Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 6th June May starting at 7:00pm

Attendees
Parish Councillors present: Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Fiona Lennox. Cllr Debbie Williamson **Also** Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 6 members of the public.
1. 1.Chair's Opening Address
The Chairman, Andrew Leigh opened the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence
Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Kelvin Russell, - absent Cllr Lindsey Probert
3. Declaration of Interests
Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion Cllr Crisp - Allotments
4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 2nd May 2024
The Minutes for meeting held on 2nd May 2024 were accepted, proposed by Cllr Oughton, Seconded by Cllr Crisp.
5. Matters Arising
1. The Chair informed the meeting that the new lease to Hurworth Grange CIO will be signed by both parties within the next two weeks. The final modifications have been agreed and the lawyer is finalising the document.
6. Ward Councillors Report
The retrospective planning application for the access on to Neasham Road (opposite Strait Lane) is not proceeding at the current time as the applicant is unable to demonstrate that the sight lines are sufficient to allow safe entry and exit. The orange sludge in the ditch on Neasham Road is still being investigated by environmental health. Samples of the water have shown that it contains Ammonia, and this may not necessarily be from landfill leachate it may be from other sources like agriculture. The Environment Agency is still awaiting analysis results for heavy metal and other possible landfill contaminants. However, the colour of the water looks to be improving and less suspended clay is being washed from the nearby paddock. The safer route to school improvements on Croft Road will go ahead this summer with speed restrictions, humps, crossings and yellow lines being installed. Concerns have been raised by some residents to the changes resulting in inappropriate car parking at school time potentially being pushed on to other nearby roads. The council will work with residents to address these concerns; however, there is still an opportunity to object to the proposed highway regulations currently being advertised if anyone wishes to do so. The department of Health and Social care are currently consulting on fluoridation of the water across Darlington and Co Durham. There are proven benefits of adding Fluoride to the water as it has been shown to reduce tooth decay in children. The consultation is due to end on June 17th.
7. Public Participation
A resident querying the arrangements and dates for the 20mph speed limit in Hurworth. Cllr Tostevin reiterated the information which related to the DBC plans. A resident challenged the decision of Hurworth Albion F C to put up Private Land notices and block unofficial entrances to the playing fields. The Chair explained that this is private land, and the club has spent a large amount of money developing two new football pitches, which are still under construction. People have been cutting across this land and disturbing the levelling, fertilising, and smoothing process. It had been made clear at the last Council meeting, that because of residents' complaints, their insurance company had emphasised that the premium will be increased unless tighter control is adhered to. The chair went on to say that this the decision to make it a permanent Private Land area has not yet been taken. Another point was raised about concrete slabs being put into Cree Beck. This has been investigated and DBC has approved the situation.

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Cllr Williamson, who oversees the Rights of way stated that taking the short cut across this private land only saved about a 5-minute walk around the Manorfield area to link up with the legal right of way adjoining the Emerson Road estate.
The chairman emphasised that unless you have permission you must not walk on this private land.

8. Planning Applications

Cllr Willis was absent but submitted the following report.

HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS – May 2024

Planning

There have been 6 planning applications during May

1) O2 telecomms mast Roundhill road
   Minor alterations to existing mast

2) 23 Elmfield Road
   Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single story extension

3) 43 The Green
   Replacement of water damaged lath and plaster ceilings on ground and first floor

4) 23 Friars Parden
   Demolition of existing flat roof kitchen and erection of single story pitched roof extension

5) 19A Roundhill Road
   Single story rear extension, front porch and car port with charging points

6) 24 Ashbrook Lane
   Single story extension
   The Council agreed to submit a 'No Comment' to this application.

No response from Bellway management – however the landscaping contract has been placed back with Farnaby who have cut the grass once so far!
No progress on road/pavement completion – delay lies with Bellway

9. Tree Report

In the absence of Cllr Foster, the Clerk reported that the leaning tree at Hurworth Grange has now been felled. However, when the tree was felled, another tree was revealed which was inter-woven with ivy. This tree is dead and needs to be taken down.
The Clerk addressed the Council regarding the DBC process for handling trees in the Conservation Area. Hurworth Grange was over 300 trees. HPC has tendered these trees for over 50 years, and a Tree Policy is in place and is updated from time to time. Tree Surveys are carried out biannually, and the trees are inspected by Cllr Foster every month.
DBC now requires a Planning Application, in detail, to be submitted for every action taken to maintain the trees. This has created more work for HPC and DBC, along with delays of up to six weeks to receive a response.
The Clerk requested that we write to DBC requesting a dispensation for Hurworth Grange. The Council agreed. **Action Clerk**

10. Open Spaces and Environment – Councillor Fiona Lennox – 6th June 2024

Annual Review of Benches

Annually we arrange the review of the benches in the village, this is done by Martin Harrison as per previous years and he will be going round and checking the benches to see what repairs are needed and whether they require to be re-stained etc.

Japanese Knotweed – River Tees

We were made aware of what looked like Japanese Knotweed near the bridge across from the Otter & Fish and it has since been confirmed by the Tees River Trust. The treatment is to start spraying it in August. Tees River Trust continue to spray other areas of the River Tees, including: -

- The Hurworth side of the bridge (to Croft) down to the Skerne confluence
- Down-stream from the working men's club

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- A resident has reported that a patch of **Giant Hogweed** requires attention on the riverbank. Tees River Trust has been advised.

11. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported: -

Traffic Report

The averages for the month of May 2024 are as follow, also the highest speed recorded: -
The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	mph	average speed	Not operational
The Green	fastest	63 mph	average speed	27.2 mph
Hurworth Road	fastest	54 mph	average speed.	27.2 mph
Linden Court	fastest	63 mph	average speed	27.3 mph
Roundhill Road	fastest	51 mph	average speed.	25.4 mph

The monitor at Metal Bridge has been repaired and is operational from1st June.
In response to a question from the public regarding number plate recognition, Cllr Oughton responded that the Speed Watch operations are not active at present.
However, DBC have been carrying out training of a group of police personnel, who were operating speed measuring devices at several locations in Hurworth.

12. Rights of Way Report – Peter Williamson

FOOTPATH UPDATES

DATE	FOOTPATH No.	UPDATE INFORMATION
Apr-24	11/Teesdale Way	Complaints regarding flooding on the Blind Lane section of this path is being dealt with by Geoff McCarthy DBC R.O.W officer, DBC Legal & Lorraine Tostevin
May-24	11/Teesdale Way	No further update, ROW Officer & DBC still dealing with process and waiting planning application. Any new complaints to be directed to Geoff
Apr-24	1	Path in poor condition, Geoff discussed with Landowner, who agreed to upate path stiles
May-24	1	Spoke to Geoff and no upgrade to pathway as yet, due to weather conditions
Apr-24	12 (End stile)	Complaint from Annual Assembly that stile at the end of FP 12 is too high, checked out and confirmed. DBC ROW officer informed, and letter sent to Landowner with suggestions for upgrading stile and contributions from DBC & HPC
May-24	12 (End stile)	Spoke with Geoff and no further update information available
Apr-24	12/Hawkswood	Complaints from residents regarding flooding on this section of pathway, ROW Officer Geoff has contacted the Landowners (4 off) who don't live locally to discuss the pathway.
May-24	12/Hawkswood	No feedback from Landowner
Apr-24	12/The Glebe	Complaint from residents & Lorraine Tostevin regarding poor condition of Track/pathway from The Grange to Roundhill Road. Geoff carried out a Land Registery check to find this area is not registered and is Unadopted and possible co-owned by all adjacent housing and Landowner.
May-24	12/The Glebe	No further action being taken
Apr-24	9	Geoff & DBC contacted the Landowner through their Legal department to have fallen trees removed.
May-24	9	DBC legal contacted Geoff to report the Landowner had removed the fallen trees, Geoff contacted me to investigate, confirmed as removed and path clear.
Jun-24	12/Tees view Rd	FP12 at Tees View Road has had the field boundary fence and stile replaced by the Landowner, stile good and dog friendly.
Jun-24	19/The Grange	Footpath all agreed and just waiting on contractor to confirm a start date, DBC ROW officer to arrange for temporary closer notice.

13. Crime and Security Report

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Cllr Oughton reported the following figures: -

ASP	3 incidents
Road related	1 incident
Public Order	1 incident

Full details are available on the HPC web site

14. Allotment Report

There are now three people on the Strait Lane waiting List and three on the Hurworth Grange Waiting List.
The council lawn mower and strimmer are being repaired at present.
There is a problem with getting the grass cut fortnightly at Strait Lane, and we are looking for a professional gardener to take on this work.
The annual Allotment Fun Day is being organised, for 3rd August, and it is expected to be even better than last year. The Council agreed to contribute £400 to this community event.

15. Roads and Pathways Report – Councillor Forster

Cllr Forster reported: -

- A complaint was received about a chevron being overgrown by tall grass. The chevron is located on Neasham Road, between the entrance to Hurworth Springs estate and Neasham, on the left driving towards Neasham, on the bend, nearly opposite the cottage. This has been reported to StreetScene who have agreed to attend to it.
- The traffic island near the Otter and Fish Inn has been repaired.
- DBC has been doing work on the potholes on Roundhill Road. It is understood that this is partly a testing of the materials being used for this purpose.

16. Correspondence and Matters of Interest

a. The Chair reported that he has been in touch with DBC about the suds on the Miller estate. DBC have inspected and say that the situation is in order. However, until the estate is formally handed over to DBC, it is still the direct responsibility of Miller Homes, and residents must deal directly with them.

b. The council has received the rogers Trust match funding of £750 for the pétanque pathway.

c. The new DBC Safety Officer has not agreed a date to meet the Council. **Action Clerk to arrange.**

d. As this is the 80th year for 'D' Day, the Armed Forces concert on the Village Green is going to be enhanced, with a second performer and a plan to have some refreshments available for sale at the event. The council agreed to increase their contribution to the event by £150, to pay for a second entertainer.

17. Projects 2023 - 2024

a. Cllr Forster circulated the design details of the tree carving project and reported on the progress. The team expect to be dressing the tree in September. Members of the Hurworth Scout group are now participating in the workshops, and the project.

b. Cllr Peter Williamson reported that the project to install a new pathway entrance to Hurworth Grange from the main road is due to commence on 19th June.

18. Matters of Interest

Grange Bar outdoor furniture. The application for a grant of £3000 has been rejected. This was because there had been many applications and seating for a bar was not considered as being as essential as other applications. The Clerk had discussed this with a trustee of the Rogers Trust, who said that as the seating was for the older residents, that the Trust may match fund up to a £1000, but this would need to be tabled at their meeting in August.
The Chair suggested that that the Council make a section 137 award to the Grange Bar CIC of £2000, so that their requirement for additional seating can be satisfied as soon as possible, as summer has arrived. A motion was Proposed by Cllr Oughton and Seconded by Cllr Debra Williamson that the Council make an award of £2,000, and this was passed unanimously. This is on the understanding that if the Rogers Trust agree to match fund, the funding will be £1000 each

19. Annual Assembly Update Report

The Chair informed the meeting that this will be addressed in a separate meeting, which will immediately follow this meeting.

a. The Clerk informed the meeting that Hurworth Albion F.C. were due to repay their loan of £2,500 by 31st May 2024. The club has requested some flexibility, as they have had some substantial expenses in creating two new pitches at the playing field.

b. The Clerk informed the meeting that the budget for 'Youth' in 2023 of £3000 not been used, and that there is £3000 in the budget for the current year, and at this moment there are no plans in place to use it. The Clerk suggested that the Council donate £1500, to reduce the loan and defer the remaining balance of £1000 until 31st July 2024.

In order for this to be discussed, the clerk requested the Chair, who had declared an interest, to leave the room, and the Vice Chair to take the meeting. Cllr Lennox tabled a motion to award Hurworth Albion £1,500 from the Youth Budget and defer the balance of the loan. This motion was seconded by Cllr Forster. The vote was 4 in favour, 2 against, and was carried. **Action Clerk** The chairman rejoined the meeting.

c. The Bill of Rights are being displayed on the Parish Notice boards and web site, along with the Financial Accounts for the year to 31st March 2024.

d. The Internal Audit preparation is complete and has been submitted to the auditors

20. Accounnts Payable May 2024

Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
Npower	104007	Christmas tree lights	6.49
G Wylie	104008	Poster	16.36
Nigel Goddard	104009	Planters	45.00
P Robinson	104010	Salary	562.60
P D Allan	104111	Salary	1220.80
Inland Revenue	104112	PAYEE	364.60
Hurworth Grange CIO	104113	Room hire & printing newsletter	120.00
A Leigh	104114	Honorarium	250.00
P D Allan	104115	Expenses incurred	117.03
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	0.04
Total Expenses for May 2024			**£2,702.92**

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21. Financial report for the period up to 31st May 2024

Financial Report to 31st May 2024						Ringfenced funds £11,689								
	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Total	Budget
Revenue														2024-25
Precept	65000												65000	65000
Litter Picker ref & VAT				1050	3600						3600		7200	8400
Rent & Interest			200		30			30			30	420	540	500
Grants		750		1250				1500					3500	7000
Allotment rent		20								1740			1740	1160
Total Revenue	65000	770	200	2300	3630	0	0	1530	0	1740	3630	420	77980	82060
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2148	2148	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	26796	25400
Gen. Admin Expenses	1378	347	260	200	350	750	150	340	300	445	350	300	5170	4060
Trees	0		2600	480	455	185	270	500	560	435	800	650	6935	5000
Open Spaces	1000	51	400	1050	50	520	250	100	480	200	400	370	4871	5500
Section 137	1752	20	2650	1200	0	500	1000	300	300	500	1000	500	9722	11200
Projects	0	60	180	200	1000	500	0	400	1500	800	600		5240	8000
Repairs & Maint			300	60	0	650	120	80	180	0	0	300	1690	1800
Newsletters & Posters	60	74	60	60		60	850	60		60	60	850	2194	3150
Youth Activities						1500		500		300		200	2500	3000
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail			5000	450	100	300	0	100		570		250	6770	1600
Allotments			100	360		60		420			300		1240	1500
Highways			150					500	500		400		1550	1500
Handyman			100	200		300	100	100	200	100	100	100	1300	1500
Hurworth Grange support														
Capital & Legal exs	760		750		258		0			259			2027	517
VAT	438	3												
Total Expnses	7536	2703	14800	6510	4463	7575	4990	5650	6270	5919	6260	5770	78005	73727
													-25	8333
Funds in Hand less ringed	67360	124824	122891	108291	104081	103248	95673	90683	86563	80293	76114	73484		
Revenue less exs	57464	-1933	-14600	-4210	-833	-7575	-4990	-4120	-6270	-4179	-2630	-5350	11689	
Funds in Hand	124,824	122,891	108,291	104,081	103,248	95,673	90,683	86,563	80,293	76,114	73,484	68,134	Ringed	

22. Association Reports

a. **Village Hall**
Cllr Crisp reported –

Sunday cinema has ended for the summer season. It will start again in September. June 30th – Armed Forces Day on the village green. A concert with Hurworth big band, children's choir from the primary school and a 1940's theme singer. A free event but there will be a bucket collection for Help for Heroes. b. **Hurworth Albion Football Club.** In the absence of Cllr Russell, no report was given. c. **Hurworth Grange.** In the absence of Cllr Probert, no report was submitted.
23. Any Other Business (non-financial).
There was no other business.
The Chair closed the meeting at 8:00 pm

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