## **Hurworth Parish Chronicle**



Hurworth Parish Council Newsletter March 2024

It has been a tough winter, with heavy rain, strong winds and icy nights, but Hurworth has come through it well. We have suffered from potholes and flooding, but this is little compared with other parts of the UK. Our Ward Councillors, coordinating with DBC, have done a good job in protecting our infrastructure and limited our inconvenience. Hurworth Grange suffered some damage, losing a chimney, but the trees fared well.

Our new Parish Council have settled in and are preparing for the warmer months; our policy is to assist and support all the community groups and facilities which our beautiful village offers.

Throughout the winter the community spirit was highlighted by the many social events. The Village Hall organised music events in the Village Hall and opened the hall for movies on Sunday afternoons, The highlight was, undoubtedly, the Christmas Tree Festival in All Saints Church, with local community groups and schools decorating and displaying 34 Christmas trees inside the church. It made for a splendid spectacle. Then, in January, came the Hurworth Grange Wassail, where our children were invited to wake up the orchard trees with noise, singing and the Black Diamond Morris dancers, to ensure that the trees will blossom and bear fruit. To get the party spirit ready for the Spring, the Grange welcomed the return of the Beer Pigs, with a full house and lots of energetic dancing.

Hurworth is, indeed, a wonderful place to live. The facilities and amenities abound. The parish has grown over the last five years, and the new estate at Elder Brook Park is adding another 300 families into our community; already over eighty houses now have residents.

To welcome, and acquaint our whole community, we will be hosting the 2024 Annual Assembly at Hurworth Grange on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, in the evening, with a buffet and refreshments. All residents are invited to attend. This is a public meeting, and your chance to hear about many of the amenities and facilities in your village, as well as for residents to express their views and request new projects.

The theme of the evening is 'This is Your Village'. It must be one of the most vibrant communities in the country. Enjoy.

#### **HURWORTH PARISH RIGHTS OF WAY WALKS**

In our beautiful quaint and historic village, we have a good selection of public Footpaths and Bridleways, ranging from a couple of hundred yards to several miles, in and around the Village and Parish. (See map on opposite page.)

There are approximately 18 footpaths or bridleways to be walked. These can be short, long, circular routes or a combination of both. Following the way markers around the Parish there is plenty to be admired from the architecture of old buildings, stunning views, beautiful scenery, an abundance of wildlife and livestock. When walking along the river Tees it may even be possible to spot an otter.

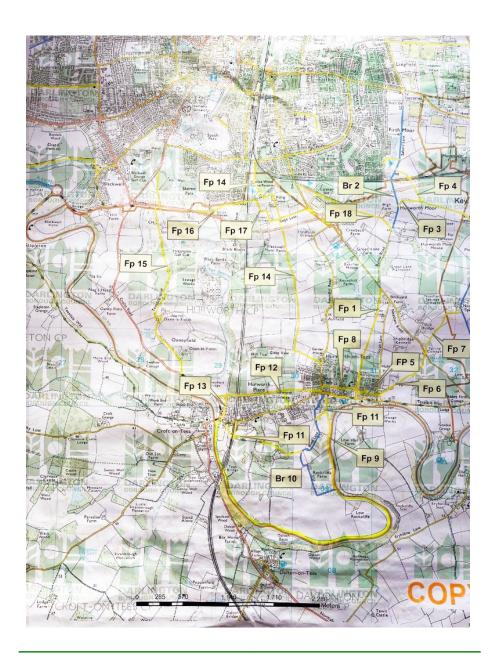
Part of Teesdale Way runs through our Parish, which has a total length of 92 miles from Dufton in Cumbria to the South Gare in Teesside.

#### **POLITE NOTICE**

PLEASE KEEP ALL DOGS ON A LEAD AND UNDER STRICT CONTROL WHILE AROUND LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE.

YOU CAN READ MORE VIA TYPING
COUNTRYSIDE CODE INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER
CLICK THE LINK GOV.UK

### **HURWORTH PARISH WALKS**



#### **ALLOTMENTS IN HURWORTH PARISH**

We have 57 allotments in Hurworth; 48 are located at Strait Lane and 9 at Hurworth Grange.

Our allotments are available to all residents who live within Hurworth Parish only. Allotment holders sign tenancy agreements, which are renewable annually, and there are established rules relating to the conduct and upkeep of the plots.

There is usually a waiting list for both locations, and the allotment year runs from January to December, with rents due each January; the rent for 2024 is £20 for the year; this has remained the same for more than ten years.

Due to several plot holders terminating their tenancy, we have been able to allocate plots for everybody on the waiting list at the Strait Lane site, but there is still a waiting list at Hurworth Grange. We are pleased to welcome the seven new tenants, who have just been given allotments.

Cllr Dave Crisp is the Chairman of the Allotment Committee, and he ensures that not only are the rules upheld, but also generates a high level of community spirit and friendship. Dave organises two events for the allotments each year. The first is the Allotment Fun Day at the Strait Lane allotments, is open to the public, with music, competitions, refreshments, and lots of fun. He also organises the Halloween Party, which is held in the Village Hall. This is also open to all, with particular emphasis on the children. There's always plenty of food and games on offer. There's even an opportunity to learn the Zombie dance! The highlight of the event is the Fancy Dress competition, which is judged by our Ward Councillor Lorraine Tostevin. All of this is free! For the dates, please refer to the Village Calendar and Facebook.



# HURWORTH GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Hurworth Grange Community Centre is a fantastic place at the heart of the village. The Grange has recently undergone several improvements, including a full refurb of the ladies' toilets, and a new stage in the Fletcher Hall along with a new lighting system for events, weddings and parties.

There's always a lot on at the Grange and you can find out more about upcoming events on their website, www.hurworthgrange.com.

The Grange will be continuing to host their annual events, such as the 'Classic Car and Motorcycle Show', 'Music for All' and 'the Country Fair'. We also have a new fair this Spring, which will see over 40 stalls selling jewellery, wooden garden furniture, natural body care, handmade chocolates, jams, alcohol, clothes to name a few. There will also be a fantastic local live duo singing the event out.

Did you know there's a snooker club at the Grange? This is a private club, which has an in-house league and we have also joined the Darlington Snooker League, although we are long way off from winning it!

The Pétanque Court has a private club but can be used outside of the club for a small charge from the bar.

The bar within the Grange has gone from strength to strength, thanks to Lindsey and the team, who work hard in creating a friendly family atmosphere. The team have organised several new tribute bands this year too, so look out for these being advertised. The food vans have also been popular and can be found at the Grange most Fridays and Saturdays.

The Grange can be hired out for events, for example, private parties, weddings and children's events.

The Coffee Pot continues to be an excellent addition to the Grange and has proved a great meeting place to have a drink, bite to eat and catch up for a chat with friends. The improved play park is an excellent facility to entertain the children whilst sat in the sun outside with a tasty treat from the Coffee Pot.

### **WHAT'S ON HURWORTH GRANGE 2024**

15th March - Race Night23rd March - Alpine Show

6th April - Supercharged (local band)

27th April - Spring Fair

12th May - Classic Car Show

13th July - Music for All (Outdoor music)

7th September - Hurworth Country Fair

12th October - Oli' as Ollie

8th November - Remembrance Concert

9th November - CK3 (local band)

1st December - Xmas Fair

31st December - New Years Eve Party

with Jamie Tinkler

#### THE GRANGE BAR

A warm welcome awaits you at "The Grange Bar" in Hurworth Community Centre, where you can enjoy a sit on our cosy chairs, or relax in the quiet snug, all looked after by our friendly Bar team supervised by Lindsey. Prices are reasonable too, with a good choice of drinks including regular guest beers on tap.

For anyone who is new to Hurworth, The Grange Bar is a great place to meet new people and chat over the facilities available to you.

In the warmer weather you can even sit outside, while the children play in the playground or enjoy football on the field.

For our dog owners, the bar even provides a drink for your furry companions too.... H20 only mind!

We have been busy completing further refurbishments including the ladies' toilets, which look fresh and bright (see attached photos), and whilst on with that, we were also able to re-carpet the entrance to the toilets, replace the old doors and freshen up the paintwork in the area leading to Fletcher Hall function room.

# GRANGE BAR OPENING TIMES Don't miss out on a great village facility Current Opening Hours Are:

 Mon
 —
 Thurs
 5 pm
 —
 11.00 pm

 Friday.
 —
 3 pm
 —
 11.00 pm

 Saturday
 —
 2 pm
 —
 11.00 pm

 Sunday.
 —
 2 pm
 —
 10.30 pm

Ask the Bar team for details of our weekly quiz and how to join the 100 club with a chance to win cash prizes.

#### The Grange Bar



New Carpet in Entrance



**Snug Area** 



New Doors on Toilets



### **Hurworth Village Hall**

For those new to the village, Hurworth Village Hall is the large gothic looking building sandwiched between Hurworth Fisheries and The Emerson Arms. It might look a bit austere from the outside but inside, I can promise you a warm welcome always awaits.

So, what is it you want to do? The Village Hall offers a whole host of different classes and groups across each week. Everything from Indoor Bowls, Yoga, Pilates, Keep Fit, Art, Crafts, Dance, Flower Club, Flower Class and Sewing and Patchwork Quilt making. All you must do is choose the activity you want to try and give the organiser (or Bill Drumm the Booking Secretary) a call and take it from there.

BUT, that's not all. On the first Sunday of every month (excluding June, July and August when we should all be outside enjoying the fresh air) we offer the 'Cinema on Your Doorstep'. The fun starts at 2.00pm with homemade soup and crusty bread followed by the film starting at 3.00pm prompt. An opportunity to see a great film, meet friends, neighbours and make some new friends. It's not an expensive afternoon. Entry is, as always, by donation so you pay what you can afford.

The Hall also hosts other events such as, exhibitions, guest speakers, concerts, and the ever-popular Pudding Club.

The Hall is also available for private functions. A venue for meetings (we have wi-fi) for your own celebrations, children's parties, and receptions. So, if you want to know more about Hurworth Village Hall what are you waiting for?

Contact Bill Drumm Booking Secretary on 07799 467817. He'll happily talk to you about what's on offer and how you can get involved.

#### **HURWORTH VILLAGE HALL WHAT'S ON**

	MONDAY		
INDOOR BOWLS	10.00am — 12.00am	Jill Lawrence Tel: 01325 720177 jillson@email.com	
ALOLA YOGA	07.00pm — 8.30pm	Karen Thursby Tel: 07900 697868 karen@alola.yoga.co.uk	
	TUESDAY		
PILATES	10.30am — 11.30am 12.00pm — 1.00pm	Sue Camidge Tel: 07932 312104 suecamidge@hotmail.com	
ARTS GROUP	7.00pm — 9.00pm	Bridget Emmerson Tel: 01325 721260 or 07531 46253 dandbemmerson@hotmail.com	
	WEDNESDAY		
JOLLY FIT	10.00am — 11.00am	LIZ JOLLY TEL: 07976 882370 lizjol@btinternet.com	
LYENGAR YOGA	7.30pm — 9.00pm	Carol Johnson Tel: 07779 571390 loracjohnson62@gmail.com	
FLOWER CLUB	Every 3rd Wednesday in the Month 1.30pm — 4.00pm	Barbara Lawerence Tel: 01325 720177	
	THURSDAY		
DANCE	9.30AM — 10.30AM	Sue Camidge Tel: 07932 312104 suecamidge@hotmail.com	
PILATES	11.00am —12.00pm	Sue Camidge Tel: 07932 312104 suecamidge@hotmail.com	

#### **HURWORTH VILLAGE HALL WHAT'S ON CONT'D**

	THURSDAY CONT'D		
CRAFY WORKSHOP	1st Thursday Afternoon of Every Month 1.00pm — 3.00pm	Sarah Teasdale Tel: 07801 176198 sarahregan1871@gmail.com	
Crafty Gathering	2nd and 4th THURSDAY NIGHT (S) 6.00 pm— 7.00pm	Tracey Jacobs Tel: 07739 825309 tnjacobs1973@yahoo.co.uk	
	FRIDAY		
PATCHWORK & QUILTING CLASSES	10.00am — 12.00pm 1.00pm — 3.00pm	Zoe in Stiches Tel: 07368 673672 sewzoe@outlook.com	
DAVE DOES YOGA	5.30pm — 7.00pm	Dave Abbott Tel: 07455 851976 dhabbott227@googlemail.com	
CINEMA	The first Sunday of Every Month Entry From — 2pm Homemade Soup & crusty bread Film From —3pm Prompt Always by Donation	Jill Lawrence Tel: 01325 720177 jillson@email.com	

#### **VILLAGE HALL HIRE**

For Private Functions, Children's Parties, Meetings, Receptions etc.

Contact:Bill Drumm Tel: 07799 467817

Or

Email: bill.drumm@talk21.com

# HURWORTH PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 12th APRIL 2024

Every year a Public Meeting is held so that all residents of the Parish can attend and raise any topics relating to the Parish.

During the last five years, the Parish has grown significantly, and we are pleased to welcome all the new families who have chosen to live in the Hurworth Parish.

The estates which have been developed during this period are the Bellway Estate, the Miller Homes Estate, Hurworth Springs and the latest is the Elder Brook Park Estate. Hurworth offers a wide range of amenities and facilities, and we hope that our new neighbours will soon integrate and become part of our community.

The theme for this year's Annual Assembly is 'This is your village'.



The first hour of the meeting consists of several short presentations from members of various village social groups and associations. This will give our newer residents an insight into just how wonderful this village is.

After the break, for a buffet and drinks, the second half is open to everybody to speak, give their views and to make suggestions of how our community can move forward and become even better.

There will be a number of tables around the hall, where residents can get further information, express their interest or just have a chat.

# THE GRANGE ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2024

#### **AGENDA**

#### Greetings Start @ 6.15pm with Drinks & Registration

Meeting Starts @ 6.45pm Refreshments @ 08.15pm

1.	HPC Chairman	Welcomes the Guests	8 mins
2.	Ward Councillor(s)	Update of their work for Hurworth	8 mins
3.	Graham Wylie	Hurworth Grange Facilities & Amenities	10 mins
4.	Lynn Drumm	Hurworth Village Hall Facilities & Events	10 mins
5.	Paul Mallett	All Saints Church	10 mins
6.	Kelvin Russell.	Hurworth Albion Update	10 mins
7.	Angie Graham	Hurworth Scouts	10 mins
8.	Laura Walton	PTA & Rainbows.	10 mins

#### Total time, including set up should be contained to 90 mins

#### Laptop and Screen available for presentations

08.15 pm Refreshments 8.30 pm — 9.30 pm — Public Participation

#### TABLES AROUND THE HALL

- 1. Hurworth Parish Council
- 2. PACT
- 3. Hurworth Albion
- 4. PTA
- 5. Allotments
- 6. Rights of Way

- 7. Hurworth Grange CIO
- 8. Village Hall
- 9. Scouts
- 10. Church and Youth Club
- 11. Model Engineers

FINGER BUFFET, WINE, BEER, SOFT DRINKS AND COFFEE

## THE MORE SPORTING MINDED, HURWORTH BOAST EXCELLENT FACILITIES OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



#### **HURWORTH ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB**

The club is now well-established and fields 12 teams of different age groups. Their playing field is accessed via Westfield Drive and has its own club house. They have several teams playing league football, and all are welcome to attend the matches and give their support.



Hurworth has its own cricket club, based at Rockliffe Park, and welcomes new members, players, coaches, junior players, parents as well as supporters. There is a pavilion, which is licensed, and all are welcome to watch the matches, while taking refreshment and cheering the home side. The club fields several teams, including ladies, and colts. There are nets on site for you to practice your skills.

For more information contact:

http://www.rockliffepark.play-cricket.com/home

https://www.facebook.com/RockcliffeCC



Did you know that Blackwell Grange Golf Club is in Hurworth Parish?

The richness of the amenities in our parish are boundless - let us all enjoy them!

#### **HURWORTH GRANGE PETANQUE CLUB**

#### The Petanque Club was formed

#### In 2016, and we play twice a week

#### Saturday and Monday Afternoons 2 pm - 4pm

We have the use of a pitch large enough to allow 3 games to be played side by side, which means that a maximum of 18 people can play at any one time. It is for this reason that we limit our membership to 22, as this gives our members the best chance of a game whenever they come to play.

Our members all pay a yearly fee, which goes towards the upkeep of the pitch, (which are members help to maintain) and any equipment needed by the club. Also, a donation of money is given for prizes at the Country Fair each year.

We do have a waiting list for membership. However, if anybody wishes to set up their own group on a different day, we would be happy to help you do this.



Our thanks to the Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust, Peter Allan and the Parish Council for their financial support on many occasions.

#### **COMMUNITY HERITAGE ORCHARD WASSAIL**

The Community Heritage Orchard at The Grange held its third Wassail this January, establishing an annual tradition here, but which is an ancient practice in apple orchards up and down the country.

The term Wassail comes from the Old Norse 'ves heill,' which means 'be healthy.' Communities gather in orchards and gardens around 12<sup>th</sup> night to ask the fruit trees to be productive and healthy in the year ahead and invite the robins to take up their role as guardians of the orchard.

Our Wassail was led by Black Diamond Morris dancers who danced us from The Coffee Pot into the orchard. Once there, the Rhapsody Singers led us in The Hurworth Wassail, which name- checks several village landmarks. Youngsters then hung apple-juice- soaked toast in the branches of the trees to draw in the birds who, it is hoped, will feed on pests and insects and keep the trees healthy.

Wassailers shared the "Wassail Cup", a warm spiced apple juice, and apple cake, prepared and offered by volunteers from Hurworth Village Bees. They toasted the Wassail Tree by pouring juice on the roots - this is the oldest or largest tree in the orchard, decorated with lights. Everyone then joined the Rhapsody Singers in a rousing rendition of the ancient "Apple Tree Wassail".

The Wassail finished with everyone making as much noise as they could, banging pots and pans, clapping and shouting.

The Hurworth Community Orchard was started in 2009 by Friends of the Community with a grant from the County Durham Foundation. It is now looked after by volunteers from Hurworth Village Bees on behalf of Hurworth Parish Council, which provided a grant to cover the costs of the Wassail.

As well as being a fun event, the Wassail is intended to raise awareness of the Hurworth Grange Community Orchard as a village asset for everyone to enjoy. Volunteers from Hurworth Village Bees look after the trees and work is ongoing to establish a perennial wildflower meadow in the orchard.

# THE HURWORTH ROGERS CHARITABLE TRUST (HRTC)

#### **Hurworth – a cradle of sporting excellence!**

This may come as a surprise to many, but the village has a substantial cohort of young residents already making their mark in elite sport, both at home and abroad. The Hurworth Rogers Charitable Trust (HRCT) is a proud supporter through grants, enabling our youngsters to aim higher, swim faster, cycle harder and throw further.

Many organisations based in the village have also benefitted from grants to assist with widening individual horizons, as well as making entertainment available to all. For example, HRCT has funded equipment at the Village Hall, the Mustard Tree, the disabled loos at the Grange and two defibrillators among many other projects.

HRCT is also there to assist individuals in need, where age, mental health problems or illness is making life seriously difficult and they would benefit from having equipment or other forms of assistance.

The ability to make worthwhile grants to organisations and individuals, was made possible through the generous legacy of Hurworth resident, the late Brian Rogers.

Perhaps you have a project or know of a Hurworth individual who would benefit from the trust's help. Or you would like to include the HRCT in your charitable giving, to ensure the future ability of the Trust continues to contribute to village life.

# Please get in touch with the Secretary for more information:

milly.stoney@outlook.com

#### WARD COUNCILLORS



Councillor Lorraine Tostevin.

lorraine.tostevin@darlington.gov.uk

Tel 01325 333382



Councillor Paul Walters

paul.walters@darlington.gov.uk

Tel 01325 722097

We are your direct links to Darlington Borough Council and are elected by residents to represent Hurworth at Council and other Darlington wide meetings.

We hold a monthly ward surgery, by appointment, which is on the first Tuesday of each month.

However, we can be contacted at any time should you require advice or assistance on the many services offered by Darlington Borough Council. These services include Highways, Street scene, Planning, Community Enforcement, Adult and Children's Social Care and more ......

We look forward to hearing from you.

#### **TRAFFIC**

Keeping to the theme of Hurworth being an excellent place to live, it is always possible to make it even better.

The following few points will, we hope, will help to make our quality of life even better.

#### **Traffic**

The amount of traffic within Hurworth Parish has risen markedly; for example the number of delivery vans has never been higher. This adds to the congestion and increases parking inconvenience, but it does provide an excellent service for many more elderly and vulnerable people.

The inconvenience which used to be caused when the delivery van made deliveries to our village shop has been eased considerably by the earlier delivery times.

The speed of traffic in the village has continued to fall, which the following table illustrates. The speed monitors are doing a good job, but sadly, each month there are several highspeed vehicles recorded; we would like to think they could be emergencies.

Metal Bridge	average speed	21.2 mph	(fastest	69 mph)
The Green	average speed	26.5 mph	(fastest	72 mph)
Hurworth Road	average speed	26.9 mph	(fastest	57 mph)
Linden Court	average speed	27.6 mph	(fastest	60 mph)
Roundhill Road	average speed	22.0 mph	(fastest	42 mph)

#### Q 'When is a Church not a Church?'

#### A. 'When you are in Hurworth'

The Methodist Church in Hurworth holds beautiful uplifting services every Sunday.

However, from Monday to Saturday the church becomes the Mustard Tree Café, providing an excellent community meeting place. Their menu includes breakfast, lunch, coffee, tea and sandwiches made from their freshly cooked bread.



There is seating in the main hall and upstairs. During the warmer months there are outdoor tables. There is (limited) parking outside and a lovely relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the café. In the summer the Mustard Tree attracts several cyclists, taking a break whilst passing through our beautiful Parish. All are welcome.

### ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH— HURWORTH PARISH

Sunday services every week, with ZOOM access, for those who choose to stay at home.

However, the church is used for many other purposes, including being the centre for the

1. Hurworth Youth Club.



The Hurworth Youth Project is the umbrella name for various youth work activities in the village of Hurworth (and surrounding area) run by **DACYM** inc...

#### The Friday Night Drop-In / Hang-Out

The Detached Youth Work Project
The Listening Post (Hurworth)
For details, please contact:

Tel: 07717 336183 or Email: dacym@dacym.co.uk

The provision of the Friday Night Drop In & Hang-Out is supported by All

- 2. Concerts The church is an excellent venue for musical events and concerts, with ample seating, disabled access and a room
  - Associations, including the Lions and Village Hall hold concerts pen to the public and add another great facility to the community.
- 3. The church participates in a **local foodbank**, details are available, in confidence, from Jill Bramwell on 07818 418499.

#### ALL SAINTS CHURCH HURWORTH — 2023 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



The 2023 Christmas Tree Festival was a great success for a first event, with between 300 to 350 people of all ages attending.

35 local businesses, organisations, charities and youth groups joined in, so there was a good cross section of the local villages participating. A total of £1400 was raised after costs, which was shared with The Listening Post.

A feature appeared in the Northern Echo and the D&S Times giving the event excellent regional exposure.

Catering worked well too, with plenty of tea, coffee and mulled wine, as well as mince pies and cakes.

The consensus of the many people helping out over the weekend was that visitors universally praised the effort and display. Several people were overheard to say, "It's better than what I was expecting"! Also, mentioned by many was the fact that that it was nice to experience the spirit of Christmas in the community without commercialisation. The majority thought it was a highly attractive display and commented that they would certainly attend future events. It was also noticeable that people weren't in a hurry to leave, instead relaxing, socialising and enjoying the serene atmosphere within All Saints church.

Cont'd.....

#### ALL SAINTS CHURCH HURWORTH — 2023 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Most of the sponsors have said they would like to attend the next one and this is planned for the second weekend in December 2024.

The competition element worked extremely well as visitors took their time studying the trees and noticing who had sponsored them. Hurworth Primary School deservedly won, Louise Duckworth was second with her dog display and Hurworth School was third. Both schools won book youchers.

A great community event that we are looking forward to repeating in December this year. For more details ring Andrew on 07816 450114





### **Hurworth Parish Council**

Hurworth Grange, 41 Hurworth Road Hurworth DL2 2BN Tel 01325 722171

Email: enquiries@hurworthparishcouncil.org.uk

#### Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer – Peter Allan

Mobile 07792 905247 Email: peter.allan45@btinternet.com

#### **Members of the Council**

Andrew Leigh
Dorothy Oughton
David Crisp
Kelvin Russell
Peter Williamson

Peter Foster
Peter Willis
Janine Forster
Lindsey Probert
Fiona Lennox

#### **Ward Councillors**

Lorraine Tostevin
Paul Walters

Parish Council meetings are held at Hurworth Grange on the first Thursday of every month (except August), starting at 7.00pm.

All are welcome.