



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 2 February 2023, starting at 7:00pm
in the Hadwin Lounge**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr David Crisp and Cllr Janine Forster.

Also:

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Tostevin, and 7 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public. He went on to inform the Council that both he and Cllr Lynn Wylie will not be standing for re-election in May 2023.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Lynsey Munro, and Cllr Bree Stamp.

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Graham Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA
- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp - Allotments

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 5th January 2023

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

5. Update on Actions

- a. Cllr Munro said she will investigate a suitable location for a basketball hoop and associated costs. **Action Cllr Munro ref Nov 11.1** No information. Matter closed.
- b. Junction white lines on Bryans Close and Lychgate - **Action Clerk ref Nov 13.1** DBC Highways has responded that the outstanding requests will be addressed, and have been scheduled. Matter closed.
- c. Pathway at Rockcliffe Hall – **Cllr Lorraine Tostevin** Cllr Tostevin explained that the matter is being handled by the DBC Rights of Way Officer, and DBC are aware that several residents have reported problems. The matter is now in the hands of the DBC Legal team and will be subject to planning regulations including a consultation period. Future updates will be provided under ‘Ward Councillor’s Update’.
- d. Leaves on pathway causing difficulty – **Cllr Tostevin ref Jan 10.** Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that she has reported this problem, and DBC will attend to it in due course.
- e. Tidy up vegetation around the garages at Sanderson Road – **Action Cllr Tostevin ref Jan 13.1** Cllr Tostevin has reported this to DBC. Cllr Tostevin will make a further request to asked that resurfacing is completed following the clearance of the vegetation. Matter remains open under **Action Cllr Tostevin ref Feb 5.1**
- f. Road signs and bollard problems – **Clerk ref Jan 14.1** DBC has confirmed that these issues will be attended to and works orders have been raised. Matter closed.

6. Ward Councillor’s Update

- Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that the Tees Flex bus service is to be discontinued at the end of February. Following a 3-year trial it has unfortunately not proved to be justifiable, with the costs far outweighing the benefits.
- The plans for the traffic speed control on Hurworth Road has been delayed, but the outline plans have been drawn up to consider implementing a 20-mph speed limit, and a crossing near the school. Further consultation will be taking place soon.

7. Public Participation

- A resident expressed his concerns about the potholes at the top of Roundhill Road junction and the stadium roundabout. Cllr Tostevin responded saying that urgent work had been done and further holes, which need repair, have been marked by DBC who are continually inspecting, repairing, filling potholes and scheduling work.
- The same resident remarked that Roundhill Road roadway has been left in a dangerous and muddy state by the builders and asked whether it was not the builders’ duty to keep it clean? Cllr Tostevin stated that the housebuilders are responsible for the road cleaning. DBC had been advised immediately about the concerns raised and the housebuilders had been asked to clean the road.

- In response to a question about further house building in Hurworth, Cllr Tostevin informed the meeting that there were no further sites identified in the Local Plan for house building in Hurworth. However, the Plan can be reviewed every five years.
- A resident expressed her concern about anti-social behaviour. Cllr Oughton responded and advised the meeting that the correct action is to report the incident by ringing 101. She also provided details of how to contact our local police officer. Cllr Tostevin added that there is both local police and a DBC Enforcement team, who respond to incidents of this nature, but encouraged residents to still call 101, as this data is used by the police and DBC to plan patrols to reduce anti-social behaviour. It was also discussed that anti-social incidents reported in Hurworth were one in December and two in January.
- A resident reported difficulties with the pathway towards Neasham. Cllr Forster agreed to investigate the location and report it to DBC if work is required. **Action Cllr Forster ref Feb 7.1**

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

There have been 3 planning applications made since the December:

- 1) 1 West End - Crowning of 10 Conifers and 1 Ash tree
- 2) 34 Grange Avenue - First floor extension to front elevation
- 3) 1 Westfield Drive - Increase in width of recent front extension

9. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis reported:

Residents have complained about the overall poor condition of the Roundhill Road pavement from Mowbray Drive to Westfield Drive – ongoing matter.

Ongoing concerns regarding the amount of leaves in gutters and on pavements which could cause slips and trips for pedestrians. This matter has been reported to DBC, who are in the process of completing leave clearance work.

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

In the absence of Cllr Foster, the Clerk reported that a tree had fallen down in Hurworth Grange next to the garages; the fence was damaged, but the nearby container was unscathed. The tree has been removed and the fence repaired.

Zurich Insurance has informed us that the claim being made by the resident in Fox Close has been rejected due to lack of evidence of the damaged alleged to have been caused by the Oak tree. However, they suggest that as a gesture of goodwill, we should reduce the second Oak tree. The Council agreed that we should do this, and the Clerk will make the appropriate arrangements. **Action Clerk ref Feb 10.1**

11. Youth and Playground – Cllr Stamp & Cllr Munro

As both Councillors were absent, no report was submitted.

12. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh

Cllr Leigh reported:

Cllr Leigh recently attended a meeting with Brian Graham, Head of StreetScene. The meeting was very productive and covered the subject of refuse and dog litter bins throughout the parish, and also the opportunity to introduce an improved recycling process.

DBC will be sending a map showing the location of all of the bins in the parish, and together DBC and Cllr Leigh will discuss and look to improve the collection requirements. The cost of bins is not really a problem, it is more the accessibility for the refuse collection vehicles, and agreeing on suitable locations for bins.

It was agreed that recycling is very important and emphasised that recycled items must not be infected by dirty items being put into the recycling bins.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will work more closely with the StreetScene team, to improve the collection procedure and improving the recycling opportunities.

13. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The average speed of traffic on Hurworth Road and the Comet area has again reduced and is now down to 22mph. Roundhill Road average speed has dropped to 22.3mph.

It may take more time for the average speed to reduce along Hurworth Road, but when DBC install the speed reduction scheme, this should deliver a major reduction.

Full details of the traffic statistics and schematics are included on the HPC web site.

14. Crime and Security – Cllr Amanda Oughton

Cllr Amanda Oughton provided an overview of the Crime Report.

Violence & aggression	2
ASB – Environmental	1
ASB –Nuisance	1
Highway disruption	5
Suspicious / insecure	3
Attempted vehicle theft	1
PTC	2
Criminal damage	3
Concern for welfare	1
Public order	1

The full report with details is available on the HPC website.

15. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

Cllr Crisp reported:

Most of the rents have now been collected, and tenants, who still have rents outstanding, are being contacted.

Several allotments had been vacated and have now been re-allocated.

There is nobody on the ‘waiting list’ at Strait Lane, and there are four on the ‘waiting list’ at Hurworth Grange.

The contract for the new fence, at Strait Lane allotments, has been awarded to Eden Landscapes for £3,522. The work is about to start. Measurements and materials have been ordered.

16. Matters of Interest

a. Strait Lane allotment fence – Contract awarded; the project will start in February.

b. Plaque on the Village Green – The plaque has arrived, but there is a problem with it. **Action Clerk ref Feb 16.1**

c. **Village Green Flagpole** – Quotation received. The cost of installation is high, so to look at reducing costs, the matter will be discussed with Cllr Russell to see whether remedial works can be completed to reduce the cost of installation. **Action Clerk ref Feb 16.2**

d. **Chronicle** – News articles to be sent to Cllr Graham Wylie by 17th February.

e. **Carving on the Grange beach tree.** Cllr Forster circulated the following status report:

I have been looking into the carving of the tree stump at the Grange and had some conversations with Lee and Jill Brewster who live in the village and have their own wood carving business - Lee also works with community and public sector,

If we can get the community involved in this it could become a community funded project which means that there would be funding available through the Arts fund.

The funding is there for communities who are coming together to value where they live and getting the community involved in making decisions on what happens with new art projects is a good way of covering this. We also have new housing developments, so including them is good for funding bringing them into the community.

A way of doing this and getting ideas together for what the end product design could be, is by running workshops throughout the community such as involving the older generation at Linden Court, something with youth club, or just general family events in the Village Hall and The Grange.

Wood carving workshops would keep it in the same area as what we are working towards. Lee and Jill have the ability and tools for this and have run similar with other communities, this gets the funding started and through the workshop's ideas are created for the tree carving. I feel it would be great to keep this local and as they do projects like this they understand about the funding

It's fabulous having an actual carving company in the village, especially as they do this quite often and manage projects throughout the north-east. I'm excited to get them on board and get more funding raised so that we can get something really substantial for the carving that the whole village has participated in with their ideas.

I hope this is something we can move forward with as there is the possibility of getting about £10,000 which would go towards doing the workshops as a community, getting ideas together and coming up with the end product and getting it carved.

The PC would still commit the £1000 allocated to the project for the raising of the other funding.

The Council supported this initiative in principle, and Cllr Forster will look further into the scheme, and report back to the Council. **Action Cllr Janine Forster ref Feb 16.3**

17. Accounts for Payment

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for January 2023, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable January 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
L Wylie	103795	Wassail event expenses	98.00
G Wylie	103796	Poster	10.08
Johnston tree	103797	Tree surveys for bi-annual check	1404.00
M Harrison	103798	Removal and fallen tree & fence repair	250.00
HCA	103799	Newsletter & photocopying	88.84
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Comms	DD	Communications	178.36
P. Robinson	103800	Salary	470.90
P D Allan	103801	Salary	1227.60
Cancelled cheque	103802	Cancelled cheque	0.00
Inland Revenue	103803	PAYE	335.00
P D Allan expenses	103804	Printer cartridge and admin expenses	80.66
Total expenses for January 2023			<u>£4,145.74</u>

18. Financial Report

The Financial report to 31st January 2023 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

	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	Budget
<i>Revenue</i>														2022-2023
<i>Precept</i>	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund		1881			102	2796						3400	8179	8200
Rent & Interest			9	100		35			56			45	245	650
Grants & Donations		1875			872	10000							12747	0
Allotment rent										460	500		960	1180
Total Revenue	59000	3756	9	100	974	12831	0	0	56	460	500	3445	81131	69030
<i>Expenditure</i>														
Salaries & NHI	1996	1915	2114	2033	2033	2114	1996	1995	2114	2033	2080	2114	24537	23800
Gen. Admin Expenses	486	1204	543	2	383	88	184	336	136	284	160	220	4026	4060
Trees	0	0	0	0	382	0	0	1854	419	1654	400	650	5359	5000
Open Spaces	1000	27	0	768	1115	802	64			98	200	370	4444	5500
Section 137	0	2650	2323	400	1080	0	3200		398		300	1200	11551	10000
Projects & Events	70	1546	1950	425		0	0		2107	0	3740	600	10438	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	2750	188				878	2418	993				300	7527	3000
Newsletters & Posters	8	194	274	19	539	16	60	68	10	68	650	120	2026	3000
Youth Activities & Scarecrows		0				0						200	200	3000
Paths/ Grt/ Highways		0		150	285	0	494					250	1179	2000
Allotments	268	209	150	65		152	0		285			250	1379	1400
Handyman	0		0			100	160	45			100	100	505	1500
Parish Walks & Training					40	15	0						55	500
Capital Expend					258		2000	-2000	499		258		1015	517
VAT	2	311	94	3	107	69	310	217	584	8			1705	0
Total Expses	6578	8244	7448	3865	6222	4234	10886	3508	6552	4145	7888	6374	75946	0
													5185	75277
Funds in Hand less ringed	61804	114226	109738	102299	98534	93286	101883	90997	87489	80993	77308	69920		-6247
Revenue less expenses	52422	-4488	-7439	-3765	-5248	8597	-10886	-3508	-6496	-3685	-7388	-2929	12689	
Funds in Hand	114,226	109,738	102,299	98,534	93,286	101,883	90,997	87,489	80,993	77,308	69,920	66,991	Ringed	

19. Association Reports

a. HCA – Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:

The Adam Carter Elvis Tribute Act was a huge success with both evenings sold out.

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

Plans are underway to ensure that there is a full calendar of events including barbecues, live bands, Duck Race, and the ever-popular Hurworth Grange Country Fair. Watch out on The Grange website and village notice boards for more details.

b. Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported:

There are many events planned at the Hall, details are on the web site and advertised on Facebook. Plans are being made for the Village Hall to lead community groups in staging a celebration event for the King's Coronation.

The Clerk was invited to speak and informed the meeting that it should be possible to obtain a grant specifically to fund a community event in Hurworth for the Coronation. An initial cost budget has been prepared, and it was suggested that the Council should apply for a grant of £4,000. The Chairman tabled a motion, seconded by Cllr Leigh, that the Council apply for a grant for £4,000. The motion was carried by 6 votes, with one abstention. **Action Clerk ref Feb 19.1**

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Russell was not present, and no report was presented.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

- The Chairman advised Councillors who intend to stand for re-election, to prepare a summary of the work they have done in the last session, and to highlight their achievements.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7:55pm