



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 2 March 2023, starting at 7:00pm
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, and Cllr Bree Stamp.

Also:

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

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Kelvin Russell and Cllr Amanda Oughton

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 2nd February 2023

- The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Dorothy Oughton. and Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie

5. Update on Actions

- a. Coronation Celebration & Grant Application – Clerk ref Feb 19.1. The Clerk confirmed that he has made an application for a grant for the Coronation celebration event. Action closed as an update will be provided at the appropriate meeting.

6. Ward Councillor's Update

- DBC are submitting a paper to the Cabinet next week to approve the release of the 106 monies (£100k) for Hurworth Schools.
- The 20 mph zone outside Hurworth Academy is being progressed and a consultation will take place soon on the actual design.
- The Arriva bus services are being reviewed and there will be an update shortly on the number 12 service; however, it is unlikely that the 2-way service will be restored. The 106 monies identified for the Bus service will form part of the future discussions.
- The pedestrian crossing at Linden Court has been raised with Highways who are now reviewing the safety of this outdated crossing.
- Speed monitors have been requested by residents on Strait Lane (adjacent to The Birches) and DBC propose to do some further speed monitoring in this area ahead of any work being agreed.

7. Public Participation

- A resident asked whether there is any progress in the rescheduling of the number 12 bus. Also, there is a bus stop which is no longer used. Cllr Tostevin responded, advising the meeting that the Arriva bus route is running at a loss and additional funding for the service will run out in June 2023. There is now a concern that the number 12 service may have to be reduced however, there is money in the Section 106 fund designated for 'buses', and this may be deployed dependent upon the outcome of the future consultation meetings.

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

There have been 2 planning applications made since the December report:

- 1) Snipe Lane - Ongoing part appeal for the Esh housing development
- 2) 49 Manor Road - Single storey rear extension and loft conversion including Dormer windows.

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

Residents are complaining about the overall poor condition of the Roundhill Road pavement from Mowbray Drive to Westfield Drive - matter ongoing.

Footpath from Roundhill Road to Manorfields via the primary school is very slippery in wet weather due to leaves that have been left to rot on the surface. The Chair advised that he will make arrangements for a working party together to clear the leaves on Saturday 4 March. **Action Chair ref MAR 9.1**

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

In the absence of Cllr Foster, the following report was submitted.

It has been confirmed that Guy Foster has left Johnston Tree Surgeons, and that the company will continue to provide services and support to HPC.

The Oak tree at the end of Fox Close will be reduced, as agreed, on Sunday, 5th March. The Clerk will be on site to meet the new team.

The report about a dangerous branch on a tree in Goblins Wood has been investigated and it has been determined that all the trees are in good order.

A copy of the tree survey - 2023 has been sent to Zurich Insurance Company.

The Clerk visited the property at 67 Hurworth Road, and there are now, no branches growing over the resident's property. There is evidence of trees having been trimmed and a large branch removed from the tree which borders the main road.

Following the incident where a tree fell in the Grange grounds, an inspection has been made of another tree which is close to the same vicinity. This tree was planted in an area of waste and rubble meaning, now that the tree is a substantial size, the ground is insubstantial to support a tree of this size. It is also leaning towards the Grange outbuildings, and if it falls/ is blown over, it could cause serious damage. It is recommended that this tree is felled as soon as possible.

11. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp & Cllr Munro

Cllr Stamp reported that the PTA are organising a community event in the Village Hall, and have agreed to use the Village Hall for a several upcoming events. They have requested that their events are advertised on the community notice boards and also of Facebook.

The Chairman reported to the meeting that Cllr Munro has resigned from the Council due to family commitments; she will not be standing at the forthcoming election.

The Chairman stated that the children from the Comprehensive School wish to carry out a litter pick. An appropriate safe route will be selected and their efforts will be well appreciated.

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported that he is working with Jill Matthews of StreetScene to update the map showing the locations of all of the refuse and dog waste bins in the parish; the results of this will help decide locations and requirement of bins going forward.

He is also carrying out a study on the possibility of improving the recycling process within the parish. This may be difficult, but when he has completed his appraisal, he will report back to the council.

13. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The speed through Hurworth is continuing to drop, with the latest figures showing 22.3 mph on Roundhill Road and 28 mph on the A167 passing the Comet Inn.

Full details of the traffic density and speed are shown, along with graphic interpretations on the HPC website. Our thanks go to Mr John Hedley who extracts the data and prepares these excellent reports.

The road signs which were incorrect have now been corrected by DBC.

The traffic island near the Otter and Fish has been damaged and will be getting repaired. **Action Clerk ref MAR 13.1**

14. Crime and Security Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

There is no Crime Report for February 2023. Our local PCSO has been promoted, and we will be getting a new PCSO assigned shortly.

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

In the absence of Cllr Crisp it was reported that the last vacant plot at Strait Lane has now been taken.

16. Matters of Interest

a. Strait Lane allotment fence – There has been good progress on the construction of the fence. The project Manager is pleased with the quality of the work to date., and work should be completed within the next two weeks, weather dependent.

b. Plaque on the Village Green – A location for the plaque at Lime Cottage has been identified, but not finalised. The situation with the plaque for the Village Green has been postponed while various opinions are being sought. This may be left for the new Council to determine.

- c. **Village Green Flagpole** – The post has been ordered. Cllr Russell is arranging to install the post when it arrives. The flag has been delivered.
 - d. **Beech Tree Carving Project** – Cllr Forster reported that no progress has been made, but she suggested that the wood carving group should make a presentation to the Council. It was agreed that this will be postponed until the new Council is in place starting in May 2023.
 - e. **Chronicle** - The Chairman reported that he has only received two articles from the councillors. So, due to insufficient number of articles being submitted, there are no plans to publish a Parish Chronicle at this time.
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17. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for February 2023, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable February 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cancelled cheque	103805	Cancelled	0.00
Oaktree windows	103806	Grange windows replacement	1500.00
Steve Ragg CDALC	103807	Retirement contribution	200.00
Eden Landscapes	103808	Allotment fence contract	500.00
Eden Landscapes	103809	Allotment fence contract	674.00
P Robinson	103810	Salary	607.90
P D Allan	103811	Salary	1152.40
Inland Revenue	103812	PAYE	443.60
P D Allan	103813	Admin expenses	29.16
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Works Loan Board	DD	Property loan payment	258.62
Total expenses for February 2023			<u>£5,367.98</u>

18. Financial Report

The Financial report to 28th February 2023 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report as at 28th February 2023															
BLUE = Allocated	BLUE = Allocated				Ringfenced funds £12,689										
	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Total	Budget	
Revenue														2022-2023	
Precept	59000												59000	59000	
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796						3400	8179	8200	
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			56			45	245	650	
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0	
Allotment rent & Music Revenue										460	560	500	1520	1180	
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	56	460	560	3945	81691	69030	
Expenditure															
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1995	2114	2033	2204	2114	24661	23800	
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	336	136	284	31	220	3897	4060	
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	1854	419	1654		450	4759	5000	
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64			98		370	4244	5500	
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200		398		200	600	10851	10000	
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	0		2107	0	1174	2000	9272	12000	
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	993			1250	0	8477	3000	
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	68	10	68		600	1856	3000	
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0						200	200	3000	
Paths/ Grit/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494					250	1179	2000	
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0		285			250	1379	1400	
Handyman	0		0			100	160	45				200	505	1500	
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0						55	500	
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000	499		258		1015	517	
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	217	584	8	250		1955	0	
Total Expenses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	10886	3508	6552	4145	5367	7254	74305	0	
													7386	75277	
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	90997	87489	80993	77308	72501		-6247	
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-10886	-3508	-6496	-3685	-4807	-3309	12689		
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	90,997	87,489	80,993	77,308	72,501	69,192	Ringed		

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the financial year end is 31st March.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had made four attempts to contact Bellway Homes regarding the ‘Welcome to Hurworth’ notice which they had promised to erect on their land. Their office in Yarm Road has closed, and it appears that they have no intention of fulfilling their promise. The council agreed that we would go ahead and make other arrangements. **Action Clerk MAR 18.1**

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The Beer Pigs played at the Grange on Saturday 25th February, and certainly brought the house down with several encores. The event was an absolute sell out with over 160 tickets sold, and bar takings were very good too. Graham Wylie has been asked, already, to book them again for early next year.

b. Village Hall – The Village Hall Chairman and Secretary were in the public gallery and gave the following report:

The Village Hall continues to host the monthly cinema on your doorstep the first Sunday of every month. In the winter months (up to and including April) we provide home-made soup and bread from 2pm and the film from 3pm - all by donation.

The next quiz is scheduled for 17th March but is already full.

Charlotte Potter, a young up and coming international soprano, will perform in All Saints Church. Accompanied by the talented Alison Gill on piano. Charlotte will perform music from opera to musical theatre on Saturday 15th April, tickets are £10 each (available now) and refreshments in the interval are by donation. All proceeds will be split 50/50 with All Saints Church.

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Leigh reported:

The £2k loan to fund the firework display has been repaid ahead of the agreed date, to the Council.

The club are in the process of resolving the planning issues with the container on the sports field and are hoping to get a positive result for all parties involved.

The club has updated their policy and club guidelines to comply with the latest Governance regulations.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- a. The Chairman informed the meeting that the South Durham Model Engineers, who operate the miniature railway at Hurworth Grange have received the grant of £2.900, which they will use to construct a new platform on the railway site.
- b. The Kissing Gate at Hurworth Grange has still not been repaired and is now in worse condition. The Clerk had reported this to DBC when the damage first occurred and will follow the matter up with DBC. **Action Clerk ref MAR 20.1**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:55pm