



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

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Charlotte Marie Kay, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Kelvin Russell.

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 18 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

a. Councillor Vacancies

The Chairman was pleased to announce that Mr Peter Williamson has agreed to join the Parish Council, and having already signed his Acceptance of Office, we welcomed him to the meeting.

b. Parish Chronicle

The Parish Chronicle was duly completed and distributed, along with the Church newsletter to the residents of Hurworth Parish.

It was noted that the parish now includes the new houses opposite the Darlington Arena, and the Council should start to make contact with the new residents.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Peter Foster, Lynsey Probort, Cllr Fiona Lennox,

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion

- Cllr Russell – Hurworth Albion
- Cllr Crisp – Allotments and Village Hall

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 6th July 2023

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

5. Matters Arising

- The 20-mph speed limit on Hurworth Road** – Cllr Tostevin reported that there has been no further update from DBC on this project.
- Bellway Estate** – Cllr Willis - in the absence of Cllr Willis there was no report.
- A member of the public expressed his disgust at the way the estate has been left and that several residents are disappointed that Bellway have not ‘finished’ the job.
HPC also has had problems making contact with Bellway, and our approaches have been ignored.
The Clerk requested that the resident making this complaint provides the details of the work required, and in association with Cllr Willis, he will go to the Bellway offices at Houghton-le-Spring and confront them. **Action PW, Clerk and resident.**

6. Ward Councillor's Update

Cllr Walters and Cllr Tostevin reported: -

- Service 12 bus** – Plans for the new bus service are now in place and started on the 7th of September. Stagecoach have taken over from Arriva and the new service is number 6/6a
- Solar Farm**, - No progress to report.
- Parking outside the school** – Cllr Tostevin stated that several complaints have been made, some specifically about parents parking in and around the entrance to the Doctors Surgery, LT to ask the enforcement team to monitor.
- There will be road asphalt works at Strait Lane and at Grange Avenue, commencing around 12th September.
- Cllr Walters stated that a new road has been constructed from behind the Brickworks opening out on to Neasham Road. This has been done without planning permission and a hedgerow has also been removed. DBC have asked for the work to be stopped and that the applicant applies for planning permission. However, work appears to have continued so further action will be taken by DBC.
- Cllr Walters informed the meeting that the new Darlington Library will be opened to the public on Saturday, and he will be visiting it on Friday as all DBC Councillors have been invited to a preview.

- g. The planning Appeal Inquiry for the Travellers site on Neasham Road has been held and the decision is awaited from the Inspectorate.
- h. There had been an accident on the corner of Roundhill Road involving a car and the SPAR delivery lorry which requires further consideration.

7. Public Participation

1. A resident suggested that he was unhappy with the completeness of the recording of the minutes and that additional information that was not discussed at the meeting had been incorporated. The Chairman explained that the Minutes are not a full verbatim account of what was said.
2. A resident raised the parking issues around Hurworth School again. The traffic congestion outside and around the school on Hurworth Road is not acceptable. He recommends that a letter should be sent to the Head Mistress, outlining the problems, and seeking a solution. Action: The Chairman **said he would address this action. Action: AL**
3. A resident reported that a road bollard had been knocked down on Strait/Timmys Lane

Councillor Reports

8. Planning Applications – Cllr Willis

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

Planning - August

There have been 3 planning applications made since the June report

1) 7 Elmfield Road

Single story extension and garden room

2) ! Neasham Springs Farm

Kitchen extension and roof terrace
3) 12 Manor Road
Replacement and relocation of boundary fence
This is a retrospective application.

Further details are available on the DBC Planning web site.

9. Roads and Pathways Report

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

10. Trees – Cllr Foster

In the absence of Cllr Foster, there was no report.

Cllr Kay reported a problem being encountered by a resident on the Green. **Action Clerk to investigate.**

11. Youth and Playground – No report

12. Open Spaces – No report. A new councillor has now taken on this role.

a. Rights of Way – No report. A new Councillor has taken on this role.

13. Highways and Traffic

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:

a. Traffic Report

The speed averages are now constantly below the 30mph speed limited, but there are a number of recordings showing vehicles traveling at over 60mph, in each section.

The averages for the two months July and August are as follows: -

Metal Bridge 25.2mph

The Green 27.5mph

Hurworth Road 27.9mph

Linden Court 27.8mph

Roundhill Road 22.3mph

- b. **Speed Watch** The training has not yet been completed, so no sessions have been carried out.

Full details of the traffic volumes and statistics are available for your perusal on the HPC web site.

14. Crime Report

No report has been received from the Police. Cllr Oughton will be following up, to obtain the information, which will then be posted on the HPC web site.

15. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp gave the following report: -

There are currently three people on the Waiting List for an allotment at Strait Lane.

He expressed is annoyance at the behaviour of a few youngsters, who are known to be residents of our village.

They destroyed the fresh vegetable stall at the Bus stop Library and threw the produce both at each other and at the church gates. They denied it was them, despite the visible signs of tomatoes on their clothing. They also destroyed several books in the library.

The result is that the allotment holders will no longer be putting their surplus vegetables out for the residents to help themselves. This is not the first time that the library has been mutilated; a stronger stance is required.

The Allotment Fun Day was a great success and even better supported than last year. The raffle and tombola made over £300, and this will be used to fund the Halloween party in the Village Hall.

An organisation called Arronbeth and Jones Homes, who have a presence in Hurworth has requested that they would like to bring some of their students to the Strait Lane allotments to get some practical experience in planting and tending produce. The students will always be

attended by a member of their staff. It has been agreed that a section of one of the allotment plots will be allocated to them, and it is hoped that this project will be successful.

16. Matters of Interest and Projects

- a. **Beech Tree Carving Project** – Cllr Forster reported that they have received several ideas for the design, and were trying to get a working group together. The company had a stall at the Hurworth Country Fair, and had engendered some interest, and hope to get new members into the group. The Chairman asked when the actual tree will get carved, and Cllr Forster said that they are targeting the end of April 2024.
- b. **Village Green potholes** – Cllr Russell stated that the work was scheduled to be completed this week.
- c. **Fishing platform at Hurworth Place**
Cllr Russell outlined a suggestion that the council set up a project to construct a fishing platform on the HPC land next to the river, where the Environment Agency gauging station used to be. He went on to say that it will need to be designed by professional persons, who would ensure the safety regulations were fully adhered to.
Two members of the public, who live near the river at this location, expressed a number of concerns, all of which will be noted. The banks of the river in this location have been eroding, and are also quite steep. it cannot be considered safe. Also, the current is strong at this particular point.
Cllr Russell said that at present it is just an idea, and one which the community could benefit from.
It was agreed, that if this becomes a Project for HPC, the public will be kept informed, and their concerns answered.

17. Accounts for Payment

Accounts for Payment August 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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M Harrison	103892	Bench repair	50.00
HCA	103893	Section 137 Duck race	400.00
Friends of the Community	103894	Section 137 award Open spaces	200.00
All SAINTS Church	103895	Chronicle delivery	100.00
HCA; Atkinson	103896	Kissing gate repair	232.23
P Robinson	103897	Salary	514.38
P D Allan	103898	Salary	1,220.60
Vantage Printing	103899	Printing Parish Chronicle	427.00
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
PUBLIC Works Loan A/C	DD	Loan repayment	258.62
Inland Revenue	103900	PAYE	352.00
G Wylie	103901	Posters	28.92
HCA	103902	Printing newsletters	120.00
HCA	103903	Circular pathway gravel	210.00
Mazar	103904	Audit fee	426.00
P D Allan	103905	Admin expenses	73.75
Total Expenditure			<u>4615.80</u>
Litter Picker expenses recovered			<u>£2,897.45</u>

18. Financial Report

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

Financial Report to 31st August 2023

BLUE=Allocated BLUE=Allocated

Ringfenced funds £11,689

	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Total	Budget 2023-2024
Revenue														
Precept	59000												59000	59000
VAT & Litter Picker refund	114	2097			2897						3100		8208	8200
Rent & Interest	20		220	0		120			120		120	550	1150	650
Grants													0	0
Allotment rent										1160			1160	1180
Total Revenue	59134	2097	220	0	2897	120	0	0	120	1160	3220	550	69518	69030
Expenditure														
Salaries & NHI	2089	2088	2228	2088	2087	2400	2100	2100	2400	2200	2200	2400	26380	27500
Gen. Admin Expenses	352	1165	1374	67	424	200	150	340	300	300	350	300	5322	4060
Trees						185	270	500	560	435	400	650	3000	5000
Open Spaces	218	52	794		265	520	250	100	480	200	400	370	3649	4500
Section 137	382		1230	400	400	500	500	1500	500	500	300	500	6712	10000
Projects	1459		120	254		300	2000	1400	1500	800	600		8433	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	867		750			450	120	80	180	0	0	300	2747	3000
Newsletters & Posters	60	95		12	659	60	850	60		240	60	850	2946	2500
Youth Activities						1500		500		300		200	2500	3000
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail					403	300	0	100		320		250	1373	2000
Allotments			137	200		60		420			300		1117	1400
Highways & Defibs	234		30			1000		500	500				2264	1500
Handyman	130	150				300	100	100	200	100	100	100	1280	1500
Parish Walks						0	0		200				200	500
Capital Expend & Ringfenced					259		0			259			518	517
VAT	146	6	109	60	118								0	
Total Expenses	5937	3556	6772	3081	4615	7775	6340	7700	6820	5654	4710	5920	68441	78977
													1077	-9947
Funds in Hand less ringed	65106	11830	11684	11029	10721	10549	97838	91498	83798	77098	72604	71114		
Revenue less expenses	53197	-1459	-6552	-3081	-1718	-7655	-6340	-7700	-6700	-4494	-1490	-5370	11499	

<i>Funds in Hand</i>	<i>118,30</i> <i>3</i>	<i>116,84</i> <i>4</i>	<i>110,29</i> <i>2</i>	<i>107,21</i> <i>1</i>	<i>105,49</i> <i>3</i>	<i>97,83</i> <i>8</i>	<i>91,498</i>	<i>83,798</i>	<i>77,098</i>	<i>72,604</i>	<i>71,114</i>	<i>65,74</i> <i>4</i>	<i>Ringed</i>
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1. The External audit has now been completed, and HPC has a clean bill of health.
2. The Notice of Resident's rights to inspect the accounts has been posted on the council notice boards and web site.

19. Association Reports

a. Hurworth Village Hall – Cllr Crisp reported as follows: -

The end of July (22nd & 23rd) saw the Village Hall host the History of Hurworth Exhibition. An exhibition of photographs, information and memories across the years. From the very beginnings of the Hurworth community to the war years and up to the present day. The event was very well attended across the weekend. Special thanks to Lynne Drumm for putting it all together and also for organising the refreshments.

The Tuesday night art group also hosted their second exhibition in the Hall. The artists are all amateurs and join together on Tuesday nights in a warm comfortable environment to socialise draw and paint. New members of the art group are always made welcome so why not give it a try?

Bringing things up to date and looking ahead.

The Sunday Cinema on your doorstep returns again on 10th September with the film 'Champions' starring Woody Harrelson.

1st October – 'Swimming with Men' - starring Rob Brydon

5th November – 'Allelujah' - starring Jennifer Saunders

3rd December – 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody – The Whitney Houston story' – starring Naomi Ackie.

Hot homemade soup and crusty bread is served from 2.00pm with each film starting at 3.00pm.

Entry is, as always, by donation and you can attend for the soup or the film or both.

New this year we have the Craft Fayre on Sunday 22nd October from 10.30am to 3.30pm. All stall holders are from Hurworth or the surrounding villages. So why not pop along and pick up an early and unique Christmas present?

Fused glass workshop on Sunday 19th November – 10.00am to 1.00pm.

Wreath (or Christmas Ring) making workshop on Saturday 9th December

Children's Film with a visit from Santa and his two elves on Sunday 10th December.

Christmas Quiz Friday 15th December

b. HCA – In the absence of Councillor Probert, the Clerk gave the following report: -

In July the Grange held their annual Music for All concert. It was well supported, although the weather was both showers and gusts of wind. Four tents had been destroyed. Nevertheless, the who attended had an enjoyable evening.

On 3rd September, the Grange held their 12th Hurworth Country Fair. This was well supported with 1082 tickets sold, and a similar number of children, who entered free plus the stall holders meant that approximately 2,500 people supported the event.

c. Hurworth Albion – Cllr Russell gave the following report, with a request for assistance from the Parish Council/

Subject: Request for Support: Hurworth Albion Football Club Fireworks Event and Winter Training Facilities
(This report is minutes verbatim).

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to request your support for two important initiatives that will greatly benefit our community and the Hurworth Albion Football Club.

Firstly, we are planning a fireworks event on the 4th of November, which plays a vital role in our club's financial stability during the winter months when we require extensive training facilities. To ensure the success of this event, we kindly request that the Hurworth Parish Council supply the fireworks, at an estimated cost of £3,000. Your support in this endeavour would be instrumental in helping us secure the necessary funds to cover the winter training expenses, which typically amount to approximately £20,000 for six months of training facilities.

Secondly, I would like to bring to your attention the pressing issue of the lack of winter training facilities in the Darlington district. Our dedicated ward councillors, Paul Walters and Lorraine, are in touch with the club working hard to find an immediate solution finding suitable facilities for our club. I propose that the Hurworth Parish Council collaborates with the Hurworth Grange Community Centre to explore the possibility of creating a 3G football pitch in the area adjacent to the skate ramp. Such a facility would not only benefit our club but also generate much-needed revenue for the community centre. Furthermore, as an affiliated club to the FA, we are eligible for grants that could help fund this project.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for considering these proposals. Your support would not only enhance the Hurworth Albion Football Club but also contribute significantly to the well-being and recreational opportunities of our community members.

They have secured the use of a small pitch at Firth Moor.

A motion was tabled to lend Hurworth Albion £2,500 for repayment in May 2024, and to make a Section 137 Award of £500. The council voted and the motion was carried by 4 votes to 1 against. With Cllrs Leigh and Russell not voting, having declared their interest. **Action Clerk**

20. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

1. Mrs Milly Stoney addressed the meeting, informing residents that the Rogers Trust has some funds available, for projects or cases, where the community or members of the community can benefit. Application forms are available.
2. A resident expressed concern about a youth of approximately 10 or 11 years old has been driving a motorbike across the fields within Hurworth Grange. If this occurs again, it must be reported to the police, as he will have no insurance and no licence.
3. A resident asked whether the pathway from Blind Lane to Rockcliffe had been resolved as winter and wet conditions will be approaching. Cllr Tostevin stated that is still ongoing and she would ask for an update.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm