

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange on Thursday, 1st October 2020.

Parish Councillors present:-

Cllr Graham Wylie. (Chairman), Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Elaine Hedley; Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Peter Willis co-opted in September; Cllr Lynn Wylie, **Also** Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and four members of the public attended this meeting.

327. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Julie Coulton.

328. Declarations of Interest

Cllr David Crisp – Allotments
Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA

329. Chairman's Address

- The Chair, Cllr Graham Wylie opened the meeting, by welcoming all the Councillors and members of the public who are attending the meeting, and drew attention to the distancing regulations. No agendas were handed out.
- Council vacancies. The Chairman introduced Mr Peter Willis to the meeting, and confirmed that Peter has now formally been co-opted to the Council, and has signed the Register of Acceptance.

330. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September were accepted by the Council, Proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie and Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie.

331. Public Participation

- a. A resident raised the matter of the footpath which has been promised to provide safe walking from the new Miller Homes estate to the Bellway estate. There has been no progress with this. Also the resident reiterated his previous comments that the hedgerow must be preserved, and the new pathway must observe this status.
Cllr Tostevin agreed that no progress has occurred, but promised to follow up with the Management of Miller Homes and DBC to urge them to proceed with this project.
As a temporary measure water tubs are being deployed to provide a safe walking passage.
Action - Cllr Tostevin.
- b. The same resident also expressed concern regarding the Millers Signs, and asked whether planning permission had been sought and granted, as they are an obstruction to pedestrians, forcing people into the road. **Action- The Council will investigate.**
- c. A resident expressed his concern about the cutting back of the hedgerow on Roundhill Road (to allow access to the wooden fence at a property on Evesham Drive which backs on to Roundhill Road). The remaining hedged area, along Roundhill Road, also needs trimming back as it is encroaching onto the pathway. **Action- The Council will investigate.**
- d. A resident enquired about the 20 mph zone progress. Cllr Tostevin advised that this had now been pushed out to March 2021, although a consultation period had been due to commence in September. **Action - Cllr Tostevin.**

332. Planning Applications

1. Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report regarding planning applications in the month of September 2020.

Planning applications September 2020				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	17/08/2020	14/09/2020	20/00727/FUL	None
Address	48A The Green HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2JA			
About	Erection of single storey rear extension			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	14/09/2020	14/09/2020	20/00830/DD	None
Address	House Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON DL2 1QB			
About	Determination as to whether prior approval is required for demolition of house and detached garage			
3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	14/09/2020	14/09/2020	20/00833/DD	None
Address	Newstead Farm Snipe Lane Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON DL2 1QB			
About	Determination as to whether prior approval is required for demolition of house, garage, riding stables and associated buildings			

Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that an application to construct dwellings on Neasham Road, opposite Eurojag has again been submitted. On two previous occasions this application was rejected. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to raise a formal objection. **Action-Clerk**

333. Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported as follows:-

Following his monthly inspection of trees Cllr Foster was pleased to report that the trees are in good order.

The oak tree in Fox Close has been reduced by three meters, as per the Council's decision. The trees surrounding the Grange field have had their canopies heightened to allow access of the DBC grass cutting machines. One dead tree has been removed. A tree in the Grange which had large branches growing over a resident's garden on Hunters Close has been cut back.

334. Allotment Report

Cllr David Crisp reported as follows:-

All allotments are occupied and there is a Waiting List at both Strait Lane and Hurworth Grange.

A shed on Strait Lane allotments caught fire and the fire brigade attended and put it out. It is believed that the fire was caused by a spark from a plot fire which had been burning earlier in the evening.

A rotavator has been purchased by the allotment holders. This is available for tenants to use, by contacting Cllr Crisp, who is housing this together with the strimmer and other equipment.

Replacement notice boards have been procured, and new notices will be printed for the boards including advertising the availability of the new rotavator. **Action - Chair**

A skip will be provided during the last weekend of October at Strait Lane allotments. **Action - Clerk**

335. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

a. Open Spaces Report – October 2020

Nothing to report.

b. EPICH Report – October 2020

Update on the Lychgate Orchard

The initial groundworks have now been completed, and plans are underway for what planting is required commencing Autumn and into Spring next year.

Funding – Tees Valley Nature Partnership Grant

A grant, from TVNP was been applied for and awarded to cover the cost of installing an information board at the Lychgate Orchard site to advise on EPICH's aim, what wildlife the site supports, and history of the site; funding is sufficient to help cover costs of 2 other site signs if the decision is made that they are needed (2 further sites have been mooted).

September AGM

At the AGM held on 23rd September, the following were agreed/ discussed:

- Voting on Committee Members - Pat Simpson remains as Chair, Judith Redfern remains as Vice Chair, Ken Pattison remains as Secretary and Lynn Wylie will replace Peter Allan as Treasurer; thanks were given to Peter for all his years of hard work and support.
- Ongoing Constitutional Name – it was agreed unanimously to keep the EPICH name, and to rewrite the constitution to reflect this (the constitutional name remained in the original name of 'Friends of the Community'; as did the bank account name!)

- The group have decided to move away from the more labour heavy tasks, which are mainly located around the Grange (bramble clearing, wildflower meadow), and these will be incorporated into the general maintenance at the Grange (either within Peter Foster's remit, or under DBC)
- The group want to concentrate more on the keeping the village looking good, such as tidy ups, bulb planting, promoting hedgehog and bird welfare etc.

336. Playground and Youth Affairs

a. Cllr Stamp was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the following report:-

Summary:

- Full design as seen will cost in the region of £45k
- It is on DBC land so will be maintained and PM'd by Dean and team
- We just need to raise the cash

Actions:

- Dean to liaise with Groundworks about grants
- Dean to send me a better illustration of the playpark so we can put on notice boards etc
- Bree to contact local businesses and ask if they would like to contribute/be involved
- Bree to liaise with HPC about 106 money and potential to use some as match funding or to fund the entire project
- Bree to update HPC at the next meeting

Timelines:

- Regroup with Dean in a month but keep communications open about any updates
- Once finances are secured it will take 6-8weeks to complete.

Martin Stand Project

The Chairman reported as follows:-

- In March 2020, the Minutes show that the Council agreed to award £2600 to Martin Stand's charity, so as this funding is already agreed, no further voting was required.
- Lockdown initially stopped any progress being made, but recently Martin received the go ahead to instigate the required training schedule.
- Cllr Julie Coulton will be the co-ordinator between the PC and the Project.
- Martin Stand asked for it to be noted that the Project is called 'Hurworth Detached Project', and that it should be referred to as this going forward.

337. Highways and Traffic Report

a. SpeedWatch

Cllr Hedley reported that there were three SpeedWatch sessions carried out in September, speeding offenders were reported to the police.

One new volunteer has come forward and will be welcomed to the team.

b. Traffic Statistics

The full statistical report on traffic volumes and speed are contained in the annex to the Minutes.

At the last P C Meeting Cllr Hedley asked the Council to consider purchasing two more speed monitors. These would provide a more consistent analysis of the traffic, rather than moving the monitors from location to location every month.

The Clerk having visited the Swarco factory, obtained a quotations for two monitors, which are compatible with the current units. The proposed new monitors will allow setting the speed limit at 20, 30 and 40mph; this will be necessary when the new 20mph limits are introduced next year.

The cost for the two monitors, including fixing brackets, delivery and installation is £4950. Cllr Hedley proposed a motion to purchase these two monitors, the motion was seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton, and the vote was unanimously in favour. **Action - Clerk to place the order.**

338. Matters of Interest

a. Hurworth Juniors Football Club

The Chairman reported as follows:-

An email has been received from HJFC, advising that due to Coronavirus, they have been hit by a lack of funding stream (they usually receive funding for businesses within the village, who themselves have seen reduced/ no income due to the pandemic), and only have sufficient funding to pay for referees for the remainder of the year.

£500 was previously awarded by the PC to HJFC, and the Chair proposed that, due to the reduced funding availability, the PC offer HJFC £1000, rather than the requested £500. The motion was seconded by Cllr Peter Foster, and the vote was 7 in favour with 1 abstention.

b. Second Playpark Update

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows:-

Play Area Working Party Update

Questionnaires have all been delivered, and there will be a grace period up to the 3rd October to allow for all questionnaires to be returned following the deadline of 30th September.

At the point of writing this report, the PC have received a good response to the questionnaires, with Parishioners seizing the opportunity to have their say, judging by the multitude of responses to why there should/ should not be a second play area.

The results of the questionnaire analysis, along with the decision from the village on whether to proceed with investigating a second play area, will be given at the November PC meeting.

Following the results of the questionnaire, the Working Party (Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, Chris Aston, Paul Walters and Keith Sandick) will reconvene to discuss the outcome of the questionnaire analysis and plan the next steps.

c. Craft and Produce Fair

The Chairman reported as follows:-

Despite an initial slow start on the Friday, there was a good turn out on the day of the show, with fantastic support from many people.

Thanks were given to the judges.

d. Welcome to Hurworth Signage Project

The Chairman reported as follows:-

Have received the go ahead for the signs to be installed on Neasham Road, and although rather problematic, a site has been agreed at the Croft end following re-arrangement of existing street furniture.

The Roundhill Road siting has not yet been agreed, and currently waiting on the decision from Darlington Borough Council.

Quote for the signage erection works has been received from Martin Harrison, and Paul Walters agreed to work with Martin on agreeing the design decisions.

339. Police Report

a. In the absence of Cllr Amanda Oughton, the Police report was submitted for the Minutes.

Hurworth Crime Figures 02/09/2020- 23/09/2020

02/09 - Suspicious/ Insecure – Tees way

Suspect has been trying garage doors in the area, in the early hours of the morning. Officer attendance, garage secure and area search showed no trace for the suspect.

03/09 – ASB Environmental – Neasham Hall Cottages

Possible poaching. Car engine could be heard and driver has released numerous dogs from the vehicle. Noises heard that were consistent with an animal attack. Officer attended, no vehicles or animals seen.

03/09 – Theft & Handling – Hurworth Moor

Three horses and a trailer reported as stolen from a livery yard. Later discovered that only the trailer had been stolen, but due to the broken fence to remove the trailer, the horses had escaped. They were later found unharmed. No scope for CSI, so incident crimed and closed. If new evidence arises, it can be re-opened.

03/09 – Theft & Handling – Linden Court

Large metal grills stolen from a BBQ. No CCTV of the area. Incident has been crimed and closed due to lack of evidence. This can be re-opened if new evidence found.

03/09 – Suspicious/ Insecure – Hurworth Place

Black bike hidden in the bushes next to the entrance to the River. No van available to collect when first reported. Later that day officers attended and conducted an area search for the bike, however no trace.

04/09 – ASB Nuisance – The Green

Group of youths causing problems and shouting abuse at the caller. Police attended the area, a group of youths were present and spoken to and there were no further issues. However, youths in the village are posing a problem at the moment in relation to anti-social behaviour. The NPT are aware and aim to engage with as many young people as possible to reduce this.

05/09 – Public Order – Church Row

Dropped 999 calls x3, the call handler eventually managed to re-contact caller and find out why they had phoned the police. It was in relation to multiple people fighting outside a pub. Police attendance and situation dealt with. Incident log extremely vague.

06/09 – ASB Nuisance – Round hill Road

Youths chasing cattle in field and throwing stones at them. Youths were identified and spoken to by officer attending. Cattle were checked and showed no injuries.

07/09 – Theft & Handling – The Green

Off duty officer obtained information in relation to shoplifting from the SPAR shop. Officer attended and spoke to manager. Incident has been crimed and youths identified. Investigation is ongoing.

07/09 – Violence Against a Person – Church View

Young male has approached 2x adult males and advised them that they should not be fishing off the church wall. Males have then threatened the victim. Officers have attended victim's home address and have advised them that the incident will be crimed. Due to lack of evidence the crime has been closed, but can be re-opened if new evidence. NPT have been made aware so that regular patrols can be conducted and any sightings of potential suspects can be logged.

07/09 – Suspicious/ Insecure – Hurworth School

2x unknown males hanging around the school, caller states they look suspicious and does not know what they are doing there. Police attendance, grounds of the school checked. Area search no trace.

09/09 – Suspicious/ Insecure – West End

4x youths have climbed up onto caller's wall. Upon seeing the CCTV cameras, they have all made off after making phallic gestures to the camera. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

11/09 – Animal/ Wildlife – Hurworth Moor

Not ongoing at the time of call, however caller wanted to make police aware. Increased level of pigeon shooting in the woods. Extra patrols to be conducted in the area.

13/09 – Burglary Residential – Paddock Lane

Someone has forced entry into a house where they have been confronted by the owner. The suspect has then made off. Police attendance, potential scope for CSI due to the broken glass. CCTV enquiries to be done locally and the incident has been crimed. It is still under investigation.

13/09 – Theft & Handling – Evans Halshaw

Theft of vehicle parts from a vehicle parked on the forecourt and damage to other vehicles. CSI deployed and incident crimed. CCTV reviewed and investigation still ongoing.

16/09 – Suspicious/ Insecure – Manor Road

Suspicious male in street, caller has confronted him. He has then ran away. This occurred in the early hours of the morning. Potential links to a particular VRM, observations passed to all officers to keep an eye out for both the male and VRM.

16/09 – Burglary Residential – Sanderson Street

Suspect has entered caller's home and taken a handbag with car keys in. They have then proceeded to take the vehicle. Officers have attended and CSI completed a scene exam. CCTV has also been obtained and the incident has been crimed. This is still under investigation.

16/09 – Theft & Handling – The Green

Unknown person has taken a bag of tools from the rear of victim's property. Due to the large police presence in the area at the time, the suspect has hidden in victim's garden to avoid police. The suspect

has then taken the bag of items and placed it onto the wall, before making off without the bag. The incident has been crimed and is awaiting for approval to be closed.

18/09 – Vehicle Theft – Evans Halshaw

Suspect has come into the forecourt and stripped parts from vehicles. This has been crimed on our system and is waiting to be updated further. Potential for CCTV.

20/09 – Suspicious / Insecure – Hurworth Road.

Vehicle with 2x males acting suspiciously reported, as they have been in the area for a few days. Officer attended and spoke to the males, no issues.

22/09 – Theft & Handling – Linden Drive.

Bike stolen from garage. No CCTV and it had occurred within the 2 week period prior to the call. Limited scope for enquiries to police.

b. CCTV Cameras

At the previous PC Meeting, Cllr Amanda Oughton requested the Council to consider purchasing two CCTV cameras to be used for surveillance at locations within Hurworth village.

Two quotations have been obtained, and were presented to the meeting by the Chairman.

After discussion it was agreed that more information to clarify the configuration of the cameras is needed. It was agreed that a meeting with one of the suppliers will be arranged so that the complexities and configuration can be discussed.

A motion was tabled by Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie that the Council should purchase two CCTV cameras, priced at circa £630 each. The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously. **Action – Clerk to arrange the meeting to configure the cameras.**

340. Council web site

No update given.

341. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for September 2020, having been distributed to all Councillors has been accepted as no Councillors raised a query.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable September 2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Johnston	103427	Treework	661.50
Wrights Office	103428	Envelopes for Questionnaire	91.11
M Harrison boulle court	103429	Construction boulle court at Hurworth Grange	1342.00
HCA Section 137 Award	103430	Section 137 award for new pipework, kitchen Section 137 Award for Hurworth Craft Fair	2000.00
Hurworth Craft Fair	103431	2020	1000.00
G Johnston	103432	Treework Fox Close	562.50
G Wylie	103433	Posters	10.08

HCA Playground labels	103434	Questionnaire printing and labels	136.00
M Harrison	103435	Community work, and bench maintenance	100.00
EPICH	103436	Section 137 Award for community activities	500.00
Janie St John McMillan			
Coffee	103437	Support for Community Coffee morning	150.00
Wave Water	103438	Allotment water	234.35
HCA	103439	Village newsletter	60.00
A Iles	103440	Salary	479.60
P D Allan	103441	Salary	721.40
Inland revenue	103442	PAYE	127.40
P D Allan	103443	Computer storage and admin expenses	72.08

Total Expenses payable for September 2020 **8248.02**

Refund of Litter Picker costs **2904.76**

Cancellation of Hurworth Country Fair section 137 Award refund **2000.00**

342. Financial report

The Financial report to 30th September 2020, has been circulated to all Councillors, and was accepted by the Council.

BLUE=AllocatedBLUE=Allocated		Financial Report to 30th September 2020											Ringfenced funds £12,499				
	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Total	Yer to	Budget	Date	2020-21
Revenue																	
Precept	59000												59000	59000	59000		
Litter Picker & VAT refund		3189			100	2950						2950	9189	6239	9000		
Rent, Interest & sundry			19		100	30			30			330	509	149	500		
Grants, Recovery of legal costs				340		4200	630	3000					8170	4540	2000		
Allotment rent										620	540		1160	0	1180		
Total Revenue for mon	59000	3189	19	340	200	7180	630	3000	30	620	540	3280	78028	62548	71680		
Expenditure																	
Salaries & NHI	1538	1228	1329	1438	1329	1328	1450	1350	1350	1450	1350	1350	16490	8190	16600		
Gen. Admin Expenses	958	192	1106	79	122	80	200	300	400	300	400	300	4437	2537	5000		
Trees and Open Spaces		2366	148	333	0	1224	450	350	500	750	400	400	6921	4071	7500		
Open Spaces & EPICH			82		1000	0	450	500	700	600	1100	750	5182	1082	7000		
Section 137	800	317	0	1310		2992	300	300	500	400	100	4000	11019	5419	10500		
Projects			40		133	212	1150	600	950	600	1250	2000	6935	385	12000		
Legal Costs & training		500				0	0	200	20	0	200		920	500	1500		
Newsletters & notices			254		60	60	150	150	120	90	850	170	1904	374	3400		
Paths/ Walks/ Heritage Trail		54		40		0	100	500	300	200		200	1394	94	2000		
Allotments			15	300	0	234	60	140	100	100	80	120	1149	549	1250		
Highways						0		45	420	310		125	900	0	1000		
Handyman			160	110	0	100	215		160	120	90	70	1025	370	1200		
Capital & N Plan			18		259				1000	259			1536	277	1518		
VAT	25	287	48	76	0	18	50	30	120	120	130	190	1094	454	1600		
Total Disbursements	3321	4944	3200	3686	2903	6248	4575	4465	6640	5299	5950	9675	60906	24302	72068		
Revenue less Expenses	55679	-1755	-3181	-3346	-2703	932	-3945	-1465	-6610	-4679	-5410	-6395	17122		-388		
Funds in Hand less ring f	45,422	101101	99346	96165	92819	90116	91048	87103	85638	79028	74349	68939	62544				
Revenue less expenses	55,679	-1,755	-3,181	-3,346	-2,703	932	-3,945	-1,465	-6,610	-4,679	-5,410	-6,395	12,499		Ring fence		
Balance Forward	101101	99346	96165	92819	90116	91048	87103	85638	79028	74349	68939	62544	75043				

The Clerk informed the Council that the Notice of Public Rights had been displayed on the Council notice boards, informing the public that the external audit has now been completed.

343. Walks

Cllr Janine Forster advised that no walks have been arranged due to the ongoing pandemic, and is hoping to liaise with Tracey Jacobs.

344. Association Reports

Cllr Lynn Wylie gave the following report:-

Hurworth Community Association Report – October 2020

The HCA gave their thanks to the Parish Council for agreeing to provide financial support as agreed in the September PC meeting.

Update on Works

Work on the boules court has now been completed and expected surrounding remedial landscape works are expected to be completed before the winter.

It is expected that work on the kitchen will be complete by mid-October.

The impact of the recent alarm and smoke alarm upgrade has had a major impact on the decorative state of all rooms and areas, so work will be ongoing over the next few months to rectify this.

The Grange Manager is in the process of obtaining contractor quotes for the required boiler pipes and guttering replacement.

Impact from Covid-19

At the time of the September meeting, it was still hoped that the Grange would be able to resume their full programme of events and bookings, but of course due to the ongoing increase in Covid-19 cases, the 1st October changes have been delayed. There are concerns regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the Grange financial position, should the Covid-19 restrictions continue into the new financial year, but currently the Grange is in a stable financial position; boosted by all tenants ability to continue to being able to pay their rents.

Planning for New Ventures and Facilities at the Grange

It was agreed to move the Grange management office from its current location to the where the library currently is. It was agreed that this will help visitors to the Grange, as the existing location is well away from the front door, as well as helping the Grange staff deal with visitors by being next to the main door.

The library will move into the existing Management office.

The committee continue to discuss and investigate new facilities and ventures, which will benefit the village and the Grange...watch out for updates over the next few months.

The meeting was closed at 8:05pm.

345. Minutes Addendum

1. Election of Vice Chair

Only 1 person came forward for the position of Vice Chairperson, and the Chairman announced that Bree Stamp is the new Vice Chair.

2. Parish Chronicle

The Chairman recommended that the Council need to get another newsletter produced.

Cllr Hedley was requested to make a list of items that are generally included in the newsletter, and email the councillors that need to write a report. We should be aiming to get a newsletter out by early November.