



**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held
on Thursday 4th April 2024 starting at 7:00pm
at Hurworth Grange**

Attendees

Parish Councillors present:

Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Fiona Lennox.
. Cllr Debbie Williamson

Also

Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Paul Walters and 8 members of the public.

1. Chair's Opening Address

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Fiona Lennox chaired the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public.

The Chair drew attention to the Annual Assembly which has been organised for 12th April, starting at 6:45pm at Hurworth Grange. This is a public meeting, and all are encouraged to attend.

The Chair informed the meeting in May will be precluded by the Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting will be followed immediately by the monthly meeting. All councillors should contact the Clerk if they wish to stand for Chairman or Vice Charman, and also to inform the Clerk what role they would be willing to take on for the following year.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Lindsey Probert

3. Declaration of Interests

- Cllr Crisp – allotments

4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 7th March 2024

The Minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Oughton and Seconded by Cllr Debra Williamson.

5. Matters Arising

- a. **Bellway estate.** Cllr Willis submitted a reported stating that he had been unable to make progress with the Bellway management, but will continue to try.
- A member of the public, who lives on the Bellway estate, supported Cllr Willis and said that Bellway are ignoring the residents, and failing to complete their obligations on the estate. He went further, to say that other Bellway estates are suffering from similar behaviour. He expressed his opinion that this matter should be followed up through DBC. Cllr Tostevin offered to make enquires and see if she can progress the situation.
- Action Cllr Tostevin.**

6. Hurworth Grange Lease

The Chair informed the meeting that the Clerk now has the draft lease, and it is awaiting the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of Hurworth Grange CIO to finalise the details therein.

7. Ward Councillors Report

Councillor Paul Walters reported that a retrospective planning application had been submitted for the new access on to Neasham Road opposite Strait Lane. The orange Sludge in the ditch adjacent to the new access is being investigated by DBC who are currently awaiting a report from the Environment Agency.

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin reported that:-

- 1) The hedgerow that had been removed on the A167 just before entering Hurworth Place was owned by the landowner and he was therefore entitled to cut the hedge back.
- 2) Highways will be undertaking improvement works on Roundhill Road as per the notices which have appeared. This work will be patching and resurfacing and the exact details along with closure dates are to follow.
- 3) Our local Police PSCO managed to speak to the young cyclists who had been reported as cycling in the dark without lights on their bikes and advised them of the dangers they were causing. A formal traffic A183 warning notice had also been issued to a rider on an off road bike.

8. Annual Assembly

At Hurworth Grange starting at 6:45pm. Full details are in the Parish Chronicle **and on Hurworth Live**

9. Public Participation

- 1) A Trustee of the Rogers Trust drew the meetings attention to the aims and objectives of the Trust and confirmed that funds are available at this time to individuals or community groups which need assistance. The Trust will have a table at the Annual Assembly and can give more information at the event.
- 2) Councillor Tostevin raised on behalf of a resident Mr Kitching, who was unable to attend the meeting, concerns about the footpath behind The Grange and running up to the Railway line. Mr Kitching had undertaken a land ownership search however, the ownership of the path was still undetermined. Mr Kitching would like to see the footpath upgraded and the Stiles removed to improve disabled access. Councillor Tostevin had contacted Geoffrey McCarthy the Rights of Way Officer at Darlington Borough Council and following a debate at the meeting it was agreed that Parish Councillor Peter Williamson would work with DBC to investigate what action could be taken. **Action** Cllr Peter Williamson and Cllr Tostevin
- 3) A resident also highlighted that the state of the footpath coming up from the Glebe was in a poor condition and should also be looked at.
- 4) A resident made a complaint about the traffic congestion on the main road outside and around the School. They stated that taxis, coaches and passing traffic had been in turmoil because the school gates had not been open at critical times. Councillor Tostevin stated that School Children had written to Paul Howell MP requesting improvements including installation of a pedestrian crossing. A meeting had been arranged with the School to discuss the matter further. Albeit DBC already have plans for improving the road crossings.
- 5) Councillor Tostevin raised on behalf of another resident who was unable to attend the meeting the matter of advertising for the Annual Assembly. The resident had noted that in previous years the attendance at the Assembly had been poor. This year the resident asked if the advertising could be improved, perhaps bigger and clearer notices on the main village notice boards. The matter was discussed and it was highlighted that more advertising had been done this year, including notices on Hurworth Live and in the Parish Chronicle however, there was still time to put up some further notices to maximise attendance. **Action** Councillor D Williamson and the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Reports

10. Planning Applications

Cllr Willis submitted the following report, which was read out by the Chair:-

HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS – March 2024

Planning

The have been 6 planning applications during March

- 1) Priory Hurworth School
Crown reduction and removal of dead wood from Redwood tree
- 2) 48 The Green
Demolition of existing conservatory and rear 2 storey bay windows and erection of ground floor sunroom
- 3) Hurworth View – Neasham Road
Change of use of land for paddock to new gypsy traveller site
- 4) Cumani Tees View – Hurworth Place
Conversion of garage to habitable space
- 5) Land at Mole End – Neasham Road
Erection of 3 bedroom dwelling with detached garage
- 6) 47 The Green
Erection of 3 bedroom dwelling in rear garden area.

11. Tree Report

Cllr Foster reported: -

The continuing bad weather has caused some damage to several trees at Hurworth Grange. Two large trees, one leaning on another will unfortunately have to been taken down. They are potentially dangerous, and as soon as the ground is dry, a tractor will be used to assist in their safe removal. Two smaller trees at the east side of the Grange have died and need to be removed. We are putting in a request to DBC to permit this work. The reason for the tree's situation is that the amount of rain we have encountered has loosened the roots and the winds have caused the roots to lose their grip in the ground.

2. Open Spaces and Environment Report

Cllr Lennox gave the following report: -

Waste Bins Update

Still discussing the need for a bin at the layby at Hurworth Place going towards Darlington, where there used to be one but there isn't one currently. Confirmed the location to DBC – ongoing

ParkThatBike Project

We have been notified of this project supported by Durham County Council, that aims to make cycling easier and more convenient and to tackle the problem of bike theft. They are offering various types of bike rack and secure cycle-stores free of charge – no cost to the Parish Council. HPC can apply for racks or stores at halls, green spaces, community buildings, or for local businesses, shops, pubs, schools or churches that require bike parking, as long as private premises and not on Public Highway.

The meeting discussed this and decided that we should request three cycle racks, to be located at:-

- Hurworth Grange, located near the bar.
- Hurworth Albion Football Club
- Outside the Mustard Tree Café.

Action Cllr Lennox and Clerk to make arrangements

13. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported:-

Traffic Report

The averages for the month of March 2024 are as follow, also the highest speed recorded: -

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	mph	average speed	mph	Not operational
The Green	fastest	72 mph	average speed	26.6 mph	
Hurworth Road	fastest	54 mph	average	27.4 mph	
Linden Court	fastest	66 mph	average	27.0 mph	
Roundhill Road	fastest	51 mph	average	22.5 mph	

The monitor at Metal Bridge is to be returned for repair again.

Action Clerk

The next PACT Meeting will be on Thursday, 11th April starting at 6:00pm at Hurworth Grange.

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

14. Rights of Way Report

Cllr Peter Williamson gave the following detailed report:-

RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

Date: 1 April 2024

Time: 1105 HRS

2024

DATE: 23 FEBRUARY

FOOTPATH NO: 1 REPORT

ROAD NAME/PATH: - COACH LANE – NEASHAM ROAD

REPORT

From Coach Lane turn right at public footpath sign, bare left on path to join Emmerson Road. Continuing along left hand side of Emmerson Road for approximately 200 yards, turning left onto public footpath and then turn immediately right and follow path to stile 1.

STILE 1 - Signs and condition of stile both good. Not dog friendly.

Once over stile, follow left hand side of field to stile 2

STILE 2 - Stile and signage all good and dog friendly.

From stile 2 walk across wooden bridge and over beck. Bridge is in good condition, no signs, but dog friendly.

STILE 3 – This is a stone stile in good condition, dog friendly, but no signs.

Follow field edge to stile 4

STILE 4 – Poor condition with rotting step, signage is good. Stile crosses a beck. A bridge is required. After crossing beck heavy overgrowth to enter field. Follow path to stile 5.

STILE 5 - Stile 5 is excessively high, due to having an extra bar nailed to it. The step is broken, signage is very poor. The adjacent gate is tied up, but can be used with care. The footpath section, has been sectioned off by the farmer leaving 2 horses to roam in this section, which is leaving the pathway very muddy and flooded, to stile 6

STILE 6 - Stile 6 is too high, no step or signs and not dog friendly.

STILE 7 - Good condition, signs faded, not dog friendly. Stile is partly chained off securing gate in position to keep horses in field.

FOOTPATH NO: 9 REPORT UPDATE

DATE: 04 APRIL 2024

The dangerous and insecure stile along by the river Tees has been replaced. Signage to fitted.

FOOTPATH NO: 19 REPORT UPDATE

Footpath 19 at the Grange and opposite Elmfield Road estimates for repairs are still being received

15. Crime and Security Report

Cllr Oughton reported that we have received the February and March crime reports:-

February 2024 report

ASB	1 incident
Criminal damage	1 incident

March 2024 report

ASB	4 Incidents
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16. Allotment Report

Cllr Crisp reported as follows: -

The allotments are now active again, and as many as 60 people have been attending to their plots. There is a very good atmosphere at strait Lane allotments.

The water has been switched on, and a leak from one of the water butts requires attention. **Action Clerk**

Plot 1a which has been out of use, is going to be made into a half plot, which can be used to assist the children's programme or to allow somebody on the waiting List to occupy.

17. Roads and Pathways Report

In the absence of Cllr Forster, the Clerk informed the meeting that potholes outside the Spar shop, and on the entrance to Greenview Avenue and along the interior road of the Green have been filled in. A great improvement.

18. Projects 2023-2024t

a. Beech tree carving project –

In the absence of Cllr Forster, there was formal report on the Wood Carving project. The Clerk reported that an invoice has been received, and having received authority from Cllr Forster and the Chair, a progress payment of £1350 has been made. This covers 6 sessions of the workshops and the materials. ; this is covered by the portion received.

Several councillors, and members of the public were anxious to hear an update of this project, and concern was expressed that the actual carving of the large tree appears to be in the background and no final design or plan has been submitted.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Forster and request a detailed update, including the date when the tree will be carved. Cllr Foster expressed concern that, because of all the rain, the tree will be absorbing dampness and will soon not be fit for carving. **Action Clerk and Cllr Forster.**

b. The Grange pathway entrance –

Cllr Williamson reported that he has now received a second quotation, which includes a solution design, which appears to resolve the problem, and also a 15-year guarantee. The total project cost is in the region of £5,000.

A motion was put before the meeting that the council should proceed with this project, and a decision to which quotation to accept, without further delay. The motion was tabled By Cllr Peter Williamson, Seconded by Cllr Oughton and the vote was unanimous in favour of proceeding. **Action Cllr P Williamson & the Clerk.**

19. Matters of Interest

A. **Correspondence** – No further correspondence was discussed.

20. Accounts for Payment

The schedule of payments for March 2024, having been distributed to all the councillors, were accepted with no queries.

Accounts for Payment March 2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M Harrison	103976	New Grange pathway	750.00
M Harrison	103977	New Grange pathway	750.00
G Wylie	103978	Posters	15.58
Hurworth Grange CIO	103979	Section 137 award Music in the Air	2000.00
Hurworth Grange CIO	103980	Section 137 award Hurworth Country fair	2000.00
Data Protection licence	103981	Licence	40.00
D Crisp	103982	Lawnmower repairs	90.00
PJB Groundworks	103983	Repairing potholes	850.00
S Hogg	103984	<u>Assembly buffet</u>	400.00
P Robinson	103985	Salary	626.85
P D Allan	103986	Salary	1220.80
Inland Revenue	103987	PAYE	380.80
CDALC training	103988	Training	20.00
All Saints Church	103989	Delivering Parish Chronicles	120.00
Print UK.com	103990	Printing Parish Chronicles	627.00
P D Allan	103991	Admin expenses	82.94
Hurworth Grange CIO	103992	Printing church newsletter	60.00
LBJ Design	103993	Carving Group Project	1350.00
			<u>£11,383.97</u>

21. Financial Report

The Financial Report, as at 31st March 2024, having been distributed to all the councillors, were accepted with no queries

a.

Financial Report to 31st March 2024													
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
Revenue													
Precept	59000												59000
VAT & Litter	114	2097			2897							3970	9078
Rent & Inte	20		220	0		236	100		260			230	1066
Grants											1540		1540
Allotment rent										560	380	160	1100
Total Revenue	59134	2097	220	0	2897	236	100	0	260	560	1920	4360	71784
Expenditure													
Salaries & P	2089	2088	2228	2088	2087	2229	2088	2088	2228	2088	2088	2228	25617
Gen. Admin	352	1165	1374	67	424	217	138	223	490	318	144	143	5055
Trees						220		585	315		767		1887
Open Spac	218	52	794		265		63	0			525		1917
Section 137	382		1230	400	400	500	250	465		250	120	4400	8397
Projects	1459		120	254				378			4027	2850	9088
Repairs, Ma	867									1914			2781
H Grange support			600				3244	150	160		3000		7154
Newsletters	60	95		12	659	86	97	60		83	120	820	2092
Paths/ Grt/ Heritage Trail					403			0					403
Allotments			137	200		171		250			10	90	858
Highways &	234						192	0			658	850	1934
Handyman	130	150	30				220	100					630
Rights of Way & Walks			150					0					150
Capital Expend & Youth					259						260		519
VAT	146	6	109	60	118	36	25	89	54	397	5	3	1048
Total Expend	5937	3556	6772	3081	4615	3459	6317	4388	3247	5050	11724	11384	69530
													2254
Funds In Ha	65106	118303	116844	110292	107211	105493	102270	96053	91665	88678	84188	74384	
Revenue le	53197	-1459	-6552	-3081	-1718	-3223	-6217	-4388	-2987	-4490	-9804	-7024	11499
Funds in Ha	118,303	118,844	110,292	107,211	105,493	102,270	96,053	91,665	88,678	84,188	74,384	67,380	<i>Ringed</i>

b. The Clerk had circulated an updated version of the **Risk Assessment** for the year 2024-25, for all Councillors to read. The Chair placed a motion before the Council to adopt the updated Risk Assessment, this was Seconded by Cllr Oughton, and passed unanimously.

22. Association Reports

a. **HCA** – No report

b. **Hurworth Village Hall** –

Cllr Crisp gave the following report:-

Sunday 7th April – Cinema – ‘Saving Grace’ with Brenda Blethyn. Homemade soup and bread from 2.00pm followed by the film at 3.00pm prompt.

Food and film are, as always, by donation.

Sunday 14th April – Chris Lloyd – ‘Four Scandals and a Gooseberry.’ Starts at 2.30pm and tickets are £5 each to include refreshments.

Sunday 5th May – Cinema – ‘A Haunting in Venice’ starring Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot. Homemade soup and bread from 2.00pm followed by the film at 3.00pm prompt.

Sunday 30th June it’s Armed Forces Day on the Village Green with Hurworth Big Band. Starts at 2.30pm and is a free event although there will be a bucket collection for Help for Heroes. This year it’s the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings (6th June) so please give generously.

Cllr Crisp informed the meeting that the Village Hall is organising the annual Armed Forces Day concern on the Village Green. This is the 80th anniversary and they wish to make it even more special. They requested funding of £400 to help to pay for the band and toilets. A motion was put forward by Cllr Crisp, Seconded by Cllr Debra Williamson, and carried unanimously. **Action Clerk**

c. **Hurworth Albion** - No report

23. Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

No other business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm