

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via ZOOM,
on Thursday 6th May 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie (Chairman), Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Willis.

Also

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Christy Chou, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk).

450. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell.

451. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA, Cllr Crisp - Allotments.

452. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and described how the meeting would be conducted in ZOOM mode. Cllr Graham Wylie thanked the Councillors for their support in re-electing him as Chairman.

453. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st April 2021 were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Graham Wylie, and seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie.

454. Public Participation

There were no members of the public attending this meeting.

However, the Chairman referred to a letter from a resident complaining about the new stile installed on the pathway at the bottom of Dent's Hill/ old railway line. The resident had asked for this matter to be raised with the Council.

Several Councillors, attending the meeting, had been to the stile, and none thought that there was a problem about either the size or structure. Cllr Lynn Wylie had spoken to the Manager of DBC Countryside, who confirmed that it passed as correctly constructed and that the size was within the DBC specification.

Cllr Ring-Viney stated that the stile was suitable and that the land occupier, who had erected it at their own cost, should be thanked for their support for the community, and in their co-operation in preserving the Parish's Right of Way. The Council supported Cllr Ring-Viney's remarks, and all agreed that no further action was necessary. **Action: Clerk to write to the resident.**

455. Planning Applications

1. Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report regarding planning applications submitted in the month of April 2021.

Planning applications				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	25/03/2021	08/04/2021	21/00339/LBC	none
Address	45 The Green HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2AA			

About	Listed Building Consent for repair and replacement of 8 No windows in the front elevation at both Ground and First Floor with single glazed timber windows to match historic sashes			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	25/03/2021	08/04/2021	21/00338/FUL	none
Address	45 The Green HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2AA			
About	Repair and replacement of 8 No windows in the front elevation at both Ground and First Floor with single glazed timber windows to match historic sashes			
3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	26/03/2021	07/04/2021	21/00343/FUL	none
Address	Land To The Rear Of Hunters Moon Timmys Lane HURWORTH DARLINGTON			
About	Erection of stable block comprising three stables and tack room together with hardstanding and 2 no. parking bays			
4	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	15/04/2021	15/04/2021	21/00418/FUL	none
Address	6 Roundhill Close HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2EB			
About	Erection of first floor side extension			
5	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	23/04/2021	23/04/2021	21/00453/FUL	none
Address	22 Blackthorn Drive HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2FU			
About	Erection of timber outdoor seating area shelter in rear garden			

456. Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported as follows: -

A new pear tree is to be planted at Lychgate to replace the tree which needed to be felled last year. After discussion it was agreed that the two oak trees planted by HPC on the Manorfield, which have since died, will not be replaced.

Cllr Tostevin informed the Council that DBC is going to provide one new tree to commemorate the loss of lives through COVID-19 (DBC are making similar presentations of a tree, to other rural parishes within Darlington Borough).

After discussion, it was agreed that it will be planted on the Green, at a location recommended by Cllr Foster. It is hoped that this will incorporate the plan to plant a 'Tree of Life', which had earlier been discussed.

457. Pothole and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis reported as follows: -

The major roadworks on Roundhill road are now underway, which will include the new pathway, the new traffic calming system, and resurfacing. This project is scheduled to take 12 weeks in total.

458 Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp reported as follows: -

No update this month. However, Cllr Stamp will be getting information from the Darlington Church Youth Group, to see if they are starting their activities now that the Government rules are more relaxed.

459. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported as follows: -

Open Spaces Report – May 2021

Tree and Open Spaces Database

Initial work on the Tree and Open Spaces Database is progressing well, and further meetings are planned during May to review the database so far, and to review the existing Tree Policy (2014) document.

Grange Entrance Improvement Works

As part of my Financial Year 21/ 22 Project, I have met with the Grange Manager to discuss the improvements needed at the Grange entrance opposite Elmfield Road. We have agreed to improve the current entrance, and I am awaiting a quote for the work required.

EPICH Report – May 2021

Heritage Orchard

It was reported, despite the Orchard Maintenance Plan being put in place, that further unplanned pruning has been done earlier this month. This is very disappointing, as the pruning is not needed and is being done out of the control of EPICH. This has been reported to the PC Clerk to investigate.

Lychgate Orchard

It is very disappointing to report that two of the recently planted Holly bushes have been vandalised. An EPICH member is going to donate a Yew bush to replace them.

Full details of Cllr Lynn Wylie's report are available on the HPC website.

460. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley reported as follows: -

Cllr Hedley has submitted the April traffic statistics and graphs, and these are available for perusal on the HPC web site.

461. Parish Walks program

Cllr Forster reported as follows: -

Now that the restrictions are to lift on 17th May, below is the walks programme for 2021

We hope we will be able to do a BBQ again in September, so have made this the shorter walk.

A new APP for logging the route, adding photos where needed and it can then be downloaded is now in use. This will be good for putting walk detail on the PC website; a trail will be carried out on first walk.

Hurworth Parish Walk Dates for 2021

30/05/2021 - Hurworth Moor - Meet on Village Green at 3pm

Sunday

From here taking Coach Lane into Lychgate, passing the allotments to Timmy's Lane, crossing Neasham Road, paths 5.6 & 7, and following the path to Spring Cottage, through Neasham Springs farm, round Hurworth Moor, down Burma Road and across fields over Cree Beck and back out down Coach Lane.

27/06/2021 - Canny Well Woods - Meet at the Grange at 3pm

Sunday

Using path 12 at the back of the Grange down dents hill then taking path 13 and coming out at the side of the Comet, making our way over Croft Bridge, and taking the road towards Middleton Tyas, down Spa Bank and over Old Spa Bridge (care to be taken here as there is no path along this part of the road), here we take up the footpath through Canny Well Woods. (There is an old well along this route; one of the sulphur wells from the spa bath days, if anyone wants a look) We then take the farm track back towards Croft passing by Stand Alone House back along Croft Road, over Croft Bridge, up Croft Bank and along the main road finishing at the Grange where we started.

11/07/2021 - Rockcliffe Scar - Meet on Village Green at 3pm

Sunday

From here making our way through the Ringfields, passing Rockcliffe Farm, and Low Rockcliffe. Round the river to the viaduct using paths 9 & 21. Then along the edge of football training pitches and railway line, coming out onto path 11 and taking this and byway 10 past the Rockcliffe Hall and the cricket pitch, to the Village Green.

25/07/2021 - Geneva Woods - Meet on Village Green at 3pm

Sunday

Where we will make our way towards Glebe View Farm, taking the path past Blackwell Moor Farm, path 14, to Geneva Woods, crossing behind the football stadium, path 18. Passing High Farm and joining Burma Road to the footpath exiting along Coach Lane, path 1. Note this walk crosses the A66 Darlington Bypass and care must be taken!

15/08/2021 - Hurworth Moor - Cold Comfort Farm

Sunday

Meet on Village Green at 3pm

From here taking Coach Lane into Lychgate, passing the allotments to Timmy's Lane, path 6 & 7, crossing Neasham Road and following the path to Spring Cottage, through Neasham Springs Farm, to Low Maidendale and from here to Cold Comfort Farm and down into Neasham. This walk will end at the Fox and Hounds, Neasham.

29/08/2021 - Snipe Lane - Meet in Snipe Lane at entrance to golf course at 3pm

Sunday

Where we will make our way through the golf course, past the sewage treatment plant, the Hell Kettles and Oxneyfield. Out onto Croft Road over Oxneyfield Bridge and taking path 12 along behind the Grange Estate to the Grange where this walk will end.

19/09/2021 - Hurworth Circle - Meet on the Village green at 3pm

Sunday

Making our way up Coach Lane to Lime Cottage and follow the path through the school and up the Glebe to Linden Court, paths 8 & 12. Back up Croft Bank and taking the path along the railway line, behind the doctors surgery, paths 13 & 11, and across into the Grange where this walk will end.

Note: If these dates need to be postponed due to bad weather, the walk will be taken on the Following Sunday

462. Allotments

Cllr Crisp reported as follows: -

The frost throughout April has held back a lot of the produce development.

There are five people on the Strait Lane waiting List.

The pathway surrounding the allotments has been greatly improved by the spreading of wood chippings. A further load of chippings was requested, and Cllr Foster said that he would make the arrangements.

463. Matters of Interest

1. Annual Assembly

The Council agreed that the Annual Assembly will be held at Hurworth Grange on Wednesday, 30th June. The theme will be 'community groups', and refreshments will be served.

2. Hurworth Model Engineers

The Chairman read out a letter received from the Hurworth Model Engineers requesting some financial assistance. They have not been able to operate the miniature trains for the last twelve months to raise funds, due to the pandemic.

Each year the club hold six sessions at the museum, but it is closed this year and next for a major refurbishment, this is a loss of revenue to them of £1200 each year. The insurance for the railway is £1400 per year due to the heavy public liability cover. Without their usual revenue stream they will not have funds to pay the insurance (charges made for the rides only amount to approx. £200 per year), and hope that the Parish Council will offer some assistance.

The Chairman stated he fully supported their request, and Cllr Foster said how much pleasure they bring to the community, and how their presence will add to the attraction of the new Grange Café.

Cllr Lynn Wylie proposed that HPC should make a Section 137 award of £1,400 to help them through this year. Cllr Crisp Seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

3. Hurworth Grange Social Club

The complete redesign and refurbishment is almost complete and will open on 17th May.

As part of the refurbishment, HPC has agreed to pay for property improvements which embrace the new windows and new door. The total cost, net of VAT, is expected to be circa £3,000. The Chairman had contacted all Councillors with this proposal and received unanimous agreement to proceed.

464. Accounts Payable

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for April 2021, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted with no queries raised by Councillors.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable **April 2021**

Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
Cancelled cheque	103514	replaced with cheque 103523	0.00
Cancelled cheque	103515	replaced with cheque 103516	0.00
Data Protection Fee	103516	Annual fee	40.00

G Wylie	103517	Software licence	10.08
G Wylie	103518	Poster	14.39
David Parker	103819	Work on Open Spaces (12 months)	515.00
A Iles	103520	Salary	601.42
P D Allan	130521	Salary	712.80
Inland Revenue	103522	PAYE	137.20
M Harrison	103523	Handyman	125.00
Gordon Fletcher	103524	Annual Internal Audit	250.00
Cancelled cheque	103525	replaced with cheque 103527	0.00
G Wylie posters	103526	posters	14.39
Oaktree Home Improvements	103527	Property upgrade	1000.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
P D Allan expenses	103528	Admin expenses - auditor	43.92

The interest on the Cambridge County Bank bond was received £ 359. The bond has now matured.

The Financial report to 30th April 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries have been raised. This is the first Financial Management Report for the year 2021-22.

The following formal motions are placed before the Council, the details of which have been circulated prior to all Councillors to this meeting.

1. The **final Financial Accounts** for the year to 31st March 2021, as presented to the Council be accepted by this Council. Proposer Cllr Foster, Seconder Cllr Crisp, carried unanimously.
2. The **Risk Assessment**, updated to 31st March 2021, having been circulated to all Councillors shall be approved and accepted by the Council. Proposer Cllr Graham Wylie, Seconder Cllr Lynn Wylie, carried unanimously.
3. The **Internal Audit** having been completed and the Audit Report circulated to all Councillors, It is proposed acceptance by the Council of this report. Proposer Cllr Stamp, Seconder Cllr Graham Wylie carried unanimously.
4. In accordance with the Governance of the Council, It is proposed that the **Notice of Public Rights**, inviting the public to inspect the Council's financial records, will be displayed on the Council notice boards and recorded in the Council's web site. Proposer Cllr Hedley, Seconder Cllr Willis, carried unanimously.
5. In accordance with the Governance of this Council, It is proposed that the Statement of Governance, be acceptance by the Council. Proposer Cllr ring-Viney, Seconder Cllr Crisp, Carried unanimously.
The Chairman is hereby authorised to sign the official documents, along with the Responsible Financial Officer. These documents will be send to the External Auditors Mazars in accordance with their timeframe.

467. Crime Figures for April 2021

Cllr Amanda Oughton submitted the following Crime figures for the month of February 2021: -

Hurworth Crime Figures

Crime Figures for April 01/04/2021- 30/04/2021

01/04/2021 ASB-Environmental

Reports that a group of youths were breaking Covid restrictions and setting small fires in Geneva Woods. Officers attended the area and located 2x fires. FIRE were contacted and attended to put out the fires. Five males were seen making off from the area, no descriptions or ID's could be obtained.

03/04/2021 ASB- Environmental

Reports of two groups of youths in Geneva Woods, they are being loud and building fires. Officers have attended and conducted an area search for the youths, however no trace. One small fire found and put out by Officers. FIRE will be contacted if fire continues to smoke.

08/04/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Reports that a vehicle and driver have been parked on Hurworth Road for 3 hours without moving/leaving the vehicle, it briefly left and then returned later in the day. A local resident spoke to the driver and passed a description/ vehicle details to Officers. Relevant checks done and caller advised to contact Police again, should they return.

08/04/2021- Burglary Business/ Community

Caller noticed when doing rounds of the school, one of the windows looks as though it has been prised open, however nothing taken as entry could not be gained fully. Crime of burglary submitted. No scope for CSI, no CCTV and no known suspects. Crime sub-sequentially closed.

08/04/2021- ASB- Environmental

Caller reporting youths starting fires in Geneva Woods. Officers attended area and youths have made off. FIRE have attended and put out the fire.

10/04/2021- Public Order

Caller reporting that whilst out on a bike ride with teammates, on Dibdale Road, a van has overtaken them and continued to drive slowly in front, whilst continuously braking. Caller believed he was doing this on purpose. Details for van obtained. Crime created and currently under investigation.

10/04/2021- Contact Record

Caller advising, she has seen youths setting fires in Geneva Woods. Youths have run away so no descriptions can be obtained. FIRE have been contacted to put out the fire.

12/04/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller has been made aware someone has seen a vehicle driving along the Golf Course on Neasham Road. As it was around 23:00, caller thought this was suspicious. Caller is unsure whether any damage has been caused but will recontact if they find anything in the morning.

13/04/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Vehicle has broken down on double yellow lines, on Roundhill Road. The vehicle is not causing an obstruction and traffic is moving well. Caller concerned about vehicle MOT status. Details passed to Officers in order to carry out relevant checks.

14/04/2021- Criminal Damage

Overnight unknown persons have driven through multiple fences that lead down towards the river, on Hurworth Road. Tyre tracks have been left in the fields. Incident has been confirmed as criminal damage and crimed. Crime has been closed due to lack of further evidence; however, it can be re-opened if new information is found.

15/04/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Two males have been seen entering a building site in The Birches. There has been no ongoing work all week and caller is afraid they should not be there. Officers have attended and everything is in order.

15/04/2021- Highway Disruption

Caller is reporting 3 male youths are playing on the bypass from Darlington Rugby Club to the Reg Vardy garage. Officers have attended and there is no trace of the males.

16/04/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Reports of two young males looking into gardens on The Gables. When challenged by caller they have made off. Officers have attended and found the youths; they have also been in contact with the School.

16/04/2021- Burglary- Residential

Two youths have knocked on a door in Friars Pardon, then proceeded to jump into a farmer's barn and into the back garden, smashing the rear door. Officers have attended and confirmed attempted burglary to dwelling, youths involved detained. Crime is still under investigation. (Linked to above incident).

16/04/2021- Highway Disruption

Vehicle parked inappropriately on Roundhill Road. It is believed to have broken down; however, no one has been to remove it. Causing problems for members of the public trying to walk on the foot path. Officers have attended and stated there are no obstructions to the footpath, however it is blocking a driveway. Vehicle recovery company has been notified to lift the car.

19/04/2021- Road Related Offence

Caller reporting vehicle travelling on the A66 Hurworth Moor Road. Driver potentially intoxicated as the vehicle appears to be moving all over the road and going very fast. Officers attended and did a full area search with no trace of the car. Details taken and added to 'hotlist'.

Caller continued journey and ended up back behind the same vehicle. Officers successfully found and stopped the vehicle.

19/04/2021- Animal/ Wildlife

A bull has escaped a field in Hurworth Moor. Farmer is aware of the situation. Reference on call log to duplicate call log existing and updates being added onto this. However, duplicate log cannot be found.

20/04/2021- Public Order

Caller states that during a Golf Tournament (Neasham Road), golfers have become loud and started shouting and swearing at one another. One male also urinated on the golf course. Incident was not reported at the time; therefore, Officers could not get details and speak to those involved. However, they have given the golf course words of advice, should this occur again.

21/04/2021- Road Related Offence

Caller reporting 'scruffy' looking van swerving over the white lines, heading towards Neasham Road. Caller has tried to see registration for the van, however this was unsuccessful. No Officers currently available to do an area search. However, observations were passed to all Officers to be aware of the situation.

22/04/2021- Highway Disruption

At the junction of Strait Lane and Neasham Road, there is a horse on the road. Officers unavailable to attend, due to passing time and no further calls, believed horse has been removed from the area.

23/04/2021- Highway Disruption

Caller is reporting that 25 minutes earlier he has seen 2x scooters, with 3x males on each (no helmets). They were also swerving and driving dangerously, Observations were passed to all Officers for the scooters, with some partial descriptions.

23/04/2021- ASB- Nuisance

Caller is reporting ongoing ASB problems involving 3x males in The Green area, Hurworth. They have been banging on the caller's front door and running away when confronted. No Officers currently available to attend the area, however local Neighbourhood Policing Team have been made aware.

24/04/2021- Animals/ Wildlife

Caller is currently on a friend's farm and a horse has come into the yard, on Snipe Lane. The horse has a bridle on, but no other tack. Caller doesn't know if it has bolted. Caller has agreed to keep the horse safe on the yard until owner can be found.

24/04/2021- Concern/ Collapse/ Illness

An elderly female has been seen on Croft Road. She has fallen and seems confused. Officers have attended, obtained the females details and taken her back to her address.

24/04/2021- ASB- Nuisance

Caller reporting ongoing fire in Geneva Woods area. FIRE are attending to put it out. Officers have attended and males involved have made off. Area search no trace for them.

27/04/2021- Alarm- False

Alarm going off on The Green, Hurworth. Officers have attended, area looks secure and believed to be a false alarm. Audio alarm has gone off whilst Officers on scene.

28/04/2021- RTC- Injury

Caller reporting a motorist has crashed on the A167 between Blands Corner and Croft, this has caused the road to be partially blocked. Officers, ambulance and vehicle recovery have all been called to the scene.

468. Association Reports

Hurworth Community Association Report – May 2021

A meeting was held on 20th April via Zoom.

- The Grange Bar works are well underway, and it is starting to take shape; with the period fittings all uncovered, and period paint colours used, it is now much more in keeping with the age and character of the Grange
- There is a tentative opening date for the Grange Cafe of the first week in June

Full details of Cllr Lynn Wylie's report are available on the HPC website.

469 Any Other Business (Non-Financial).

1. The Chairman announced that in future the Minutes will be shortened, with all additional information being posted and available on the HPC website.
2. Cllr Stamp agreed with the shortening of the Minutes, and also recommended that HPC should have its own Facebook page. Although this subject had been discussed and rejected in the past, social media has become the accepted form of communication to more people, and having a HPC Facebook page, should prove popular and allow greater transparency.
After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Stamp will create and launch a HPC Facebook page. The pages will be monitored by Cllr Stamp, Cllr Graham Wylie and Cllr Ring-Viney.
3. The Chairman expects to select and order the Village plaque, which is one of the Council's Projects this year.
4. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his efforts in attending to all the Financial and Governance requirements, which he is aware takes a lot of time and diligence.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm