



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 1st February 2024 starting at 7:00pm
at Hurworth Grange**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Lennox.
Cllr Lynsey Probert, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Janine Forster.

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 8 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

2. Apologies for Absence

All present

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp – allotments
- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 4th January 2024

The Minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Oughton and Seconded by Cllr Crisp.

5. Matters Arising

- a. **Bellway estate.** Cllr Willis reported that his attempts to set up a meeting with Bellway have failed. He has also contacted DBC Planning Department, to try to get access to the actual commitments which were made by Bellway, in relationship to ‘finishing’ the estate infrastructure and presentation. DBC has failed to respond. The Clerk has written to the Head of Planning, to pursue this request, but as at this moment has received no reply. The Clerk suggested that the Ward Councillors may be able to assist. **Action - ongoing**
A resident stated that he has attempted to make contact Bellway, about ten outstanding items which is still to be completed. Bellway appear to have closed the book on the estate and moved to other projects. This is not acceptable.

6. Hurworth Grange Lease

The Chairman reported that the terms of the new lease have now been agreed between the Council and Hurworth Grange CIO. Six Councillors are required to confirm to the lawyer that the Council wish to undertake this lease. Forms have been issued for them to complete and return. **Action Clerk** to collect and submit to the solicitor.

7. Ward Councillors Report

1. Cllr Walters reported on the latest situation with the construction work being carried out on Neasham Road. The situation has deteriorated, and because of the blocking of the channel, the rain water flooded Neasham Road and the top of Strait Lane very badly. The water in places has been 8 inches deep. DBC has submitted a notice to the constructors, and unless the channel is cleared, they intend to take further action.
2. Cllr Tostevin stated that there have been many complaints about potholes in the parish. DBC have been made aware and asked to inspect and repair them as required asap.
3. Cllr Tostevin updated the meeting with regard to the bus service. The new bus stop at the Tawny Owl was installed following a request by the Stagecoach bus company.

8. Public Participation

1. A resident wished to continue the debate about the bus service and bus stops; He had attended a meeting at Hurworth Springs, about the location of bus stops on Neasham Road. He had talked to a representative of DBC who has said a second bus stop may be possible. In principle, DBC are willing to provide it, but the exact location is in question. A narrow road and very small grass verges are not conducive to pedestrians and reaching a bus stop on Neasham Road is therefore difficult. The cost could be as high as £25,000 to install, along with access. The resident said that this would have to be paid for by the Tees Valley Mayor.
-

Cllr Foster contributed to the discussion, by emphasising that the in several places the trees come down to the road, and it would be impossible for buses to stop in these areas.

2. A resident asked who owns the pathway land at the back of Hurworth Grange. He claims that the pathway needs improvement, and who should undertake this responsibility.

Cllr Tostevin stated that DBC are currently looking at one of the pathways (Glebe) as part of the Safer Route to Schools Project.

9. Planning Applications

Cllr Willis submitted the following report: -

There have been no new applications in January 2024.

Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that the application for changes to a property on Timmy's Lane is being heard at the planning meeting this month.

Councillor Reports

10 Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported: -

All the trees have been inspected, and despite the rough weather, the trees are in good health, with very minor damage. This is a credit to good husbandry.

The three flowering cherry trees, to replace the ones removed last year, have been delivered, and will be planted in the agreed location, near the miniature railway line, but ensuring that the roots will be kept at an appropriate distance from the railway track.

Several trees will be cut back in Goblins Wood and Hawkswood during the next few weeks.

11. Open Spaces – Cllr Lennox gave the following report: -

Open Spaces and Environment – Cllr Fiona Lennox – Feb 2024

Address the request from the Environmental Agency for the work on the river, the Parish Council needs to approve this, so I will be requesting a vote of approval. See attached plans and information. The plans were distributed to the councillors.

The matter was discussed, and a motion tabled by the Chair, Seconded by Cllr Russell, that HPC grants permission, provided that the Environment Agency state in writing that the parish council will have no liability for the new installation, either during installation or in the future. The vote was unanimous in agreement. **Action Cllr Lennox and Clerk**

We have asked StreetScene at DBC to attend to two items, and they have acknowledged these, they are: -

- The bin on the Village Green has lost no bottom section, and hence is a problem
- There is no bin at the lay by at Hurworth Place on Darlington Road

The hedge along Westfield Drive; has it been cut? StreetScene did agree to this, but the weather has been bad, and it got delayed.

We will be receiving a bill from David Parker for a year's work on the War Memorial, grass cutting and other gardening tasks. This will go against the Open Spaces budget. It will be about £400. The council agreed that we continue the arrangement which we have with David Parker for 2024.

12. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

Traffic Report

The averages for the month of November are as follow, also the highest speed recorded: -

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	mph	average speed	mph	Not operational
The Green	fastest	72 mph	average speed	26.5mp	
Hurworth Road	fastest	57 mph	average	26.9 mph	
Linden Court	fastest	60 mph	average	27.6 mph	

Roundhill Road fastest 45 mph average 22.00 mph

The monitor at Metal Bridge has been repaired and will be operational again in February.

Full details of the traffic volumes and statistics are available for your perusal on the HPC web site.

13. Rights of Way Report

HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

PETER WILLIAMSON

DATE: 1 FEBRUARY 2024

Time: 1400HRS 04 NOVEMBER 2023

FOOTPATH NO: 13 REPORT UPDATE

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2024

ROAD NAME/PATH: - FOOTPATH 12 STILE 6 – LINDEN DRIVE

Email received 05.01.24 from DBC stating they are going to ask for actual sign posts to be put up and once complete we can ask for a timber waymark post to be installed.

FOOTPATH NO: 19 REPORT

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2024

ROAD NAME/PATH: - HURWORTH GRANGE – CROFT ROAD

REPORT

Complaints have been made by the public that Hurworth Grange footpath is not passable for Wheelchairs due to excess water washing the footpath away.

An investigation is underway to resolve this issue and further information on a resolution will be forthcoming.



FOOTPATH NO: 9 REPORT

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2024

ROAD NAME/PATH: - THE GREEN – BLIND LANE

STILE 1 -

Stile, and signs are in good condition and dog friendly. Pathway which leads to stile 2 in good condition

STILES 2 - 4

All stiles and signs are in good condition and dog friendly.

STILES 4-5

In between stiles 4 and 5 there are 3 flat wooden bridges covering dips in the path these are all in good condition. After wooden bridges and before reaching style 5, there is a fallen tree with anybody walking has to duck underneath to continue. Therefore, this needs to be removed. Grid Ref: NZ30441 09556

See pictures below:



In between stiles 4 and 5 there are 3 flat wooden bridges covering dips in the path these are all in good condition.

STILE 5

In good condition, no signs and not dog friendly between stiles 4 and 5 there are 3 flat wooden all in good condition.

STILE 6

Stile and step is rotten and very unsafe. No signage and stile is not dog friendly
Grid Ref: NZ30511 09260. See picture below: Grid Ref: NZ30511 09260



FOOTPATH NO: 9 CONT'D.

DATE: 01 FEBRAURY 2024

STILE 7

The stile is rotten, but not used due to wide entrance at the side of the stile leading to field. Signage is good. Entrance to field is dog friendly. Pictures below:
Grid Ref: NZ30540 08973



Exit field on to Blind Lane and follow lane around 90° bend back to main road.

FOOTPATH NO: 11

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2024

ROAD NAME/PATH: - RAILWAY TERRANCE – STILE 3 - FOOTPATH 9

STILE 1

Stile in good condition, signage good and dog friendly.

Following pathway along the side of the railway, turn left through wooded copse, reaching wooden gateway. At gateway although there are signs, they are very faded.

Continue across hotel grounds going over 2 zebra crossings, until reaching stile 2

STILE 2

Stile in good condition dog friendly, but no signs.

Follow pathway to stile 3

FOOTPATH NO: 11 CONT'D

DATE: 01 FEBRUARY 2024

STILE 3

Stile in good condition, dog friendly. Signage faded.

STILE 4

Stile in good condition, dog friendly. Signage faded.

Follow pathway along the side of the driveway to reach Blind Lane bridleway,
bare left, continue until reaching stile 5

STILE 5

Stile is broken and dilapidated. Signage is good. Farmer has however, put up a
pivoting gate allowing access across field. See pictures below:
Grid ref: NZ30282 09885



Walk diagonally across field until meeting up with stile 3 footpath

14. Crime Report

Cllr Oughton reported that we have not received the January 2024 report yet.

15. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp reported as follows: -

Most of the allotment rents have now been collected.

There are six names on the Strait Lane Waiting List, and at present, we have three vacant plots.

There may be one or two other tenants who do not wish to renew, and we will allocate the vacant plots early in February.

There is very little activity on the allotments at present.

16. Roads and Pathways

Cllr Forster, said that there is nothing to report for January; as the pothole problems are handled by DBC, and the serious flooding at the top of Strait Lane has been covered by Cllr Walters.

17. Projects 2023-24

- a. **Beech tree carving project** – Cllr Forster asked whether the grant to fund the project has been received. The Clerk informed the meeting that the grant has been awarded, and the funds will be received as soon as the council signs the formal acceptance. **Action Clerk**
The group can now start their classes and begin the tree carving project.
- b. **Emerson Road footpath** – Cllr Oughton reported that the pathway has been constructed, and looks very good. There has been a lot of comments on Facebook; many favouring the new pathway, and a few commenting that the money could have been spent in a better way.
- c. **The Grange pathway entrance** – Cllr Williamson reported that he has discussed the options which could resolve this problem, and a civil engineering company has visited the area, and made a proposal and quotation. A meeting has been arranged to discuss the situation with Mr Brian Graham; Head of StreetScene on 2nd February, to discuss drainage options. This is ongoing, and a further report will be submitted at the next meeting. At present, moving the entrance further down the road has been rejected, and no notices are to be displayed regarding limited disability access. **Action Cllr Williamson**

18. Matters of Interest

A Correspondence –

- a. **Council Notice Boards** – The Chair reported that the three new notice boards have been ordered, and will be delivered before the end of February. The Clerk has requested formal permission to install the new notice board in the church grounds.
- b. **Hurworth Christmas tree** – Cllr Crisp conveyed to the meeting that many residents were disappointed with the tree at Christmas, and that it did not do justice to the village. He suggested that the tree should be decorated with more lights, and that the Carols around the Green should be upgraded to a much more colourful event.
- c. The Council agreed, and Cllr Crisp offered to take on this as a project, and make appropriate arrangements. The Village Hall committee has shown interest and offered support. The Chairman said that the Council will contribute funds to support this community event. **Action Cllr Crisp.**
- d. The Chairman informed the Council that he had agreed that HPC would contribute £3,000 to Hurworth Grange CIO as a contribution to the 2024 insurance premium which has risen to £8,200. The Chairman proposed the payment of £3,000, Seconded by Cllr Crisp, and the vote was unanimous. **Action Clerk to pay this commitment.**

19. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of payments for January 2024, having been distributed to all the councillors, were accepted with no queries.

Accounts for Payment January 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Notice Board Company	103954	3 Village notice boards	2296.45
Martin Harrison	103955	Filling pothole	250.00
G Wylie software licence WIX	103956	Software licence	57.16
Hurworth Grange CIO	103957	Newsletter	60.00
G Wylie	103958	Posters	28.15
P Robinson	103959	Salary	514.38
P D Allan	103960	Salary	1220.60
		Admin expenses.	
P D Allan	103661	Swarco	67.00
Inland Revenue	103962	PAYE	352.80
BT Communications			203.38
Total Expenditure			£5,049.92

20. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31st January 2024. having been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report to 31st January 2024

BLUE=Allocated BLUE=Allocated

Ringfenced funds £11,689

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Total	Budge t 2023- 2024
Revenue														
Precept	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund	114	2097			2897							3100	8208	8200
Rent & Interest	20		220	0		236	100		260		120	550	1506	650
Grants													0	0
Allotment rent										560	620		1180	1180
Total Revenue	59134	2097	220	0	2897	236	100	0	260	560	740	3650	69894	69030
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2089	2088	2228	2088	2087	2229	2088	2088	2228	2088	2088	2250	25639	27500
Gen. Admin														
Expenses	352	1165	1374	67	424	217	138	223	490	318	350	300	5418	4060
Trees						220		585	315		550	650	2320	5000
Open Spaces	218	52	794		265		63	0			400	370	2162	4500
Section 137	382		1230	400	400	500	250	465		250	300	6000	10177	10000
Projects	1459		120	254				378			4527	1200	7938	12000
Repairs, Maint	867									1914	650	1250	4681	3000
H Grange support			600				3244	150	160		4100		8254	0
Newsletters & Posters	60	95		12	659	86	97	60		83	180	750	2082	2500
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail					403			0			200	250	853	2000
Allotments			137	200		171		250			300	350	1408	1400
Highways & Defibs	234						192	0			400		826	1500
Handyman	130	150	30				220	100			400	200	1230	1500
Rights of Way & Walks			150					0			200	200	550	500

Capital Expend & Youth					259						200	300	759	3517
VAT	146	6	109	60	118	36	25	89	54	397			1040	
Total Expenses	5937	3556	6772	3081	4615	3459	6317	4388	3247	5050	14845	14070	75337	78977
													-5443	-9947
Funds in Hand less ringed	65106	118303	116844	110292	107211	105493	102270	96053	91665	88678	84188	70083		
Revenue less expenses	53197	-1459	-6552	-3081	-1718	-3223	-6217	-4388	-2987	-4490	-14105	10420	11499	
Funds in Hand	118,303	116,844	110,292	107,211	105,493	102,270	96,053	91,665	88,678	84,188	70,083	59,663	Ringed	

The Clerk said that it is necessary for the Council to appoint an Internal Auditor for 2024, and recommended Gordon Fletcher, who has been our Internal Auditor for the last ten years. The Council voted unanimously in favour. **Action Clerk to appoint Gordon Fletcher.**

The Financial Reports are available for perusal on the HPC web site

21. Association Reports

a. Hurworth Village Hall –

Cllr Crisp reported that the Village Hall is doing very well. Two new groups are using the facilities, and the Sunday movie afternoons are attracting large audiences.

The next larger event is the Pudding Club, which is open to all, and proved very popular last year.

b. HCA –Cllr Probert reported that the Grange Community Centre and Grange Bar are going from strength to strength, are very busy.

The bar is attracting many new customers, and is well supported. Several parties have been booked, and membership of the Snooker Club is now full.

The refurbishment of the female toilets is now complete, and the ladies are well pleased.

A grant has been applied for to replace some of the outdoor benches and tables, and also new tables for the kitchen.

c. Hurworth Albion –Cllr Russell reported that there has been a lot of activity at the football field.

The car parking area has been extended.

In order to comply with the Football Association, the main pitch has been extended, as it was slightly below the standard size pitch.

Membership has now reached 200, and at this point, has been deemed as full.

An amount of work and extensions are required, and an estimate of £1.5million has been tabled. Discussions with the Football Association are in progress.

There is an outstanding complaint regarding a three-year arrangement relating to traffic and parking. This is under discussion.

22. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

There was no further business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.12pm
