



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 5th September starting at 7:00pm**

Attendees
<p>Parish Councillors present: Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Debra Williamson</p> <p>Also Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Council Paul Walters and 9 members of the public</p>
<p>1. Chair's Opening Address</p> <p>The Chairman, Andrew Leigh opened the meeting and welcomed the public attendees.</p>
<p>2. Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Cllr Fiona Lennox. Cllr Russell. Cllr Foster is on Leave of Absence. - absent Cllr Lindsey Probert</p>
<p>3. Declaration of Interests</p> <p>Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion Cllr Crisp - Allotments</p>
<p>4. Minutes from the Meeting held 4th July 2024</p> <p>The Minutes for meeting held on 4th July 2024 were accepted, proposed by Cllr Oughton, Seconded by Cllr Crisp.</p>
<p>5. Matters Arising</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that the modification to the sound system in the Hadwin Lounge, had been installed and tested and it will be helpful with hearing aids. The microphone will be used, when necessary, throughout meetings.</p>
<p>6. Ward Councillors Report</p> <p>Cllr Tostevin and Cllr Walters gave the following report:</p> <p><u>Neasham Road Unauthorised Access</u> The planning Department served an enforcement notice to seek removal of the unauthorised access; this enforcement notice took effect on 10th August. The applicants had until 21st September to comply unless an appeal against the notice was received before that date. An appeal has actually now been received which means that the access can now be used again until a decision is made on the appeal.</p> <p><u>Neasham Road Ditch with Orange Sludge</u> The water samples on site have shown significant improvement and the latest analysis shows the ditch is much cleaner; this suggests that the pollution is no longer actively getting into the ditch and is being diluted as it moves downstream.</p> <p>The Environment Agency is going to ask one of their contaminated land specialists for their opinion on the monitoring results of the samples. The EA are also proposing to write to the landowner to make them aware of the pollution and warn them about any future works on their land which may disrupt the flow of water into the ditch. Highways have confirmed maintenance of the ditch and the hedgerows are the landowner's responsibility</p>

Given the current situation, there will be no further action from the EA unless however the EA report shows landfill leachate has been detected in the ditch and then it will need to be looked at again.

Croft Road Safer Route to Schools 20mph zone

The programme of work was successfully completed and the road reopened on time despite one or two setbacks. The third speed table is the only item that remains outstanding as damage to the drainage infrastructure was discovered during the course of works. This speed table will now be completed at a suitable later date.

Queries have been raised as to why the yellow lines on Croft Road are not continuous; since the design was subject to consultation it was a balance on providing access to the surgery for ambulances, and also allowing some parking for drop off and pick up at the school to try and prevent further displacement onto Elmfield Road and Rockliffe Court which blanket restrictions may have caused. 86% of the respondents to the original consultation were in favour of this design, hence it was implemented accordingly. The enforcement team have been asked to monitor the new restrictions.

Roundhill Road Closure

A section of this road is currently closed for renewal. This closure will be in place for 2 weeks. Access is not possible due to the nature of the works which involves breaking up and replacing the existing road.

The lower end of Roundhill Road between the Spar shop and Westfield drive received a new Asphalt surface last weekend.

Hurworth Country Fair

The annual fair will take place on Saturday September the 7th and will be officially opened by Ward Councillors Walters and Tostevin. In advance of this we would like to thank the organisers, including Keith Sandick and Lynn and Graham Wylie who have put a lot of hard work into making this year's show another big success. So please do come along with your families and friends on Saturday to show your support.

Hurworth Concert Band

The very successful Hurworth Concert band will be playing in the Darlington Town Centre on Sunday 8th September and I am sure they would appreciate the added support and familiar faces of residents from Hurworth. All the town centre events are organised by Darlington Borough Council.

7. Public Participation

- a. A resident enquired whether, that with the change in Government, and the new emerging Planning Policy, would this effect the possible development of housing on Roundhill Road. Cllr Walters stated, in a word 'No', that as there is a 5 Year Plan in place, there will be no developments in the near future.
- b. A resident expressed concern the state of footpaths and street lighting in the village. Cllr Walters advised that any specific instances should be reported directly to StreetScene. There is now a direct link, online, where you can lodge your concern, or complaint. The line is strictly confidential, and is anonymous, so you can speak openly, with no fear of consequence. Cllr Peter Williamson supported this advice, as he has used the link, and StreetScene responded within 48 hours and carried out the work that he had requested.

8. Planning Applications

Cllr Peter Willis gave the following report: -

HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS – July/August 2024

Planning

We have been 3 planning applications during July/August

1) Neasham Road/Snipe Lane

Change of timetable for ongoing housing development

2) 3 & 3A Banks Terrace Hurworth Place.

Listed Building consent.

Conversion of 2 flats into single dwelling

3) Hurworth View Neasham Road

Change of land from paddock to gypsy/traveller site

No comments were made by any Councillors, or the public. No progress observed on Bellway Estate apart from basic landscaping routines ie inadequate grass cutting activity. Roads and pavements still not completed

Bellway management invited to attend Parish Council meeting – no response!

9. Tree Report

Cllr Debra Williamson gave the following report: -

15 FRIARS PARDON – Trimming back of trees which were growing over residents' gardens

EMERSON ROAD PATHWAY – LEADING TO CHURCH LANE – The Willow tree has been trimmed

THE 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.

10 CHURCH VIEW – Tree has been cut back to make the passageway clear for residents, the rest of tree is in good condition and no further action required.

The trees that are in Lych Gate are now the responsibility of the residents and HPC will not be taking any further responsibility

A large branch fell from a tree on The Green, early one morning. This was reported at 8:30am, and our arborist attended to it during the same afternoon, and the tree is again safe.

Hurworth Grange – The tree on the left of the Driveway permission for this has been granted and felled.

However, once it had been removed the tree behind it was found to be rotten, permission for this to be felled was applied for and granted and has now been felled.

On the right side of the Driveway where branch fell in the wind and rain into the road, the tree was found to have fungus growing, the arborist from DBC organised for his staff to come and inspect it and they conversed with him at the scene and it was agreed that 4 branches that overhung the driveway would be removed along with the ivy around it.

The rest of the tree was found to be still good condition and would last for the foreseeable future; therefore, it does not need felling. HPC local arborist will be doing the work

THE GREEN - Cherry tree on the green, a meeting with the DBC Arborist and Peter Allan was held last Sunday and it was decided a couple of branches were to be taken off, but the tree itself remains in good condition.

- a. The Clerk has written to the Head of Planning at DBC, requesting a special dispensation which will allow the Parish Council to maintain all the trees within Hurworth Grange, without having to apply for permission every time we need to tend a tree, remove branches or remove ivy, etc. The special dispensation will exclude all trees which are subject to a TPO, of a tree if we need to fell it.
- b. With the leave of absence which has been taken by Cllr Foster, the Clerk has requested that we get a full Tree Survey done before the end of this year. Normally the next survey would be due in November 2025, but as Cllr Foster, who knew almost every tree in the parish, the species of the trees and whose responsibility it is to maintain it, we lack this depth of knowledge.
The Chairman related this to the council, and a motion was tabled by the Chair, Seconded by Cllr Debra Williamson, that we engage an arborist to conduct this survey, the motion was put to the vote, and passed unanimously. **Action clerk, to make appropriate arrangements**

10. Open Spaces and Environment

In the absence of Cllr Fiona Lennox there was no report.

11. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported: -

Traffic Report

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

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest 55 mph	average speed 25.7 mph
The Green	fastest 69 mph	average speed 27.1 mph
Hurworth Road	fastest 51 mph	average speed 25.5 mph
69inden Court	fastest 66 mph	average speed 27.4 mph
Roundhill Road	fastest 54 mph	average speed 25.5 mph

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

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest 69 mph	average speed 25.1 mph
The Green	fastest 63 mph	average speed 27.4 mph
Hurworth Road	fastest 45 mph	average speed 21.4 mph
Linden Court	fastest 57 mph	average speed 27.7 mph
Roundhill Road	fastest 51 mph	average speed 25.6 mph

Full details of the traffic numbers and statistics are available on the HPC web site.

Following the request of a member of the public at the July meeting, additional statistics are

now shown within the report; this includes the volume of traffic and overall averages.

12. Rights of Way Report Crime and Security Report

Cllr Peter Williamson submitted the following report: -

Footpath Teesdale Way

Teesdale Way section from Croft Road – A66.

STILE 1 – The gate has a loose post. The entrance is overgrown and no signage. The landowner has provisionally made a diversion due to livestock being present.

STILE 2 – Gated into field all in good condition, but no signs.

STILE 3 – Metal Kissing Gate – All in good condition, signs only on one side.

STILE 4 – Metal Kissing Gate – All in good condition, signs only on one side.

STILE 5 – Disused Wooden Stile – Not used as no fencing bordering the field. Sign are good.

STILE 6 – No stile into field just a gap, no marker post or signage to denote route



Grid Ref:
NZ28192-11157

STILE 7 – Blackwell Grange Golf Club

Brand new kissing gate stile in wood supplied and fitted by the golf club, no signage.



MINSTER WALK

MINSTER WALK

Complaint has been received; passageway is overgrown. This has now been cleared and treated by local Arborist.

FOOTPATH UPDATE – Neasham Road End

The landowner has replaced the stile at Neasham Road and is in the process of replacing stiles and fences down towards Minster Walk on his land.

This is in collaboration with DBC Rights of Way Officer.

FOOTPATH 12 UPDATE – After the Railway Line
2 Stiles have been replaced and the first stile has been lowered, due to it being too high.
Peter Williamson & the DBC Rights of Way Officer have contacted the landowner in respect of raising the dog access point as it is too low for medium to larger dogs to access.

13. Crime and Security Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported that we have, not yet, received the crime figures from the police.

A PACT Meeting has been held at Neasham earlier this week, but the crime figures were not discussed.

14. Allotment Report Roads and Pathways Report – Councillor Forster

Cllr David Crisp reported as follows: -

There are four people on the Strait Lane waiting List, and three on the Grange Waiting List.
It has been a strange year on the allotments, with the inconsistent weather pattern, causing changes to the crops, both in timing and quality. Overall, not the best year.

A skip will be made available, on site, at strait Lane on the last Friday in October.

The year's Allotment Fun Day was a great success, the best yet, and it was well supported. The surplus funds will be used to hold the, now annual, Halloween Party in the Village Hall on 31ST October.

15. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Janine Forster reported: -

Road Report August 2024

The construction of the new 20mph speed limit, with new pedestrian crossings and road bumps and yellow lines, outside the secondary School is now complete.

The inconvenience of having the road closed was much less trouble than we had expected, and access was available most evenings and the weekends.

We should thank Cllr Lorraine Tostevin for her efforts in influencing DBC to make the road closures much less of a problem and ensuring that the contractors finished the project within the timescale originally advertised. Thank you, Lorraine.

Next up is the closure of Roundhill Road, for maintenance to be carried out. This is an opportunity for the litter to be collected, and I understand that Tony Needham has offered to do this, and the Council are grateful for giving up his time to do this. Tony Needham used to be on the Parish Council and is still a regular supporter and helper with community actions.

DBC has also been resurfacing other parts of the main road in the village, including the road from All Saints Church to the Village Green. This is a great improvement.

16. Correspondence and Matters of Interest

a. Litter Picker update

The clerk updated the council with the situation of the Litter Picker. Our permanent Litter Picket is still off sick, and having talked with him earlier this week, he is having treatment and is likely to be unable to return to work for a few more weeks.

Our temporary Litter picker is content to continue but will be taking a week's holiday in October. He is on our payroll but does not have a contract with the Council. As this situation has taken longer than first thought, it has been agreed that the temporary employee should not have a formal contract, albeit, as a temporary position. **Action Chair and Clerk**

b. Hurworth Grange Garage Roof

The Council has been approached regarding the serious state of the garage outbuilding, where the roof is now in a dangerous condition, and requires a new roof on the Coffee Pot side, The Community Centre have obtained three quotations, and the one which is deemed as the best, amounts to £10,850.

Hurworth Grange CIO has an ‘all repairing’ lease, but as this is a major renewal of a forty-year-old (or more) roof, it should be deemed to be outside of a ‘repair’. They have asked the Council to pay half of the cost.

The Chair put it to the Council for comment and consideration. All comments made were in favour of assisting, as the new roof is essential, and should be undertaken before the winter weather.

The Chairman asked for a decision to be taken by vote. A motion to share the cost, with HPC placing the contract, was tabled by Cllr Peter Williamson, Seconder by Cllr Debra Williamson, and the vote was unanimous in favour. **Action: Clerk to make the arrangements.**

c. Elder Brook Park notice board.

The Clerk reported that reminders have been sent to DBC, but no response has materialised. There was one objection to the positioning of the notice board, and this may be causing the delay. **Action: Clerk to follow up.**

d. Airport Consultancy Group representation.

Cllr Peter Foster will not be able to continue to attend and participate on this committee. The group secretary has asked who will be representing the Hurworth Parish Council (recently also Neasham Council), and it was agreed that this would be raised at this meeting. The Chair asked if any Councillor would like to take on this opportunity, and Cllr Peter Willis offered to be the council’s representative. All agreed. **Action: Clerk to inform the Consultation Group.**

e. Parish Chronicle.

Cllr Debra Williamson said that she is preparing to produce the next Parish Chronicle to be ready for distribution in November. She requested that councillors and community groups prepare articles which will be incorporated into the Chronicle. **Action: Cllr Debra Williamson**

17. Projects 2023 - 2024

- a. Cllr Forster informed the meeting that the wood carving project is progressing well. The door has now been attached plus other features, and an amount of carving has been undertaken. The feedback comments have been complimentary, and the group is proving to be very active. To attract more people, and to explain the design plan, the group will be having a table beside the tree at the Country Fair on 7th September, where more details can be obtained.
- b. Hurworth scouts
In accordance with the resolution taken to match fund community events, which are being held to raise funds for the new Hurworth scout hut, the following contributions have been made.
 - 1. Hurworth Concert Band – concert held at Hurworth Grange £1,600.
 - 2. Newbus Leisure Park residents Fun Day £1400.The council has capped the contribution at £5,000 in total.

18. Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable July 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
K. Russell	104130	Contra	4960
Cancelled cheque	104328	Contra	-4960
Janie St John, singer	104131	Armed forces concert	150
M Harrison	104132	Benches maintenance	220
Latimer Hinks	104133	Legal costs	690
Tree Boy	104134	Tree work	279
Tree Boy	104135	Tree work	414
J MacDonald litter picker	104136	<u>Salary June</u>	205.92
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	0.47
Hurworth SCOUTS	104137	Section 137 award	1600
P D Allan	103138	Admin expenses	84.57
P D Allan	103139	Salary	1220.8
John MacDonald	103140	Salary	535.44
Inland Revenue	103141	PAYE	386
Total Expenditure			5786.2

Accounts Payable August 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Treeboy	103042	Tree work	171
Treeboy	103043	Tree work	346.5
P Robinson	103044	Salary July	562.6
Hurworth Village Hall	103145	Section 137 Award, Christmas lighti	1500
Hurworth Grange CIO	103046	Church newsletter	60
G Wylie	103047	Posters	28.21
Barclays Bank	DD	<u>Bank charges</u>	2.34
Public Loans Board	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
J MacDonald	103048	Salary August	416.52
P Robinson	103049	Salary August	562.6
P D Allan	103050	Salary August	1220.8
Inland Revenue	103051	PAYE	581
Total Expenditure			£5,710.19
Litter picker refund received			£4,370.00

19. Financial Report

Financial Report - 31st August 2024						Ringed funds £11,689								
	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	TOTAL	BUDGET
REVENUE														2024-2025
Precept	65000												65000	65000
Litter Picker Ref & VAT				1230	4370						4800		10400	8400
Rent & Interest				1559	100	180			120			100	2059	500
Grants		750				1240		1500					3490	6980
Alloment Rent		20								1180			1200	1180
TOTAL REVENUE	65000	770	1559	1230	4470	1420		1500	120	1180	4800	100	82149	82040
EXPENDITURE														
Salaries & NHI	2148	2148	2302	2348	3344	2900	2750	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	29190	25400
Gen. Admin Expenses	1378	347	216	85	2	750	150	240	300	245	250	300	4263	4060
Trees			2250	693	517	585	270	500	560	1900	400	350	8025	5000
Open Spaces	1000	51	180	220	0	820	250	100	480	200	400	370	4071	5500
Section 137	1752	20	4008	1750	1500	1400	400	2000	300	200	1000	500	14830	11200
Projects	0	60				500		400	1500	800	600		3860	8000
Repair & Maint.			600			200	120	80	180			300	1480	1800
News Letter & Posters	60	74	74		84	60	850	60		60	60	850	2232	3150
Youth Activities						500	0	500		300		200	1500	3000
Path/RoW			4960			300	0	100		570		250	6180	1600
Alloments			634			60		220			300		1214	1500
Highways			20					500	500		400		1420	1500
Handyman						80	100		200	100	100	100	680	1500
Hurworth Grange Support						5500				3500			9000	0
Capital & Legal Expenses	760			575	258					259			1852	517
Vat	438	3	575	115	5									
TOTAL EXPENSES	7536	2703	15819	5786	5710	13655	4890	6950	6270	10384	5760	5470	89797	73727
													-7648	8313
Funds in Hand Less Ringed	67360	124824	122891	108631	104075	102835	90600	85710	80260	74110	64906	63946		
Revenue Less Expenses	57464	-1933	-14260	-4556	-1240	-12235	-4890	-5450	-6150	-9204	-960	-5370	11689	
Funds in Hand	124824	122891	108631	104075	102835	90600	85170	80260	74110	64906	63946	58576	RINGED	
	394720	252728	250459	223741	205670	181200	170880	160520	148220	129812	127892	117152	2362994	8313

20. Association Reports

a) Village Hall

Cllr. David Crisp reported –

The Sunday films have started again for the winter season. First Sunday every month, with soup and bread provided free of charge.

There is a Quiz organised this month. The most important event is a night at the proms, which is being provided by a London company, and streams the actual even from the Royal Albert Hall.

b) Hurworth Ablion Football Club

Cllr Leigh reported: -

The new soccer season has now started, and the registrations have been completed.

The new football pitches, which have been in construction during the summer season are complete and ready for use. They may be slightly uneven to start with, but should soon even out with usage.

Unfortunately, vandals broke unto the grounds, took the monitoring camera, and threw it into the Cree Beck.

It is ruined; we are relying on police surveillance at present.

c) Hurworth Grange

The following report was provided by Graham Wylie, Chairman of Hurworth Grange CIO:

The Grange will be undergoing building improvements over the coming weeks. We will begin by focusing on the windows near the bar; replacing some and repairing others to enhance the appearance from the office to the bar area.

Following this, we plan to install a new roof on the stable block, which is in urgent need of replacement. We've received three quotes and will be scheduling the work to begin shortly.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Hurworth Parish Council for their ongoing support, including their generous donation for Music for All and the Country Fair. Thanks to this support, we have been able to add extra dance groups, bring in a BMX trick stunt team, and even arrange for llamas at the Fair. The Fair will be busier in terms of entertainment and stalls, and I would like to thank the committee, who have worked hard to provide a great popular event for everyone.

The Grange is thriving, and our collaboration with the bar has been highly successful, leading to fantastic weddings and a growing interest in hosting events at The Grange.

21. Any Other Business (non-financial)

a. Councillor Crisp reported that he has visited the Knell Gate passageway, and, once again, it is cluttered up and overgrown. It requires cleaning up, so that visitors can walk through, if they so desire.

Action clerk to write to the residents who are responsible for the upkeep.

b. Cllr Oughton reported that the damaged bollard near Lime Cottage has still not been repaired by DBC.

Action clerk to follow up.

The Chairman announced that due to pressure of business, Cllr Kelvin Russell has resigned from the Parish Council, with immediate effect.

The Chairman and Councillors thank Kelvin for his contribution to the Council and wish him good fortune in his activities.

Action Clerk to inform DBC Electoral department.

The next meeting will be held on **3rd October 2024**

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.15pm