



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 6th October 2022, starting at 7:00pm
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr David Crisp, and Cllr Bree Stamp.

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Tostevin, and 3 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

- a. A course was held at Hurworth Grange, attended by Councillors from Neasham, Middleton St George and Hurworth Parish Councils.

The course was conducted by Mr Luke Swinhoe and set out the principles of being 'A Good Councillor'. The Chairman found the course both interesting and enlightening. However, only three councillors from Hurworth attended. Two councillors apologised that they could not attend and asked for details of forthcoming training.

- b. The Council had contacted DBC about the venue to the elections in May 2023, suggesting that Hurworth Grange would be an ideal electoral voting centre.

Two DBC Electoral Department Managers visited the Grange and agreed that the facility is ideal. However, with the current electoral boundary lines, this means that the position of the Grange is not central; the two centres at the Primary School and Linden Court better serve the existing registered voters' distribution. Hence there will be no change in May 2023, but when the electoral boundaries change after the next election, Hurworth Grange will be considered.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Dorothy Oughton and Cllr Amanda Oughton.

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp – Allotment
- Cllr Stamp - Allotment

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 1st September 2022

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

5. Update on Actions

- a. Investigate inaccessible pathway and report to the DBC Countryside Department for their attention - **Action Cllr Janine Forster ref APR 13.1** - Matter is now closed.
- b. Cllr Tostevin suggested that the Grange cameras could be connected to the Darlington Council camera network - **Action Cllr Tostevin ref MAY 15.1** – This is ongoing, with discussions between DBC and the HCA Manager. Matter closed.
- c. Report bus stop, on the Green, to Arriva (it needs urgent attention as it is leaning significantly over to the road) - **Action Clerk ref SEPT 10.1** – The post has been repaired. Matter is now closed.
- d. Contact Rockliffe Hall Hotel to discuss overhanging trees on resident's property and ensure that the necessary works are completed - **Action Clerk ref SEPT 10.2** – The Clerk visited Rockliffe Hotel Maintenance Manager and he explained that the offending tree has a TPO on it. He agreed to go and visit the resident to discuss the matter further. Planning permission has been requested to allow the required tree works to be carried out. Matter is now closed.
- e. Update on progress to the request for a speed monitor at the Birches on Strait Lane (Cllr Tostevin was making enquiries on this request) - **Action Clerk ref SEPT 14.1** – Ongoing. Matter remains open.

6. Ward Councillor's Update

- a. Cllr Tostevin reported that there have been further discussions about the Roundhill Road traffic calming arrangements, following recent accidents. However, both the Police and DBC agree that the current installation is in accordance with current road calming regulations, and therefore no changes are being considered. Cllr Tostevin added that, if anyone witnesses an accident, in the traffic calming, that they need to report it to the Police; if a significant number of accidents are reported, then the matter will have to be re-investigated.
- b. Discussions are ongoing between DBC and Arriva regarding the current bus service and plans for the service in 2023. The advice from DBC is that HPC should not commit the Section 106 funding until the future bus service route and frequency has been agreed.
- c. There have been several complaints about the state of the pathway between Fox Close and the main road. The pathway is in an extreme state of disrepair and poses a significant trip hazard. However, the land appears to be owned by the original estate developer, meaning that neither DBC nor HPC are responsible for maintenance of the path. Upon Cllr Tostevin's advice, the Council agreed to get the path repaired. Proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie, seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie, and passed unanimously. **Action Clerk ref OCT 6.1**
- d. Cllr Tostevin informed the Council that the Appeal Hearing for the planning application for the traveller site on Neasham Road will be held on 15th November. It is open for residents and councillors to attend. The window for objections is now closed, and due to the length of time that this matter has been ongoing, it was unclear whether the Council had submitted an objection. The Clerk advised that they would look back through the records to check into this further. **Action Clerk ref OCT 6.2**
- e. Cllr Tostevin informed that she and Councillor Chou have £1,000 each which can be donated to one or more community groups or projects.

7. Public Participation

A resident raised the concerns over the traffic speed outside the secondary school, where there is congestion at school start and end times. The suggestion is to install a speed bump that would be severe enough to slow vehicles down to 20mph or lower.

Cllr Tostevin responded by stating that DBC has already carried out surveys and an assessment has been completed. There are plans to lower the speed limit, but this is unlikely to be implemented this year.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would provide a grant to support an individual? Their daughter, who has excelled in her sport, may have the opportunity to represent the UK in America next year. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council does not provide grant funding, and that funding awarded is an actual donation that supports community events, not for individuals.

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications

Cllr Willis gave the following report:-

Three planning requests

- **Neasham Road/Snipe Lane housing development** - Demolition of farm and outbuildings to clear area for new housing development – ongoing
- **12 Beckside Road (on the new Miller development)** - Erection of a single storey rear extension
- **12 Evesham Drive** - Erection of child's playhouse (this is a retrospective application as the child's house has already been erected)

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

- White lines around Blind Lane junction have been completed
- Still concerned that drains have not been fully cleaned – road still floods at start of the Green
- Concerns regarding footpath between Hurworth Road and Fox Close in a poor state and proving difficult for wheelchair access – this matter was dealt with under 'Ward Councillor's Update'.

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster was unable to attend the meeting.

Cllr Lynn Wylie raised a concern regarding several large piles of chippings near the trees alongside the all-weather path at Hurworth Grange. Cllr Foster has left them there so that they can be put along the pathway and has arranged for Eric Miller to spread the chippings with his tractor, as the volume is too great for it to be carried out manually.

11. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp

Cllr Stamp reported:

1.-Village-Diary

- Every Monday by 5pm I send the events, that have been shared with me, to the D&S Times for the village section. In the most part, this is the youth activities as I am aware of. If there are further events that need to be publicised, people are welcome to email village.editorial@gmail.com

2.-Youth-events

- The PTA (Laura Walton is the Chair) has a lot of events upcoming including:

- a Halloween party (primary school only),
- Christmas Fair (based at the primary school but all welcome) and
- the Christmas Gathering is Saturday 26th November on The Green including Carols, bauble hanging and official turning on of the Christmas Tree lights.

The Council agreed to make a contribution to the costs of the Christmas Gathering on The Green.

It is requested that Mr Martin Harrison is on site, to assist with the electrics and general logistics. **Action Clerk ref OCT 11.1**

Cllr Munro, in her absence, reported that several youngsters have requested whether a rail can be added to the skate park. It was suggested that Cllr Munro obtains quotes for the work. **Action Cllr Munro ref OCT 11.2**

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported there is significant dog waste being left on the Hurworth Albion playing fields, meaning that the pitches have to be cleaned before each training session or match can take place. Can we ask StreetScene for an extra bin? Cllr Stamp informed the meeting that the additional promised bin has still not been deployed. **Action Clerk/ Cllr Bree Stamp ref OCT 12.1**

13. Parish Walks and Right of Way

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

Following a recent conversation with DBC's Public Rights of Way Officer, Bethan Hacker, she has informed me that she is continuing to pursue the Blind Lane landowner, to bring the changed access issue to a conclusion. Progress has been much slower than she had hoped, and I will keep in touch with her and will continue to provide updates on progress made.

Cllr Crisp raised a concern about the undergrowth encroaching onto Snipe Lane (near to Geneva Woods) and asked who would be responsible for clearing the path. The Clerk advised that it would be the responsibility of the DBC Public Rights of Way Officer and that he will contact them to request that the pathway is cleared. **Action Clerk ref OCT 13.1**

The Clerk reported that the kissing gate at Hurworth Grange is broken and requires repair. Bethan Hacker has been informed.

14. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton was absent.

a. Traffic Report

The full traffic statistics and graphics are shown separately on the HPC web site.

15. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton

Cllr Amanda Oughton was absent.

The full report with details is available on the HPC web site.

16. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported:

There are six people on the Waiting List for an allotment at Strait Lane. Most of the new applicants are from the new estates including the ESH estate opposite the Arena.

A skip has been ordered for Strait Lane for Friday 28th October.

A Halloween Party is being organised at Strait Lane allotments for Sunday, 30th October. All are welcome.

The AGM is being organised at the Grange on Wednesday, 30th November starting at 6:30pm.

The pathway hedge surrounding the allotments needs cutting now that the nesting season is finished. **Action Clerk ref OCT 16.1**

Chippings are required along the pathway that runs around the Strait Lane allotment perimeter. **Action Clerk ref OCT 16.2**

17. Matters of Interest

a. Grange Guttering –

The Chairman reported that the guttering replacement is underway and should be completed with ten days.

b. Plaque on the Village Green –

The requirements have been defined and a brass plate, appropriately scripted, will be installed – **Action Cllr Dorothy Oughton and Clerk ref OCT 17.1**

c. Firework Display on 4th November -

Cllr Leigh informed the meeting that all the arrangements were in hand and the necessary permissions and insurance is in place. Hurworth Albion request that the Council lend them £2,000 to purchase the fireworks, and this will repaid after the event from attendance revenue; 1000 people are expected to attend. Further to this the Council will donate £500 to help cover the other costs including portoloos, etc.

A motion was tabled Cllr Lynn Wylie, Seconded by Cllr Graham Wylie that the loan of £2,000 be made and the Section 137 Award of £500 be made to help to facilitate this community event. The motion was passed unanimously, with Cllr Leigh not allowed to vote, having declared his interest. **Action Clerk ref OCT 17.2**

d. Request from South Durham Society of Model Engineers –

The Chairman read out a letter from the model Engineers, requesting some assistance with their project to install a new platform at the miniature railway in the Grange grounds. The total project cost has been estimated at £5,000.

After discussion, the Council agreed to make a Section 137 Award of £500. Proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie, seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie, and passed unanimously. **Action Clerk ref OCT 17.3**

There was further discussion in regard to the £5000 cost being rather high for a relatively small area of paving. Cllr Graham Wylie has put forward suggestions, to the Clerk, of who to contact to obtain further quotes. Further to this, the Clerk has offered to investigate availability of grants for the work. **Action Clerk ref OCT 17.4**

18. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for September 2022, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable September 2022			
Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
M Harrison	103739	Defibs, benches	461.00
M Harrison	103740	Benches	340.00
G Wylie	103741	Poster	10.08
M Harrison	103742	Gutters	160.00
J T Atkinson	103743	Gutters and bench timber	396.35
WAVE	103744	Allotment water	152.03
G Wylie	103745	Poster	10.08
P Robinson	103746	Salary	535.65
P D Allan	103747	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103748	PAYE	351.00
P D Allan expenses	103749	Queens floral tribute & Admin exs	100.80
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Cancelled cheque	103750		0.00
M Harrison	103751	Guttering & desk	488.00
Total expenditure in September 2022			£4,234.89
Revenue received			
DBC contribution to skateboard project			10,000
Litter Picker refund			2,796
Bank interest			35
Total receipts for September 2022			£12,831

19. Financial Report

The Financial report to 30th September 2022 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report as at 30th September 2022														
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														<u>2022-2023</u>
Precept	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796					3400		8179	8200
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			10		10	0	164	650
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0
Allotment rent										1180			1180	1180
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	10	1180	3410	0	81270	69030
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	2050	1950	1950	2050	1950	1950	24105	23800
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	150	240	300	300	160	220	4076	4060
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	270	500	560	435	400	650	3197	5000
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	250	500	485	500	500	370	6317	5500
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	1500	300	500	500	300	500	10053	10000
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	800	400	1500		600		7291	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188			40	878	2000	60	0	360	0	300	6576	3000
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	60	60	60	650	120	2060	3000
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0		500		300		200	1000	3000
Paths/ Grt/ Highways		0		150	285	0	488			320		250	1493	2000
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	220	100			200		1364	1400
Handyman	0		0			100	100	100	200	100	100	100	800	1500
Parish Walks & Training						15	0		200				215	500
Capital Expend					258		0			259			517	517
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	150						736	0
Total Expses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	8038	4710	5755	5184	4860	4660	69800	0
													11470	75277
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	93845	89135	83390	79386	77936		-6247
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-8038	-4710	-5745	-4004	-1450	-4660	12689	
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	93,845	89,135	83,390	79,386	77,936	73,276	Ringed	

20. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The Hurworth Grange Country Fair was a fantastic success, with a good turn out and lovely weather for the day too. Feedback from the stall holders and entertainment acts has been very positive and we already have several bookings for the 2023 Hurworth Grange Country Fair; planning will start in earnest from January, but ideas are being pursued now which will hopefully come to fruition and make next year's show even bigger and better. 'Thank you' emails have been sent to all the stall holders and entertainment acts, but I would also like to say a "big thank you" to everyone who supported and attended the show.

As previously reported, the EPICH group were disbanded during the summer, but the group, now called Hurworth Village Bees, are continuing their work within the Grange grounds. As with EPICH, Pat Simpson has provided a detailed report to show what work the group will be looking to complete over the next 6 months: the report was shared with the Parish Councillors ahead of the meeting and will be shared with members of the HCA ahead of the next HCA meeting to be held on 19th October.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported that the Village Hall is very busy, with many events between now at the New Year. Details are advertised in the church newsletter and the Village Hall Facebook page.

c. Hurworth Albion FC – No report as Cllr Russell did not attend the meeting.

d. Environment Agency - It is noted that Cllr Peter Foster has been, once again, elected as the Hurworth representative for the Environment Agency, as recently confirmed by the agency.

21. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- Cllr Crisp raised a concern regarding the state of the Knellgate and asked if this matter could be looked into with a letter being sent to the residents responsible for the upkeep of Knellgate. **Action Clerk ref OCT 21.1**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm