

**Minutes of the Hurworth Parish Council Meeting held  
on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July starting at 7:00pm**

<b>Attendees</b>
<p><b>Parish Councillors present:</b> Cllr Andrew Leigh, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Fiona Lennox. Cllr Peter Willis, <b>Also</b> Peter Allan (Parish Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Tostevin and 11 members of the public.</p>
<p><b>1. Chair's Opening Address</b></p> <p>The Chairman, Andrew Leigh opened the meeting and welcomed the public attendees.</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Cllr Peter Williamson, Cllr Debra Williamson, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Paul Walters, Cllr Peter Foster. - absent Cllr Lindsey Probert</p>
<p><b>3. Declaration of Interests</b></p> <p>Cllr Leigh – Hurworth Albion Cllr Crisp - Allotments</p>
<p><b>4. Minutes from the Meeting Held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b></p> <p>The Minutes for meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were accepted, proposed by Cllr Oughton, Seconded by Cllr Crisp.</p>
<p><b>5. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that the new lease to Hurworth Grange CIO will be signed by both parties within the coming week. The final modifications have been agreed and the lawyer has delivered the final version.</p>
<p><b>6. Ward Councillors Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Tostevin gave the following report: -</p> <p><b>Safer Route to school's work on Croft Road</b> Darlington Borough Council have outlined details of the works for the 20 mph safer route to school on Croft Road. This work will include a puffin crossing, no waiting and loading restrictions, 3 raised crossings and extra parking restrictions to make it safer for the children. This work is anticipated to take up to 6 weeks during the School Holidays and during this time Croft Road will be partially closed and then fully closed between the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. This is going to cause some inconvenience to travel within the village. Stagecoach is looking into an alternative route using Roundhill Road. Vehicle access to the Grange Community Centre will remain open.</p> <p><b>Hopetown visitor attraction</b> Hopetown which is focused on the history of the Stockton/Darlington Railway and also includes other visitor attractions is due to open in July, tickets are already on sale. All DBC Councillors have been invited to a pre-opening tour next week and we will feed back to you our views and what to expect. It is also very exciting to announce that the Hurworth Concert Band have been chosen to play at one of the forthcoming opening events.</p> <p><b>Expansion of the water Fluoridation scheme in Darlington</b> This consultation run by the Department of Health and Social care has been extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> July. It is a public consultation, and details can be found on the DBC website should anyone wish to respond.</p> <p><b>Asphalting Road Works</b> There are notices up to say that works will be undertaken on Roundhill Road during the summer months. This work will include Asphalting of Roundhill Road between the Spar and Westfield Drive. Details of the exact dates will follow.</p> <p><b>Neasham Road Access and Orange Sludge</b> Planning permission for the Neasham Access has not been granted and the planning team are not anticipating this to change anytime soon. There has been no further update from Environmental Health on the analysis of the potential contaminants in the orange sludge, but DBC will continue to follow this up.</p>

**7. Public Participation**

- a. A member of the public raised a concern about Hurworth School where an incident took place in June, during the school day, which ended with a pupil being admitted to hospital. The question was asked whether the school had CCTV. The Chairman advised that this incident is in the hands of the Police who are carrying out an official investigation.
- b. A resident made complaints about the state of the burial ground at All Saints Church. It was explained that the specific area to which he was referring came under the jurisdiction of the Hurworth and Neasham Burial Trust. He was asked to record a note of his complaint in the attendance register and a trustee of the Trust will contact him directly.

**8. Planning Applications**

Cllr Peter Willis gave the following report: -

**HURWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS – June 2024**

**Planning applications submitted;-**

There have been no new planning applications during June:-

**24/00393/FUL**  
**24 Ashbrook Lane, Darlington**  
 Single storey extension.  
 HPC record 'No Comment'.

**CONFIRM ANY LEGAL INTEREST BY 09/07/24 - UKO - LIV-SN-23-006887**  
**Re: Unowned vegetation W1 - Mixed - Remove 2 Oaks as shown on site plan near to ground level -**  
**Adjacent to St. Nicholas, Strait Lane, Hurworth Moor, Darlington, DL2 1QJ**  
**HPC declared no interest or liability.**

**9. Tree Report**

The Clerk reported that while Cllr Foster is on leave of absence, Cllr Debra Williamson, aided by Cllr Peter Williamson will take over the monitoring of the trees, and provide a monthly report. We are still waiting for DBC to give their permission to fell the dead tree which is located just inside the Grange entrance. The work to be carried out at Hawkswood and Emerson Road will be done this month, an Arborist has been contacted. We are still waiting for permission from DBC, to cut branches off a tree at Church View; our request was submitted over 5 weeks ago.

**10. Open Spaces and Environment Planning Applications**

Cllr Fiona Lennox gave the following report: -

**Village Benches**

Work is ongoing regarding the annual review of the benches in the village with about 12 benches being visited so far.

**Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed– River Tees**

We are continuing to work with Tees River Trust to communicate on locations where there are reports of either of these growing. Spraying and treatment is ongoing by the team at the Trust.

**Community Safety Coordinator**

I will attend a meeting in July by the new Community Safety Coordinator at Durham Policy and Crime Commissioners Office, Dawn Knight. This is a new role funded through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to support Communities across Co Durham and Darlington to feel safer and better able to respond to crime with a focus on anti-social behaviour. Will report more at the July meeting.

**11. Highways and Traffic Report**

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported: -

**Traffic Report**

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

The highest and average speeds are as follows: -

Metal Bridge	fastest	75 mph	average speed	25.1 mph
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The Green	fastest	66 mph	average speed	26.7 mph
Hurworth Road	fastest	51 mph	average speed	25.9 mph
Linden Court	fastest	72 mph	average speed	22.6 mph
Roundhill Road	fastest	64 mph	average speed	25.6 mph

Full details of the traffic numbers and statistics are available on the HPC web site.  
A member of the public who has studied the detailed statistics, suggested that more detail could be included in the monthly report. Cllr Oughton agreed to look into this.

## 12. Rights of Way Report

In his absence, Cllr Peter Williamson submitted the following report: -

### RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT 4 JULY 2024

#### Footpath 19 The Grange Entrance - Opposite Elmfield Road

The new rebuilt pathway is now complete, feedback from residents on website has been very positive. Thanking the contractor for a brilliant job.

#### Footpath 6

The complaint received had already been reported back in October 23. The report has been resubmitted to DBC Rights of Way Officer who will investigate further and awaiting correspondence.

#### Footpath 12

Discussions between the Landowners and DBC are still ongoing.

## 13. Crime and Security Report

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported the following figures for the month of June 2024: -

Criminal damage	1 incident
Road related	1 incident
Public Safety	1 incident
Animal / wildlife	1 incident

Full details are available on the HPC web site.

The police are looking into the several complaints of young cyclist doing wheelies on the main roads. Cllr Willis remarked that one youngster was in danger of killing himself doing wheelies on Roundhill Road.

A hand grenade, with the pin out, had been found in the parish, and has been taken and disposed of.

## 14. Allotment Report

Cllr David Crisp reported as follows: -

The allotments are now in full swing with lots of activity.

The new lawn mower and strimmer have been purchased and are being used. The person who is now cutting the allotment grass is doing an excellent job, and the pathways look very smart,

There is only one person on the Strait Lane Waiting List and should soon be receiving a plot.

The allotment fun day, to be held on 3rd August, is being organised, with live music, children's games, tombola, free vegetables, a BBQ and lots of fun. All are welcome, no entry charge.

## 15. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Janine Forster reported: -

There has been a lot of activity throughout the entire village with Virgin Communications' contractors installing the digital broadband network. This has naturally caused inconvenience, but apart from this, there is nothing further to report

## 16. Correspondence

- a. A new officer called Dawn Knight has been appointed as Community Safety Coordinator at the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

This is a new role, funded through the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, with the aim of supporting communities across County Durham and Darlington to feel safer and better able to respond to crime, with a focus on anti-social behaviour.

She will be covering our area, with the plan to deliver a number of engagement activities to meet with residents and businesses over the next year. She welcomes the opportunity to receive any guidance on local activities that would be appropriate for her to attend.

Dawn and a colleague will be visiting much of the County across July in an engagement van, where they will run 'pop-up' style engagements. They will chat with residents and businesses about what matters to them, provide advice and guidance on any issues they raise and have some safety-related merchandise to give out.

They will be in the following areas on:

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

<b>Cockerton East</b>	<b>9 00 - 11.15</b>	<b>am</b>	(Meet outside Greggs)
<b>Eastbourne Lidl</b>	<b>11.30 - 12.30</b>	<b>pm</b>	
<b>Haughton</b>	<b>2.30 - 3.30</b>	<b>pm.</b>	(Meet outside Premier)
<b>Albert Hill</b>	<b>3.45 - 4.45</b>	<b>pm</b>	
<b>Firthmoor</b>	<b>6.00 - 7.00</b>	<b>pm</b>	Community Centre

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Darlington** 9.00 - 12.30 pm Market Place

### North Road

**& North Gate** 1.15 - 2.15 pm (Meet at Gladstone Street)

Cllr Lennox is arranging to attend one of these sessions and will talk to them. **Action Cllr Lennox**

- b. Plans to erect the parish notice board at Elders Brook Park are in progress in conjunction with DBC. The other two are now in place

## 17. Projects 2023 - 2024

- a. Cllr Forster informed the meeting that the wood carving project is progressing well, and the tree should be decorated by September.  
Banks Charitable trust has been in touch requesting an update and will be sending a form to update their records. They have requested a picture of the tree design, and intend to send a photographer to take pictures, once the tree is finished.
- b. Cllr Williamson has reported that the project to install a new pathway entrance to Hurworth Grange is now complete and has been signed off. It looks excellent.

## 18. Matters of Interest

Our Litter Picker is off sick at present and may be unable to continue his duties for several weeks. A resident, called John McDonald, is standing in as a substitute, for the time being. He has already taken on the duties and is handling the situation well.

## 19. Accounts Payable

The Report, having been distributed to all the Councillors, was accepted by the meeting.

### Accounts for Payment June 2024

Name	Cheque No.	Details	Amount
Glyn Johnston trees	104116	Tree work	2250.00
Groundworks	104117	erecting notice boards	600.00
Anglian Water	104118	Allotment water	66.08
G Wylie	104119	Poster	16.36
M Harrison	104120	Bench maintenance	200.00
Gates Hut Ltd	104121	Section 137 bench seats	2529.67
Paul Robinson	104122	Salary	686.20
P D Allan	104123	Salary	1220.80
Inland Revenue	104124	PAYE	395.40
Hurworth Grange CIO	104125	Church newsletter	60.00
D Crisp	104126	Allotment Fun Day	400.00
Sam turner	104127	Mower & strimmer	681.97
Kelvin Russell	104128	Grange entrance construction	4960.00
P D Allan	104129	Admin expenses	33.77
BT comms	DD	Telecomms	219.07
<b>Total payments</b>			<b>14319.32</b>
Hurworth Albion	Contra	Section 137 award	1500.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>15819.32</b>

## 20. Financial report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The Report, having been distributed to all the Councillors, was accepted by the meeting.

	Financial Report to 30th April 2024						Ringfenced funds £9,689						Total	Budget 2024-25			
	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25					
<b>Revenue</b>																	
<b>Precept</b>	65000												65000	65000			
Litter Picker refund VAT & Grants		750	1050		3600						3600		7200	8400			
Rent & Interest					30			30			30	420	540	500			
Grants													0	0			
Allotment rent									1740				1740	1160			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	65000	750	1050	0	3630	0	0	30	0	1740	3630	420	74480	75060			
<b>Expenditure</b>																	
Salaries & NHI	2148	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	2250	26898	25400			
Gen. Admin Expenses	1378	850	500	200	350	750	150	340	300	445	350	300	5913	4060			
Trees	0	550	400	480	455	185	270	500	560	435	800	650	5285	5000			
Open Spaces	1000	80	1600	1050	50	520	250	100	480	200	400	370	6100	5500			
Section 137	1752	500	2400	2000	0	500	1000	300	300	500	1000	300	10752	11200			
Projects	0	5000	750	200	1000	500	0	400	1500	800	500	300	10750	8000			
Repairs & Maint		100	300	60	0	650	120	80	180	0	0	300	1790	1800			Apr-24
Newsletters & Posters	60	60	60	60		60	850	60		60	60	850	2180	3150			
Youth Activities		500				1500		500		300		200	3000	3000			100638 Deposit
Paths/ Grit/ Heritage Trail		200	130	450	100	300	0	100		570		200	2100	1600			3375 Current
Allotments			300	360		60		420				300	1440	1500			30000 BOND
Highways			500					500	500		400		1900	1500			2500 Hur Albion
Handyman		100	100	200		300	100	100	200	100	100		1400	1500			136513
Hurworth Grange support																	11689
Capital & Legal exs	760	750			258		0			259			2027	517			124824 ok
VAT	438																
<b>Total Expenses</b>	7536	10940	9290	7310	4463	7575	4990	5650	6270	5919	6260	5770	81535	73777			
													-7055	1333			
<b>Funds in Hand less ringed</b>	67360	124824	114634	106394	99084	98251	90676	85686	80066	73796	69617	66987					
<b>Revenue less expenses</b>	57464	-10190	-8240	-7310	-833	-7575	-4990	-5620	-6270	-4179	-2630	-5350	9689				
<b>Funds in Hand</b>	124,824	114,634	106,394	99,084	98,251	90,676	85,686	80,066	73,796	69,617	66,987	61,637	Ringed				

- The annual VAT refund report has been submitted in June.
- The two-year bond with Cambridge Counties Bank matured in June. The £30,000 in the bond has been transferred to a new two-year bond at a 4.75 percent interest rate. The interest earned on the matured bond amounting to £1272.40 has been transferred to our current account in June.

## 21. Association Reports

### a. Village Hall

- Lynn Drumm (Chair of the Village Hall) reported – The Armed Force concert was held on the Village Green on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. The event was well attended with over 170 people. A collection was taken, amounting to £265, which is being donated to the Armed Forces charity.
- July will be a quiet month
- In August there will be an Art Exhibition.
- In September the Night of the Proms concert

The Village Hall is planning to upgrade the village Christmas tree and to hold a celebration event on the Village Green. In order to fully decorate the tree and a smaller tree and provide the entertainment they asked for a Section 137 award of £1500. The Chairman expressed his support for this request, and it was put to a vote. Proposed by Cllr Oughton, seconded by Cllr Willis and the vote was unanimous; Cllr Crisp did not vote, due to his declaration of interest

**b. Hurworth Albion Football Club.** No report

**c. Hurworth Grange.** In the absence of Cllr Probert, no report was submitted.

## 22. Any Other Business (non-financial).

- Cllr Willis expressed his frustration at the lack of response to the requests made to Bellway to complete their obligations and complete the outstanding list of items that need attention on the estate. A new Bell way Management team is now in place, but still no action.
- Cllr Oughton asked for the bollard at Coach Lane to be replaced Action Clerk
- A resident stated that Roundhill road had a large amount of litter on the roadsides and requested that a litter pick should be organised. Cllr Tostevin explained that this is difficult as Streetscene are concerned about the danger of traffic, and it is advised that the public should not undertake the task.

Roundhill road would have to be closed to allow the litter pick to take place. However, Cllr Tostevin offered to raise it with DBC.

**23. The next meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**The Chair closed the meeting at 7.50pm**

**DRAFT**