



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held  
on Thursday 5 January 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 Kelvin Russell, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Lynsey Munro, Cllr David Crisp.

**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 and wished everyone a good New Year.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

- Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Peter Foster and Cllr Bree Stamp.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp - Allotments

**4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

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

## 5. Update on Actions

- a. 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.** An estimate of the cost to purchase a pole and install it is approx. £350. Cllr Munro tabled a motion to purchase and install the pole, seconded by Cllr Crisp. The motion was passed unanimously. Action closed as an update will be provided via Cllr Munro's report.
- b. Cllr Munro said she will investigate further to try and identify a suitable location for this and associated costs - **Action Cllr Munro ref NOV 11.1** – A suitable location has not been identified, and it was agreed that Cllr Munro would liaise with the Grange Centre Manager, to select a site. Action to remain open.
- c. Update on new waste bins in and around the new houses - **Action Cllr Leigh ref Oct 12.1** No progress. Cllr Leigh will provide dates when he will be available to meet Brian Graham at Streetscene. Action closed as update will be provided via Cllr Leigh's report.
- d. Junction white lines on Bryans Close and Lychgate - **Action Clerk ref Nov 13.1** No response from DBC. Action to remain open.
- e. The pathway at Church Row is in poor condition and the pathway between Elmfield Road and The Chase also requires attention. The Clerk will contact DBC Highways to discuss - **Action Clerk ref DEC 14.1** Awaiting a response to the letter, sent 18<sup>th</sup> December, to Andrew Casey at DBC Highways. Action to remain open.
- f. Following the vote taken at the December meeting, the Council voted to install a bronze plaque to replace the current plaque, on The Green, commemorating those who perished in the 1645 plague. The Clerk will make the arrangements to place the order with JFK - **Action Clerk ref DEC 17.1** - The plaque has been ordered. Action closed.

## 6. Ward Councillor's Update

- The Ward Councillors were not present at this time.

## 7. Public Participation

- No topics were raised.

## 8. Hurworth Grange – Change of Lease

There is to be a change in the management of Hurworth Grange.

The existing charity named Hurworth Community Association is to become Hurworth Grange Community Interest Organisation, which will be guaranteed by the directors of the limited liability organisation. All of the assets of HCA will be transferred into the newly formed

Community group. This will protect the trustees from unlimited financial exposure should the community centre becomes bankrupt. The transfer has gone through the legal process and has been agreed by the Charity Commission.

In due course, the lease between HPC, who are the owners, and the new organisation will require changing.

The Chairman put forward a motion, seconded by Cllr Crisp, and the vote (completed via email) was carried by 11 votes to 1 against.

## Councillor Reports

### 9. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

#### Cllr Willis reported:

Planning – December 2022

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

### 10. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

#### Cllr Willis reported:

No progress regarding the Traffic Calming Audit Report – have asked Lorraine for an update, but no 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 – Cllr Willis to raise this matter with DBC.

New footpath on Wayside almost complete.

There is a large quantity of leaves on the footpaths (although not the only areas affected, Friars Pardon, Croft Road and Hurworth Road were discussed), which when wet/ frozen, can become very treacherous to walk on. Cllr Tostevin agreed to take this up with DBC, to see if StreetScene will remove them - **Action Cllr Tostevin ref JAN 10.1**

### 11. Trees – Cllr Foster

#### Cllr Foster was not present.

The Clerk reported that the Tree Surveys have been completed and received by the Council, covering both the village and the Hurworth Grange. These will be reviewed, and a copy will be sent to Zurich Insurance.

No complaints or concerns have been received regarding trees in December 2022.

## **12. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp & Cllr Munro**

**Cllr Stamp reported:** Not present and submitted a report that there was nothing to report in December 2022.

**Cllr Munro reported:** There was an instance of anti-social behaviour in the Spar, which has been dealt with and no further action required.

## **13. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh**

**Cllr Leigh reported:**

In the process of starting to plan the Q1 inspection of all the benches from the village with a plan of walking all benches once a quarter. Following the recent vandalism (set on fire) of the picnic bench, at the Grange, it is my recommendation that the Council should not replace it at this time; the area attracts anti-social behaviour (drinking and drug taking), and there is also the concern that a replacement bench could be vandalised in the same way.

An inspection of the fountain (opposite the Spar) has been completed, and there are no signs of damage or need for repair at this stage. All Council notice boards at the entrances to the village are in good repair.

A member of the public has been in touch regarding the condition of the garages at Sanderson Road. Their issue was that following Darlington Council removing weeds and vegetation, they felt that the ground looked like it had been ploughed when it should be hard solid ground. An inspection has been completed and agree that the area could use some investment to make the ground better and prevent vegetation from growing through. This matter was passed to Cllr Tostevin to discuss with DBC – **Action Cllr Tostevin ref JAN 13.1**

There has been no response to my email to Darlington Council regarding the replacement of bins. The Clerk advised that a meeting with Brian Graham – Head of Environmental Services, can be arranged, at a time to suit all, to discuss this matter further.

## **14. Highways and Traffic**

**Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:**

### **a. Traffic Report**

Full details of the traffic in Hurworth throughout December 2022, together with schematics and average speed rates are available on the HPC website.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton said that the road signs on Neasham Road and Strait Lane had still not been repaired or corrected. Also, there is a damaged bollard on Strait Lane. The Clerk agreed to make arrangements for the required works to be complete. **Action Clerk ref JAN 14.1**

## **15. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton**

**Cllr Amanda Oughton provided an overview of the Crime Report.**

## December Crime Report

Suspicious behaviour / Insecure	3
Vehicle criminal damage	1
RTC	2
Highway disruption	1
Anti-Social Behaviour	1
False alarm	1
Concern. Collapse/ injury	1

Vandalism of the bus shelter library was not formally reported.  
The full report is available on the HPC website.

## 16. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

### Cllr Crisp reported:

Allotment holders are due to paying their annual rent: payable by 31st January.

Three plots have become available, in the last two months, and new tenants are already in place.

We expect to clear the ‘Waiting List’ when we finalise the rents on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## 17. Matters of Interest

### a. Strait Lane allotment fence –

Four quotations were received, and the contract has been awarded to the lowest quotation, which is Eden Landscapes.  
An official contract has been prepared and the documents will be signed on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### b. Plaque on the Village Green –

The order for the plaques has been placed and we are waiting for the final proof of the wording; once this is received and checked, the order will be confirmed with the sign company – JFK.

## 18. Accounts for Payment

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

<b><u>Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable December 2022</u></b>			
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No.</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Friends of Hurworth Primary School	103781	Section 137 award - Village Green	300.00
Johnston Trees	103782	Tree work	418.50
G Wylie	103783	Software licence	22.45
P D Allan new computer	103784	New PC for office	599.00
All Saints Church	103785	Donation for tables	98.00
G Wylie	103786	Poster	11.88
A C Metals	103787	Skip hire for allotments	264.00
Wave	103788	Water rates allotments	25.00
JFK Signs	103789	New plaques for Village Green and Lime Cottage	2528.52
P Robinson	103790	Salary	535.65
P D Allan	103791	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103792	PAYE	351.00
D Crisp	103793	Allotment lawn mower fuel	40.00
P D Allan admin expenses	103794	Namesco and admin. Expenses	128.20
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
<b>Total expenses for December 2022</b>			<b><u>£6,552.10</u></b>

## 19. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report as at 31st December 2022														
BLUE=Allocated	BLUE=Allocated													
	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
<i>Revenue</i>														<i>2022-2023</i>
<i>Precept</i>	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796					3400		8179	8200
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			56		40	0	240	650
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0
Allotment rent										1160			1160	1180
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>59000</b>	<b>3756</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>12831</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>3440</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81326</b>	<b>69030</b>
<i>Expenditure</i>														
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1995	2114	2050	1950	1950	24260	23800
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	336	136	180	160	220	3922	4060
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	1854	419	435	400	650	4140	5000
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64			200	200	370	4546	5500
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200		398		300	300	10651	10000
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	0		2107	1750	600		8448	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	993		360	0	300	7887	3000
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	68	10	60	650	120	2018	3000
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0				300		200	500	3000
Paths/ Grit/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494			494		250	1673	2000
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0		285		200		1329	1400
Handyman	0		0			100	160	45		100	100	100	605	1500
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0						55	500
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000	499	259			1016	517
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	217	584				1697	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6578</b>	<b>8244</b>	<b>7448</b>	<b>3865</b>	<b>6222</b>	<b>4234</b>	<b>10886</b>	<b>3508</b>	<b>6552</b>	<b>6188</b>	<b>4560</b>	<b>4460</b>	<b>72747</b>	<b>0</b>
													8579	75277
<b>Funds in Hand less ringed</b>	<b>61804</b>	<b>114226</b>	<b>109738</b>	<b>102299</b>	<b>98534</b>	<b>93286</b>	<b>101883</b>	<b>90997</b>	<b>87489</b>	<b>80993</b>	<b>75965</b>	<b>74845</b>		<b>-6247</b>
<b>Revenue less expenses</b>	<b>52422</b>	<b>-4488</b>	<b>-7439</b>	<b>-3765</b>	<b>-5248</b>	<b>8597</b>	<b>-10886</b>	<b>-3508</b>	<b>-6496</b>	<b>-5028</b>	<b>-1120</b>	<b>-4460</b>	<b>12689</b>	
<i>Funds in Hand</i>	<i>114,226</i>	<i>109,738</i>	<i>102,299</i>	<i>98,534</i>	<i>93,286</i>	<i>101,883</i>	<i>90,997</i>	<i>87,489</i>	<i>80,993</i>	<i>75,965</i>	<i>74,845</i>	<i>70,385</i>	<i>Ringed</i>	

## 20. Association Reports

### a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The second Hurworth Grange Christmas Fair, held Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, was a massive success. Just over Forty stalls attended, and the Fair was well attended by the public. The Coffee Pot had a really good day too, taking just under £1300. There has been a lot of interest registered for December 2023, and it is hoped that the Fair will be held on the first Sunday of December.

The second Grange Heritage Orchard Wassail will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January from 4pm. Last year was a tremendous success and enjoyed by well over 100 hundred people. We are planning for up to 150 people to attend this year. The Coffee Pot have agreed to open, and we will have the Black Diamond Morris dancers, along with singing in the courtyard after the ‘waking up the orchard’ ceremony.

The Adam Carter Elvis Tribute Act is back at the Grange on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January; at the time of writing, tickets for Saturday are sold out, and only a few tickets remaining for Friday. After the past couple of years being affected by Covid, it is good news that this event remains as popular as it was before the Pandemic.

Cllr Graham Wylie has booked the Beer Pigs (a well-known and hugely popular covers band from Middlesbrough) to perform at the Grange on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets, priced at £15 each and are available to purchase from the Grange, are selling very quickly.

### b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

**Cllr Crisp reported that the hall has been very busy during the festive period.**

The Line Dancing group has ceased, as the instructor cannot continue. However, this event has been replaced by a Latin Dancing group.

The hall has arranged several events, which are all advertised on the Village Hall website.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January. Arrangements to host a street party on the Village Green for the Coronation of King Charles III is on the agenda.

### c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Russell reported:

The shelter to house the generator has now been constructed and the clubhouse is able to sell food and drinks, thereby generating revenue.

Recently, following bad weather, the surrounding roads got very muddy from the cars leaving the car park area. Usually when the carpark is in a poor state, the matches are cancelled. However, in this instance, the referee arrived ahead of the Hurworth Albion staff, and pronounced that this match should go ahead, as the pitch was playable (the referee does not have to consider the condition of the car parking facilities). The club offered their apologies and cleaned up the road as quickly as possible.

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### **21. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)**

- The Chairman informed that there are only 3 more meetings before the next election of the Parish Council in May. He requested that Councillors should let him know, by email, if they intend/ do not intend to stand for election for the next four-year period.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 pm**

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