



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 1st December 2022, starting at 7:00pm
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

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

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou and no members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Munro.

3. Declaration of Interests

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

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 3rd November 2022

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

5. Update on Actions

- a. Update on progress to the request for a speed monitor at the Birches on Strait Lane – Cllr Tostevin as reported previously, DBC have no plans to install a speed monitor at the Birches on Strait Lane. The Parish Council are investigating the costs, with the required approval from DBC Highways, of taking the responsibility on of installing the speed monitor. Ahead of any final decision, Cllr Tostevin will check with DBC that this is allowed. **Action Cllr Tostevin ref SEPT 14.1 – Action closed.**
- b. 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** Cllr Munro was absent, so the Action will remain open.
- c. 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** Cllr Munro was absent, so the Action will remain open.
- d. Cllr Munro said she will investigate a suitable location for a basketball hoop and associated costs - **Action Cllr Munro ref NOV 11.1** Cllr Munro was absent, so the Action will remain open.
- e. Concern about the undergrowth encroaching onto Snipe Lane (near to Geneva Woods). The Clerk to contact the DBC Public Rights of Way Officer to request that the pathway is cleared. Work has now been carried out to improve this area. **Action Clerk ref OCT 13.1 – Action closed.**
- f. Chippings are required along the pathway that runs around the Strait Lane allotment perimeter. This has now been carried out - **Action Clerk ref OCT 16.2 – Action closed.**
- g. Junction white lines on Bryans Close and Lychgate - **Action Clerk ref Nov 13.1** DBC Highways have been requested to carry out this work, with no response to date and the Clerk will follow this up.
- h. Obtain quotation for stone for the Village Green plaque - **Action Clerk ref Nov 16.1** Quotation obtained, and a decision will be taken at this meeting.
- i. Update on new waste bins in and around the new houses - **Action Cllr Leigh ref Oct 12.1** No progress, and the Clerk will arrange a meeting with the Head of StreetScene.

6. Ward Councillor's Update

Cllr Tostevin reported:

1. The Boundary changes are reaching their final consultation.
Hurworth Parish Council has decided not to make any comments, but any residents or individual Councillors can log their comments on the Consultation website. The boundary changes are to distribute the electoral volumes more fairly in the constituencies, so Hurworth, Neasham and Middleton St George will be reassigned into Stockton West instead of Sedgefield.
This change will make no difference to the relationship between Hurworth and Darlington in terms of the services provided by StreetScene and DBC. It is only the Government election, when residents vote for their MP, hence the Parish Council will not be directly affected and will make 'no comment'.

2. The planning hearing for the construction on Neasham Road has been postponed.
3. The free parking for 2 hours in Darlington has been extended to be continued for another three months.

7. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

8. Finance Meeting Report

The Finance meeting was held on 22nd November. Six Councillors attended.

A copy of the presentation was given to the Councillors who had not attended.

The projects for 2023 were put forward and discussed, and the meeting approved the new schedule.

A proposal was tabled by Cllr Graham Wylie, and Seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton that the Precept for 2023 should remain the same as the current year at £59,000. The vote was taken and passed with seven votes in favour and two abstentions. The clerk will inform DBC.

Councillor Reports

9. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis was not present, and no report was submitted.

10. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis was not present, and no report was submitted.

11. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported:

1. The large Beech tree in Hurworth Grange has been felled. The trunk has been left and it was agreed that this would be professionally carved as a memorial, as the tree was such a significant landmark in the Grange grounds. Cllr Janine Forster undertook the project of arranging the design and work to be carried out on the carving.

2. Three oak trees have been donated to the Council, and these will be planted in the west side of the Grange grounds and within the centre area of the miniature railway, to replace trees recently felled in this area.

3. There is a potential claim being made by a resident in Fox Close about a tree root encroaching their property. A Loss Assessor has visited the site and will be acting through Zurich Insurance to resolve this situation.

4. The trees have been pruned at Hawkswood.
12. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp Cllr Stamp reported: The Christmas Gathering held on the Village Green on 26th November was very successful and well supported by both children and adults. The Christmas tree lights were switched on and Christmas Carols were sung while children hung baubles on the tree. The Council thanked Laura Watson and her team for their effort in making this an excellent community event. Cllr Munro reported: Cllr Munro was not present.
13. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh Cllr Leigh reported: Nothing to report but will be attending meeting with StreetScene to pursue the requirement for bins.
14. Highways and Traffic Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported: a. Traffic Report The speed statistics are very encouraging, with the average speed on Roundhill Road dropping to 24mph in November. Full details of the statistics from the four speed monitors are available with graphics on the HPC web site. Thanks go to Mr John Hedley who collates the data from the monitors each month. b. 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
15. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton Cllr Amanda Oughton provided an overview of the Crime Report for November. The full report with details is available on the HPC web site. Sadly, the library at the bus stop outside All Saints Church was damaged by a small group of youths. This has been reinstated by Cllr Crisp.
16. Allotments – Cllr Crisp Cllr Crisp reported: The AGM was held on 30th November. All the allotments are occupied and there is a waiting list at Strait Lane with four names, and at Grange also with four names.

The rent for the year at £20 produced a revenue of £1140, and the expenses incurred totalled £996.58.

The rent for 2023 will remain at £20.

The fence surrounding the Strait Lane allotments is going to be replaced, as it is now in a poor condition after many repairs.

Two Fun Days are going to be organised again in 2023, and the atmosphere on the allotments is in very good spirits.

17. Matters of Interest

a. Plaque on the Village Green –

Cllr Lynn Wylie updated the meeting on the progress made in deciding the future of the plaque on the Village Green.

A quotation has been received for the purchase and installation of a granite stone with engraving as a complete replacement of the existing plaque, the cost would be £1,600.

The quotation for the Cast bronze plaque which would be bonded onto the existing stone is £2025.

A vote was taken and the Council elected to install the cast bronze solution. The Clerk will make the arrangements to place the order with JFK. **Action Clerk ref DEC 17.1**

18. Accounts for Payment

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable November 2022

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Wylie	103769	Poster	10.08
national Platforms	103770	Platform for guttering project	964.15
Johnston Trees	103771	Beech tree felled in Grange	1854.00
Namesco	103772	Licence	25.19
M Harrison	103773	Defib work	45.00
HCA	103774	Newsletter and copying	73.00
M Harrison	103775	Guttering project	150.00
P Robinxon	103776	Salary	440.70
P S Allan	103777	Salary	1227.40
Inland Revenue	103778	PAYE	327.40
P D Allan	103779	Defib pads, wreaths, etc & files	341.41
J T Atkinson	103780	Guttering project	47.44
Barlays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
			£5,508.07

19. Financial Report

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

BLUE = AllocatedBLUE = 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	Bud
Revenue														2022
Precept	59000												59000	5
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796					3400		8179	
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			40		40	0	224	
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	
Allotment rent										1160			1160	
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	40	1160	3440	0	81310	6
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1995	1950	2050	1950	1950	24096	2
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	336	300	180	160	220	4086	
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	1854	560	435	400	650	4281	
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64		220	200	200	370	4766	
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200		500		300	300	10753	
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	0		1850	3500	600		9941	
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	993	650	360	0	300	8537	
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	68		60	650	120	2008	
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0				300		200	500	
Paths/ Grit/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494			494		250	1673	
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0				200		1044	
Handyman	0		0			100	160	45	200	100	100	100	805	
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0						55	
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000		259			517	
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	217					1113	
Total Expnses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	10886	3508	6230	7938	4560	4460	74175	7
													7135	7
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	90997	87489	81299	74521	73401		
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-10886	-3508	-6190	-6778	-1120	-4460	12689	
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	90,997	87,489	81,299	74,521	73,401	68,941	Ringed	

20. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The Christmas Fair is this Sunday (4th December), between 10am and 2pm. Just over Forty stalls are expected to attend the second Grange Christmas Fair. On the day, the Coffee Pot will be open to provide hot food and drinks.

Plans are also underway on the second Grange Heritage Orchard Wassail, which will be held on Sunday 8th 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.

Cllr Graham Wylie has booked the Beer Pigs (a well-known and hugely popular band from Middlesbrough) to perform at the Grange on Saturday 25th February. Tickets will be priced at £15 each and are available to purchase now.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

The Village Hall held their AGM on 25th November. The hall is in very good condition and the financial situation is stable.

Usage of the hall is high with many events planned and several groups using the facilities on a regular basis.

The committee are planning an ‘event’ for the Coronation in May 2023, and would like to know if the Parish Council will be organising anything. Further information will be provided early in the New Year.

The Halloween Party, organised by the allotment group, was a major success with hall full and a great time enjoyed by the children. Councillors and the Clerk were seen doing the Zombie Walk!

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Leigh reported:

Cllr Leigh reported that the firework evening was very successful, although the numbers were lower than last year.

A resident, on the Bellway estate, has lodged a complaint about the noise and smell from the generator at the pavilion. This has escalated, with DBC putting a closure notice on the pavilion. The result of this could be the cancelling of scheduled matches, as there will be inadequate changing facilities. Also, the revenue from the sale of hot drinks and snacks will be detrimentally affected.

The club is going to have to construct a shelter to house the generator, at a cost of £1,400. To help with cashflow, the club has requested that the loan of £2,000, advanced to them (by the Parish Council) prior to the firework evening, which is due for repayment on 30th November, could be extended for a few months to help them to fund the shelter.

A proposal was tabled by Cllr Graham Wylie and Seconded by Cllr Stamp that the loan repayment be extended to 28th February 2023.
The vote was carried by seven votes in favour, with two abstentions.

21. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

There was no further business.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that there are only four more meetings before the election in May 2023, and it would be helpful if any Councillors who do not intend to stand for re-election could inform the Clerk or Chairman, at their convenience.

The Chairman wished all the Councillors a very happy Christmas and closed the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm