurworthonline.com>

18. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

Work is now underway to plan for the Country Fair (Saturday 17th September) following the first committee meeting held on the 27th of January.

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 EPICH organised Wassail, held on 17th January in the Grange Heritage Orchard, was an amazing success with over 100 people attending. There was lots of singing, noise and a toast of spiced apple drinks accompanied with home-made apple cake to wake up the orchard. The Coffee Pot remained open, serving drinks and hot food options to the participants, and did a roaring trade. It was disappointing that the Black Diamond Morris dancers were unable to attend (due to several members testing positive for Covid), but they have expressed their desire to join us next year!

There is lots of work underway or being planned for the next few months; the Coffee Pot toilet block is due to be completed by mid-February; work on the gutters will commence late March/ early April; replacement of the pipework will be completed during the summer months whilst the heating is no longer needed.

Covid is still having an impact on several groups returning, but as of the 18th of January, there are 11 weddings booked and a full programme of events planned to go ahead too.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

The new chairs have arrived and are very comfortable, thanks were expressed to the Council for their contribution to the funding. The Rogers Trust were very generous and have contributed the other £1,300. The new chair design has also allowed for easier storage and made more room at the rear of the building.

The Hall is now very busy, and on most days there are three different group sessions being held in the hall. Recently a wedding had their reception in the hall, and we are expecting other wedding dates to be booked.

There are regular film shows on Sundays once a month, and all are welcomed.

c. Tees Valley international Airport Consultancy Group – Cllr Foster reported:

The Director of the Airport has invited Cllr Foster to have a meeting to discuss feedback from residents of the parish. They would welcome comments and expectations, to assist them in providing a first-class service.

19. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

Cllr Lynn Wylie asked the Council if they would consider delaying the June PC Meeting by one week as the constituted meeting day was going to clash with a bank holiday, and several councillors may not be able to attend. In these exceptional circumstances, the Council agreed to change the date to Thursday, 9th June 2022. **Action Parish Clerk (ref FEB 19)**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm