



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 6th July 2023, starting at 7:00pm
at Hurworth Grange**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Foster, Cllr Lindsey Probert, Cllr Fiona Lennox.

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 20 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

The Chairman introduced the two new Councillors, Cllr Lyndsey Probert and Cllr Fiona Lennox, who were present and welcomed them to the team. He also informed the Council that Cllr Charlotte Marie Kay has been co-opted but is unable to attend this meeting.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Peter Willis has accepted the position of Vice Chair, and will hold this position when he attends the next meeting, which is in September.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Kay

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Probert – HCA

4. Guest Speaker

Cllr Forster introduced Jill Brewster, who will be making a presentation about Tree Carving.

Jill informed the meeting that she and her husband Lee have been involved in tree and wood carving for thirty years, and have been in local many projects.

Jill displayed a series of examples of the work which they have carried out, many of which are at Hardwick Park and other locations in the area. The purpose of this presentation is to decide how the large beech tree at Hurworth Grange, which had to be felled, should be shaped to become a memorial to the tree, which was the biggest tree on the estate and was around 100 years old. Some of the pictures displayed were particular appropriate to the challenge the Council has with our tree.

Jill then touched on grants, and how grants can be obtained for this type of project. Cllr Forster is heading up this project, and as a team, they hope to form a Tree Carving group within Hurworth Parish.

The Chairman thank Jill for her time and her presentation.

5. Minutes from the Meeting Held 1st June 2023

- The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Oughton .and Seconded by Cllr Forster.

6. Matters Arising

a. The 20-mph speed limit on Hurworth Road. –Hurworth School 20mph Zone consultation response

DBC received a huge number of responses to the consultation – 190 responses in total. I'd like to thank all those that responded and the Parish Council for asking me to present the proposals. They are still working through the responses but the initial analysis shows that there was broad support for all of the measures. They do however need to look at the detailed responses to fully consider any issues that the changes will create. They hope to have the final engagement report to our Cabinet member towards the end of July. We can publish the findings once the Cabinet member has signed them off.

- b. Speed Monitor for Strait Lane.** The Clerk reported that a member of the DBC Highways team has visited the site, and the location has been agreed. Cllr Tostevin then informed the meeting that DBC will not permit the installation of a speed monitor in this location.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) post - Strait Lane

A DBC officer met with Peter to consider Hurworth PC's preferred location - outside of No. 65 Strait Lane (corner of Sanderson Rd/Strait Lane junction). We agreed to consider whether the location was suitable but do not consider it to be so. The issues include the presence of BT equipment in the verge including a BT box, the likelihood that traffic emerging from the junction could mask vehicle speeds on Strait Lane (the equipment could pick up the side road traffic instead of the through road)

Alternative locations were looked at on site however were either too close to the 60/30mph limit to be effective or would be obstructed by parked vehicles which is another issue raised. Other locations highlighted may raise objections from nearby residents also.

Strait Lane 85%ile is 31-34mph over week of survey from 2019 – combined flow of just over 1000 – so not a huge speed issue.

Action Clerk to cancel the order with Swarco.

- c. Bellway estate** – Cllr Willis was not attending this meeting, but sent the following update to the Chairman: -

Update on Bellway issues - I got a 10-point plant from Paul Arnold (Technical Director) a month ago and I was assured that work would be carried out two weeks ago.

To date nothing has happened! I sent him a e mail on Monday - no response

I will continue to resolve these issues and update you accordingly

7. Ward Councillor's Update

Cllr Tostevin reported: -

1. Service 12 bus

The service will continue pretty much as it is in the short term with TVCA providing financial support from national (BSIP+) funding. This will be done through a 3 month emergency contract between TVCA and Arriva. In the meanwhile, TVCA intend to put a contract out to the market for a new combined service 12 (Hurworth and MSG) and service 17 (Stockton, Yarm, Eaglescliffe). This is likely to start running from 3rd September 2023, subject to willing operators coming forward at the right price. Whilst Arriva can tender for this combined service 12/17, so can other operators.

2. **Proposed Hurworth Moor Solar Farm**

Elgin Energy are currently exploring the possibility of putting a Solar Farm on land to the East of Burma Road. To date there has been one Consultation meeting for residents which was held in the Village Hall however it was poorly intended as the meeting was not widely advertised. There has been no planning application submitted as yet.

8. Public Participation

A resident who brought up the subject of access into Hurworth Grange, raised the subject again. He has now been asked to meet with the Community Centre Manager to discuss his suggestions. It was agreed that this matter would be looked into by the Centre Manager, who will report back to the Parish Clerk, to ensure that the land will be properly protected.

A resident queried if there has been any progress with the complaints about Bellway, and the outstanding ten points which need addressing. The Chairman read out a statement from Cllr Willis, which included a commitment that Cllr Willis will be chasing Bellway to get this matter satisfied. **Action Cllr Willis**

A resident drew attention to the new bridge which the Council has built to make the pathway from the Kissing Gate into the Grange a safe passage. Whereas the new bridge is fine, there is a lot of debris been left in the vicinity. **Action Clerk to get it tidied up.**

Councillor Reports

9. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis, who has sent his apologies for absence submitted the following report: -

Planning

There have been 3 planning applications made since the May report

- 1) 12 Evesham Grove

This is a revised scheme and retrospective application for a children's playhouse

- 2) 24 Grange Avenue

Erection of first floor extensions front and rear

- 3) 12 Banks Terrace

Extensive refurbishment including new access to basement, demolition of rear lean-to, refurbishment of outbuildings to create a garden room and numerous internal restructuring

Certificate of Lawfulness issued for installation of 2mm cable for 4m radio antennae

The cable will be attached to the west chimney from 2 trees in the garden.

10. Roads and Pathways – Cllr Willis

Cllr Willis Footpaths/roads submitted his report:

Footpaths/roads

Residents are complaining about the overall poor condition of the Roundhill Road pavement from Mowbray Drive to Westfield Drive – ongoing

No other issues to report this month.

11. Trees – Cllr Foster

Cllr Foster reported. There is large tree on the roadside on Roundhill Road which is leaning very badly. Large vans actually brush against it as they pass. The tree is under the duty of care of DBC, and we have reported it 'as dangerous' to the Highways Department. They in turn have asked the DBC Arborist to attend to it.

A resident reported that a tree on the roadside in Emerson Road was grown very large. Its roots have broken up part of the pavement and the branches are reaching the residents windows. This has been reported to DBC Highways, and a response has been received from StreetScene that they will address the problems.

Cllr Foster said that he has inspected the trees withing our care, and they are all in good condition at this time.

12. Youth and Playground – No report

13. Open Spaces and the Environment – Cllr Andrew Leigh reported-

- a. The bench seat located near the Comet inn was in very bad condition and we have now installed a new bench seat.
The seat on the roadside on the way to Neasham which required repairs will be repaired within two weeks, we need to prepare a new plank, as this is a very old-style seat. It is also covered with the overgrown hedge; this will be trimmed back so the seat can be used.
The Chairman also reminded all at the meeting, that it important that the pathways, forming the Rights of Way need to be walked, to preserve their Definity.
- b. Cllr Foster expressed his concern with the current state of the pathways near Neasham Springs and at the top of Timmy's Lane, leading from the Otter and Fish Inn to Neasham Road. The land has changed hands, and a new cottage has been built, it is very close to the pathway, and makes access difficult. Cllr Janine Forster offered to investigate and report back to the Council. **Action Cllr Forster.**

14. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The full details of traffic volumes and speed are shown separately on the HPC web site.

The average speed for the whole of the monitored sections in Hurworth has reduced again and is now 27mph.

- b. Some very high speeds have been recorded, and examples include: -
 - 1. Roundhill Road - highest recorded 47 mph
 - 2. The Green – 54mph
 - 3. Hurworth road – 53mph recorded at 23.50hrs
 - 4. Metal bridge - 67mph at 23.00hrs

In response to a query from the public, motorbikes are included in the reports.

There were no SpeedWatch session in June, but it is intended to restart these soon, when the training is completed.

15. Crime and Security – Cllr Oughton

The following crime details were reported in the month of June 2023: -

3. ASB - 2 at Rockcliffe Hal and 1 at Hurworth Primary School
1. Animal / Wild life
2. Vehicle Crime

4. Allotments – Cllr Crisp

In the absence of Cllr Crisp, the Clerk reported: -

1. All the allotments are in good condition
2. We are waiting for the external hedge to be trimmed.
3. There is one new name added to the Waiting List for a plot at Strait Lane.
4. Cllr Crisp is going to arrange the Allotment Fun Day in August; even bigger and better than last year. He has requested that the Council allocate £400 to cover the costs of the community event. The Chair put the motion to the meeting, Seconded by Cllr Oughton and the motion was passed unanimously.

16. Matters of Interest

- a. **Beech Tree Carving Project** – Cllr Forster reported that this evening's presentation prepares for the next step in the project, and progress is expected during the Council recess.
- b. **Village Green potholes** – An inspection has been made of the potholes in the road behind School House and they need attention. Funding of up to £1000 was put aside to maintain the internal roadway of the Green. Instructions to repair have been given and the holes will get repaired during the Council recess. A smaller hole which was reported by Cllr Tostevin has already been repaired.
Action Clerk
- c. **Ownership investment** – The Clerk has brought to the Council's attention a new grant opportunity, which centres on saving and taking over derelict buildings within the parish, which could be used for the benefit of the community. Initially, it was thought that this fund may contribute to an extension to the Grange bar; however, after further research this would not qualify. The Clerk suggested that residents may bring forward suggestions where a derelict property may qualify. It was suggested that the replacement of the scout hut may qualify.

d. Parish Chronicle - The Clerk requested permission to address the meeting. Dating back to the Parish Plan 12 years ago, there was an undertaking to compile and distribute a Parish Chronicle newsletter, on a quarterly basis. This was later reduced to bi-annual. Cllr Eli Hedley, with the help of her husband John took on the roll and excellent Chronicles were printed and delivered to every residence in the parish. Sadly, with the death of Cllr Hedley, no Councillor took on the role of Editor of the Chronicle. Cllr Graham Wylie prepared one Chronicle last year, but he has now left the Council. We all know that Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have largely taken over as the source of distributing information, but nevertheless many older people do not use this media, and have expressed their request that the Parish Chronicle should not be abandoned. The Clerk has undertaken to compile the Chronicle, the next edition will be in September, and he asked all the Councillors to make contributions of items of interest, for their inclusion. **Action Clerk**

17. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for Payment June 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
All Saints Church	103871	Section 137 award, lighting	930.00
M Harrison	103872	5 repair, painting and maint jobs	810.00
HCA	103873	Rent & utilities annual	1160.00
Hur Village Hall	103874	All Forces Day concert S 137	300.00
M Harrison	103875	Kissing gate repairs	150.00
WAVE	103876	Allotment water	137.34
Sustainable Furniture	103777	New bench for Comet area	455.00
M Harrison	103778	Repairs to grange back entrance	355.00
P Robinson	103879	Salary	627.05
P D Allan	103880	Salary	1220.60
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
Inland Revenue	103881	PAYE	380.80
BT Comms	DD	Communications	203.38
P D Allan	103882	Admin expenses	41.96
Total payments for June 2023			6773.43

18. Financial Report

The Financial report to 30th June 2023 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries were raised.

Financial Report to 30th June 2023

BLUE=Allocated
ocated

Ringfenced funds
£11,689

	<u>Apr- 23</u>	<u>May -23</u>	<u>Jun- 23</u>	<u>Jul- 23</u>	<u>Aug- 23</u>	<u>Sep- 23</u>	<u>Oct- 23</u>	<u>Nov- 23</u>	<u>Dec- 23</u>	<u>Jan- 24</u>	<u>Feb- 24</u>	<u>Mar -24</u>	Total	<u>Budget 2023- 2024</u>
Revenue														
Precept	5900													
VAT & Litter	0												59000	59000
Picker refund	114	2097			3600						3700		9511	8200
Rent & Interest	20		220	100		120			120		120	550	1250	650
Grants													0	0
Allotment rent										1160			1160	1180
Total Revenue	5913													
	4	2097	220	100	3600	120	0	0	120	1160	3820	550	70921	69030
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2089	2088	2228	2085	2085	240	2200	2200	2400	2200	2200	2400	26575	27500
Gen. Admin						0								
Expenses	352	1165	1374	200	150	605	150	340	300	300	350	300	5586	4060
Trees				480	455	185	270	500	560	435	400	650	3935	5000
Open Spaces	218	52	794	450	350	520	250	100	480	200	400	370	4184	4500
Section 137	382		1230	800	0	500	500	1500	500	500	300	500	6712	10000
Projects	1459		120	3200	500	500	0	400	1500	800	600		9079	12000
Repairs, Maint &														
Training	867		750	180	0	450	120	80	180	0	0	300	2927	3000
Newsletters &														
Posters	60	95		60		60	850	60		240	60	850	2335	2500

Youth Activities						150								
Paths/ Grit/						0		500		300		200	2500	3000
Heritage Trail				300		300	0	100		320		250	1270	2000
Allotments			137	360		60		420			300		1277	1400
Highways & Defibs	234		30	1000				500	500				2264	1500
Handyman	130	150		200		300	100	100	200	100	100	100	1480	1500
Parish Walks				150		0	0		200				350	500
Capital Expend &														
Ringfenced					258		0			259			517	517
VAT	146	6	109										0	
						738								
Total Expenses	5937	3556	6772	9465	3798	0	4440	6800	6820	5654	4710	5920	70991	78977
													-70	-9947
Funds in Hand less	6510	1183	1168	1102	1009	100	9346	8902		7552		7014		
ringed	6	03	44	92	27	729	9	9	82229	9	71035	5		
						-								
Revenue less	5319	-	-	-		726	-	-		-		-		
expenses	7	1459	6552	9365	-198	0	4440	6800	-6700	4494	-890	5370	11499	
	118,	116,	110,	100,	100,	93,4	89,0	82,2	75,52	71,0	70,14	64,7		
Funds in Hand	303	844	292	927	729	69	29	29	9	35	5	75	Ringed	

19. Association Reports

a. Hurworth Village Hall –

In The absence of Cllr Crisp, Bill Drumm, Event Secretary of the Village Hall gave the following report: - gave the following report:

-

Forthcoming Events at Hurworth Village Hall are the - History of Hurworth Exhibition - The Story of our Village.
Saturday 22nd July and Sunday 23rd July. 11.00am to 4.00pm. Free entry with refreshments available by donation.

Art Exhibition on Sunday 20th August. An exhibition of work completed by the Tuesday night Art Group. All amateur artists keen to show off their work. If you see something you like, you can also make a purchase or two. 10.00am to 4.00pm. Free entry with refreshments available by donation.

b. HCA –The Clerk gave the following report: -

The grant to fund the refurbishment of the small bar has now been received and the project closed.

The female toilets need to be completely refurbished. The estimated cost is circa £4,000. The HCA are going to apply for a grant to cover this outlay.

The next major event is the music night ‘Music in the Air’ which will be held on Saturday, 15th July. Ticket sales are going well. There will be a Duck Race organised for 20th August. The race will be followed by a community BBQ with live music held at Hurworth Grange. This is open to all with no entry charge. HCA request the Council to make a contribution of £400, to cover the entertainment costs. The Chairman proposed a motion to make a Section 137 award of £400, Seconded by Cllr Forster, and vote in favour was unanimous, with Cllr Probert not voting as she had declared an interest.

c. Hurworth Albion FC – Cllr Leigh reported: -

Work is carried out to prepare the sports field for the coming soccer season. Cllr Russell is working there at this moment, as the equipment which has been hired for three days is expensive, so the team are working long hours.

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

1. Cllr Oughton said that, in her opinion, the plaque at Lime Cottage is not placed correctly, and should be moved to face the other way. It was agreed that this would be investigated, and the change made if agreed. **Action Cllr Oughton and Clerk**
2. A resident expressed concern that the right of way through **Knell Gate** was badly blocked with debris and is overgrown.

The Clerk regaled the meeting with the arrangements which had been made with the residents at each side of the passageway, and the agreement regarding the gate and public access. It was confirmed that the passageway has been neglected, and the Clerk will write to the residents to get the area tidied up. **Action Clerk**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm