

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday 4th November 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Kelvin Russell,

Also

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

543. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Christy Chou, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Amanda Oughton,

544. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH

Cllr David Crisp – Allotments

Cllr Kelvin Russell – Hurworth Albion

545. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and public.

a. Council Vacancy

The Chairman informed the meeting that there are two candidates, and each was invited to address the Council (Andrew Leigh was unable to attend the meeting, so the Chairman organised an audio video link to allow Andrew to make his address).

Andrew Leigh and Lynsey Munro delivered their presentation to the Council, and following this, the Council took a private vote: Lynsey Munro won the vote by six votes to three. Lynsey was invited to join the Council.

b. Finance Meeting

A Finance Meeting will be held on 30th November to set the Precept for 2022.

546. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2021

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

547. Public Participation

A resident who attended the meeting with the Manager of the Spar shop suggested a way in which traffic congestion, caused by the Spar delivery van, could be minimised. It involved the van coming into Roundhill Road from the opposite direction and unloading further away from the Spar corner. This would be supported by additional 'loading only' markings for specific times of the day.

Cllr Tostevin stated that DBC have been in consultations to implement a new traffic system at the school. The Spar Manager commented that the Spar had not been consulted regarding any changes, and that it is likely they will be directly affected.

Cllr Stamp highlighted a problem of a single parking slot being placed directly opposite the delivery van's loading area, which causes significant additional congestion.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that this subject will be discussed at a meeting with DBC Highways, which is being scheduled for later this month.

548. Planning Applications

Councillor Willis gave the following report: -

Two new applications – Manor Road and Westfield Drive. Both for single floor extensions – no issues

Still unsure of planning application for 36 Friars Pardon

Permission has been granted for numbers 2 and 3 Meadowbank Close, Hurworth Place, as the land had been purchased by the residents, so the extension of the fence to incorporate this land was not unlawful.

549. Tree Report

Cllr Foster gave the following report: -

The trees surrounding the playground had grown over the fence and were causing a potential danger to children using the swings. The trees have been trimmed back.

There is a bare patch on the left-hand side of the Grange entrance road, where new trees should be planted. Mr Ken Pattison has donated an oak tree, which Cllr Foster will collect and plant.

It was also suggested that further trees are requested from DBC, to be planted in the same area, to replace trees which had died and were removed last year. Peter Foster is to survey the area and bring detail back to the Council on how many trees this area can accommodate, before proceeding with this request. ACTION: Cllr Peter Foster

550. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis, reported as follows: -

Still waiting on the DBC survey report for the newly installed traffic calming system on Roundhill Road; Cllr Tostevin is trying to expedite report

There are still issues with the new road system – I had a resident contact me very stressed after she was “bullied” by 2 drivers and forced to reverse in the road despite the fact that she was following the correct procedure

Condition of footpath between Westfield Drive and Mowbray Drive. Given contact by Cllr Lorraine in DBC – no response. Lorraine was then tasked with trying to get response – nothing to date

551. Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp addressed the Council and invited Martin Stand to participate in the Youth report. A survey has been carried out among the young people and the results are shown below:-



Friday Night Detached Youth Work – Questionnaire Results

- 1. Of those surveyed 45% lived in Hurworth. 45% were from outside the Village. (10% of respondents didn't say).**
- 2. 95% of the young people questioned were aged 14-16. 5% were 17+**
- 3. 100% of those questioned, who did not live in Hurworth, were in the Village to hang-out with friends.**
- 4. When asked about what the 'Best Thing' about Hurworth is, the top 3 answers were...**
 - **Park / Outdoor Spaces (35%)**
 - **Friends live here (25%)**
 - **It's a nice place / village (20%)**
- 5. When asked about what the 'Worst Thing' about Hurworth is, the top 3 answers were...**
 - **Hurworth Live / Adults Moaning (40%)**
 - **some of the young people who are hanging out (30%)**
 - **the Secondary School (15%)**
- 6. When asked whether the young people would like somewhere inside to hang-out 70% of young people said yes.**
- 7. Of those that want somewhere to hang-out 38% would be happy with anywhere inside. 31% wanted some kind of youth café, 31% also wanted some type of sports hall/venue.**
- 8. When asked what facilities they would like an indoor space to have over 80% wanted a café/tuck shop. 63% wanted music. 44% wanted computer gaming, and 25% wanted craft activities. (Respondents were able to suggest more than one).**

Martin Stand
MartinStand@daom.co.uk
07717336183

It was agreed that Cllr Munro would now liaise with Martin Stand, and bring forward some suggestions.

552. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report: -

Open Spaces Report – November 2021

Tree and Asset Database

The Asset Database and all supporting digital documents relating to EPICH responsibility, Open Spaces Policy, HCA responsibility and Land Registry documents have been passed over to the Parish Clerk.

EPICH Report – November 2021

Heritage Orchard

Following (further) recent vandalism of the ‘step over’ fruit trees, it has been agreed to remove the step over trees; this will be completed during the dormant tree growing months of late autumn/ early winter.

It had been hoped that the information panel would be ready for installation during the October half-term holiday, but there have been delays with the supplier, and a definite date has not yet been given: the cost for this panel is being covered by the remainder of the TVNP grant.

Projects

To save costs of buying plug plants, EPICH members, with spare greenhouse space, have started growing our own wildflower plugs to support the various planned planting schemes in both the Heritage and Lychgate Orchards, as well as around the Grange grounds.

If this is a success, then EPICH members will repeat this in future years to save on costs of buying nursery grown plugs.

The usual Autumn bulb planted started on the 9th October at several areas (see below) around the village. It had been hoped to complete this, with bulb planting around the picnic area at the Grange, but poor weather meant that it was cancelled; it is hoped that this area can be planted up either on the 6th or 13th November. If you would like to volunteer, please watch out on Hurworth Live for times and locations; your help will be very much appreciated.

The chosen areas are:

- to consolidate the successful bulb planting along the Primary school footpath (between Roundhill Road and Westfield Drive),
- taking advantage of the recently disturbed ground (following recent works completed by NWL) around the Grange picnic bench,
- planting dwarf Daffodil bulbs along the verges of The Green between the Bay Horse and the Priory.

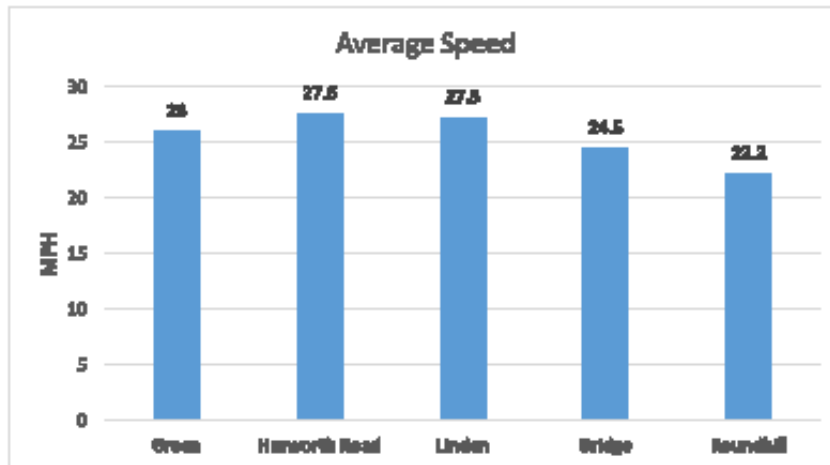
553. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted a detailed traffic report for the month of October 2021. The full report and graphics are available to be seen in the HPC web site.

October Traffic Report:

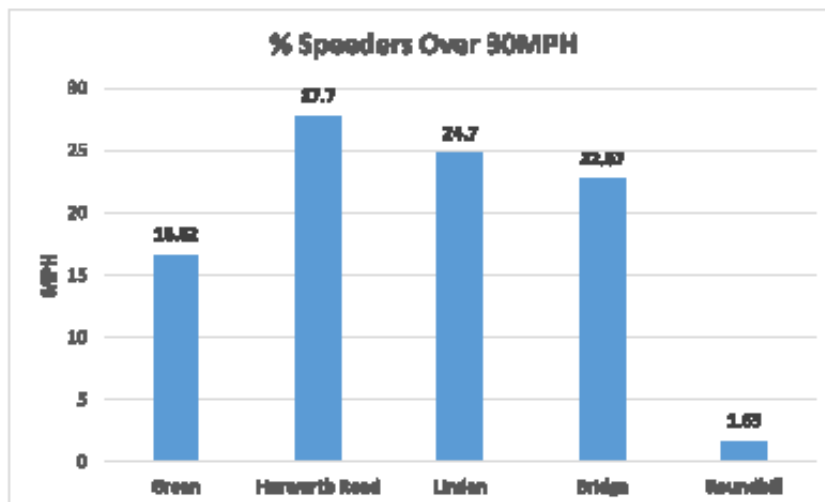
The following charts show Average Speeds and Percentage of Speeders recorded at the five speed monitor locations.

Average Speeds:



The 22.2 MPH average for Roundhill Road is 3MPH lower than the average for the first three months of 2021. (25.2MPH).

The next chart shows how effective the new system is at reducing the number of speeders on Roundhill Road compared to the rest of the village;



The percentage of speeders on Roundhill Road in October was 1.65%, the average for the first three months was 6.5%. This is a considerable reduction.

554 Crime report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton presented the October crime figures:-

Crime Figures for October 01/10/2021- 29/10/2021

03/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Unknown vehicle parked on caller's land, Blind Lane. When caller has tried to engage with the driver, they have pulled the VRMs from the vehicle and have given caller a mouthful of abuse before leaving. Details of vehicle passed to Call handler, however no VRM. Observations passed to Darlington Officers.

04/10/2021- Highway Disruption

Caller is reporting mud on the road in the Croft Road area. It is coming from a farmer's field and the caller is worried it will cause an accident. Details passed to Darlington Borough Council to attend and clean the area.

07/10/2021- Task Incident

A vehicle is being driven unsafely around Croft Road. Vehicle details have been passed to call handler and observations sent to Darlington Officers.

07/10/2021- ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting youths potentially throwing items at vehicles on Croft Road. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

07/10/2021- ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting that youths are potentially throwing apples along Hurworth Road and something has hit caller's vehicle. Caller did not want the incident to be crimed. However, incident log will remain if caller changes their mind.

07/10/2021- ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting a similar incident to the above. No damage to the vehicle, no youths seen by caller in the area. Officers attended, area search no trace.

10/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting that their alarm is going off in Teesway, this is potentially due to someone trying the garage door. Caller has gone outside to check but no persons have been seen. Officers have attended the area and conducted a search, but no trace.

11/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting, they have had a security firm turn up at their address along Strait Lane. However, this has not been booked. Caller has asked the firm to leave, however the company has not left quietly. Traffic Officers have attended the area, no trace of any vehicles. PCSO has also attended to reassure caller and security firm has been contacted about their staff conduct.

13/10/2021- ASB Personal

Caller reporting two males doing door to door sales along Croft Road. Officers attended, area search no trace.

13/10/2021- ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting problems with local youth in the Avon Road area. Caller wanted the incidents logging but did not want them spoken to straight away for their own safety. PCSO has been conducting regular

patrols in the area and found the youth one evening. They were engaged with and spoken to about their conduct, without mentioning any specific details.

13/10/2021- ASB Nuisance

Caller reporting a group of youths causing issues on Westfield Drive. Officers have attended, area search no trace. The Grange and surrounding areas in the village have been added to Police systems as a 'Hotspot' Policing area. This means all NPT and Response Officers are aware of the issues and will patrol the area regularly.

13/10/2021- Road Related

Caller reporting a vehicle that regularly drives at speed around the village with no front VRM. Details have been passed to call handlers and relevant checks completed. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

14/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting that there is a male trying vehicle door handles along Teesway. He has then left the area. Observations have been passed to Officers. Officers have also attended, area search no trace.

14/10/2021- Road Related Incident

Caller reporting vehicle driving through the village with a smashed front windscreen. Officers have attended, area search no trace.

18/10/2021- Highway Disruption

Caller reporting drivers aren't acknowledging the give way signs on Roundhill Road. No specific vehicle details have been passed. NPT are aware of the situation.

19/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting a male is currently walking down Croft Road with a horse and cart. The horse has been spooked by the traffic and the male has kicked the horse. Officers have attended when available, area search no trace.

19/10/2021- Suspicious/ Insecure

Caller reporting a vehicle driving erratically along Croft Road. Details of the vehicle have been passed to the call handler and the relevant checks have been completed. Observations passed to Officers and vehicle placed on the Hotlist.

555 Allotment Report

Councillor Crisp gave the following report: -

The skip had been delivered to Strait Lane allotments and was promptly filled.

The water at the allotments was turned off on 22nd October.

There are now 8 people on the Waiting List at Strait Lane. It is expected that a few plots will become available in January.

The allotments group had held a Halloween Party in the Village Hall, which had been a major success. Cllr Crisp expresses his thanks to Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and Cllr Bree Stamp for their help and participation.

556. Matters of Interest

a. Project Report

It was agreed that this would be discussed at the forthcoming Finance Meeting.

Cllr Crisp took this opportunity to enlighten the meeting about the upkeep and protection of Geneva Woods, where the dragon's teeth had been removed allowing quad bikes to enter and cause significant damage in the wooded area. He tabled a motion that the Council would make an award to the 'Friends of Geneva Woods' of £500, to replace the postings and fencing. Cllr Graham Wylie seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

b. Firework Night at the Priory field

Cllr Russell reported that everything was organised and over 500 tickets have been sold.

c. Parking Report

The Council has received a response from DBC Highways Department. It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange another meeting with them. ACTION: Clerk

d. Lime Cottage Plaque

No report.

557. Accounts Payable

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable October 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G Wylie	103594	Posters	24.47
HCA	103595	Refreshments for Parish Walk Rally	160.00
N Goddard	103596	Planters	40.00
Hurworth Albion	103597	Section 137 and repayable loan	2300.00
G Wylie	103598	Posters	10.08
P D Allan	103599	Printer cartridges and Admin	68.49
HCA	103600	Newsletter	60.00
G Johnston trees	103601	Tree work	270.00
John Nixon toilet hire	103602	Hire of toilet for duck race concert	108.00
A Iles	103603	Salary	601.42
P D Allan	103604	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103605	PAYE	245.40
M Harrison	103606	Parish notice board repairs	135.00
G Wylie	103518	Poster, cheque cancelled	-14.39
Barclays Bank		Bank charges	2.30
Total expenditure for October 2021			5238.37

558. Financial report

The Financial report to 31st October 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report to 31st October 2021																	
BLUE-Allocated		BLUE-Allocated						Ringfenced funds £12,589									
	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Total	Yr to Date	Budget		
Revenue																	2021-2022
Precept	59000												59000	59000			
VAT & Litter Picker refund			1880		3119						3200		8199	4999	9000		
Rent & Interest	359	600	2			3			10		10	160	1144	964	5000		
Grants													0	0	2000		
Allotment rent										1180			1180	0	1180		
Total Revenue	59359	600	1882	0	3119	3	0	0	10	1180	3210	160	69523	64963	71680		
Expenditure																	
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1330	1451	1330	1963	2074	1950	1950	2050	1950	1950	20789	10939	16600		
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	970	762	185	173	605	81	340	300	300	350	300	4731	3141	5000		
Trees	0	265	0	0	455	149	270	850	700	400	400	250	3739	1139	7500		
Open Spaces	515	47	195	22	17	520	40	500	600	500	500	200	3656	1356	7000		
Section 137	110	1400	608	2925	300	935	590	500	900	200		500	8968	6868	10500		
Projects	0	0		0	938	340	0	400	2000	1300	800		5578	1278	12000		
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		0		0	135	50	150	3100	150	100	3685	135	1500		
Newsletters & Posters	10	128		60	0	676	120	60	60	60	860	60	2094	994	3400		
Youth Activities & Scarecrows						0	0					200	200	0			
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail						0	0	460		320	500		1280	0	2000		
Allotments	15		193	360		61		420			200		1249	629	1250		
Highways							0			300	180		480	0	1000		
Handyman				200		0	0	100	200	100	100	100	800	200	1200		
Parish Walks						0	100		200				300	100	1600		
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000			2850	258		1800	-1800		253			4367	5908	15100		
VAT		6	92	812	224	120	28						1282	1282			
Total Expenses	3466	4156	3180	8865	3695	5369	5238	3830	7060	8889	5790	3660	63198	33969	72060		
													6325				-380
Funds In Hand less ringf	64676	120569	117013	115715	106850	106274	100908	95670	91840	84790	77081	74501					
Revenue less expenses	55893	-3556	-1298	-8865	-576	-5366	-5238	-3830	-7050	-7709	-2580	-3500	12499				
Funds In Hand	120,569	117,013	115,715	106,850	106,274	100,908	95,870	91,840	84,790	77,081	74,501	71,001	Ringf				

The above Report is also available on the web site, where it is in larger print.

559. Association Reports

Cllr Lynn Wylie reported:-

Hurworth Community Association Report – November 2021

Building on community focussed events, as well as taking full advantage of the improved Grange facilities, a Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 5th December between 10:30 and 4pm. The response from local artisans has been fantastic, and we are expecting 50 stall holders.

Continuing with community focussed events the EPICH Chair, Pat Simpson, along with Cllr Lynn Wylie are planning a Wassail to be held on 17th January in the Heritage Orchard. This will look to involve the local Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers groups, along with the local community. Discussions have also been held with the Coffee Pot to remain open and offer drinks and hot food options to the participants

560. Any Other Business (non-financial).

Cllr Stamp suggested that the PC may wish to put up more Christmas lights. She suggested attaching them to the street lights and making a display from the church to the Spar shop.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm