

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday 1st July 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell and Cllr Peter Willis

Also

Our special guest - Paul Howell MP, Cllr Chou, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public.

488. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr David Crisp, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Bree Stamp,

489. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lynn Wylie - HCA & EPICH
Cllr Kelvin Russell – Hurworth Albion

490. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, social distancing must be observed.
He welcomed the special guest to the meeting Mr Paul Howell MP.

491. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd June 2021

The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Dorothy Oughton and seconded by Cllr. Amanda Oughton.

492. Public Participation

Lynne Drumm thanked the Parish Council for funding the Armed Forces Concert, which was held on Sunday, 27th June on the village green. The event was well supported, within the confines of the COVID 19 restrictions.

493. Planning Applications

Cllr Ring-Viney submitted the following report regarding planning applications submitted in the month of June 2021.

Planning applications				
1	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	19/10/2020	27/05/2021	20/00967/FUL	none
Address	Skipbridge Farm & Neasham Springs Farm Neasham Road DL2 1QL			
About	Removal of redundant agricultural sheds and conversion of barns into 8 no. dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and access works			
2	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	05/05/2021	18/05/2021	21/00516/FUL	none
Address	Mulberry House 21C Roundhill Road HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2ED			
About	Erection of detached double garage			

3	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	13/05/2021	13/05/2021	21/00573/FUL	none
Address	Sovereign House Neasham Road Hurworth Moor DARLINGTON DL2 1QH			
About	Extension to existing end of life vehicle centre (ELV) on north elevation			
4	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	17/05/2021	17/05/2021	21/00580/FUL	none
Address	8 Blackthorn Drive HURWORTH DARLINGTON DL2 2FU			
About	Erection of two storey side extension			
5	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	21/05/2021	21/05/2021	21/00619/FUL	none
Address	2 Meadowbank Close HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DARLINGTON DL2 2HZ			
About	Conversion of loft into habitable accommodation including the insertion of dormer and velux windows			
6	Rec'd Date	Val Date	REF	Comments
	27/05/2021	28/05/2021	21/00647/FUL	none
Address	35 Manor Road HURWORTH PLACE DARLINGTON DL2 2HH			
About	Erection of a single storey extension at the rear			

494. Tree Report

Cllr Foster, reported as follows: -

A large silver birch tree in the Grange grounds, which has been monitored for the past three years, is now dead. This tree needs to be removed as soon as possible as it is now a potential hazard. We may require planning permission as the tree is the subject of a TPO.

The recently planted pear tree at Lychgate is doing well, and a resident close to the tree has offered to water it regularly.

495. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis, reported as follows: -

Roundhill Road is now open with two traffic calming systems in place, which seem to have reduced the speed of most traffic coming in and out of the village. Roundhill Road has been patched up during this period; it would have been good to see more remedial work having been carried out during the closure of the road.

The public footpath alongside the Strait Lane allotments was getting very overgrown, but this has now been cut back.

A hedge overhanging Roundhill Road, which was causing pedestrians to walk on the road, has been cut back.

There has been a lot of work digging up the pavements in the Westfield Drive area (carried out by Open Reach/ BT), this is now complete and the pavements satisfactorily repaired, although there was significant disruption during the work.

496 Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp provided the report as follows: -

Playpark

Unfortunately, there is no update on when the 106 funds will be made available, so work has not been able to start; an update will be provided once known.

Actions from last meeting

Photos were taken of the Westfield Drive area post the work done, and were emailed to Lorraine Tostevin; which she kindly send it on to DBC. The work was not carried out by DBC, it had been passed to contractors, although DBC agreed that someone was meant to come back and tidy up the work to standard. This means that neither HPC or DBC can push through any complaints and it is up to the individual households to complain directly.

There were multiple requests for cutting back hedges, which Graham and Lynn have kindly done most of. Roundhill Road has also been done by a resident/ DBC.

497. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report (the full report is available on the HPC website): -

Tree and Open Spaces Database

Work on the Database is ongoing and will be completed for the September PC meeting. DBC have advised on ownership and responsibility for the trees located on the village Green.

Work is still to be completed on the Tree Policy; as with the database, this will be presented at the September PC meeting.

Grange Entrance Improvement Works

Now that work has been completed on the Grange café, I have contacted Martin Harrison for a quote and design for improving the entrance, opposite Elmfield Road, to the Grange; it is expected that this work will be complete well ahead of the Hurworth Country Fair in September.

498. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted the following report for June 2021 (full traffic statistics and graphs are available on the HPC web site): -

June Traffic Report

This report compares traffic figures on Roundhill Road for a typical week (pre-layout change) with the first seven days of the new layout being in operation:

Week starting 1st March 2021 7 Days starting 24th June Vehicle Count 7927 7519 Average Speed 25.9 MPH 24.9 MPH % over 30 MPH 9.0% 5.5% Max. Speed 48.0 MPH 48.0 MPH Average Speeder MPH 34.1 MPH 34.1 MPH 85th Percentile Speed 29.0 MPH 28.0 MPH.

This is a small sample of data from which to draw any meaningful conclusions, however first impressions would seem to indicate that:

Average speed is reduced by 1 MPH and the percentage of speeders is down from 9.0% to 5.5%. The speed at which the average speeder travels remains the same at 34.1 MPH The 85th Percentile figure (this the speed at which or below 85% of vehicles are travelling) is reduced by one MPH to 28 MPH. The maximum speed recorded was the same for both samples 48 MPH.

We will have more figures to work with after the summer holiday, full details of the June traffic statistics can be found on the website: www.hurworthonline.com

The comment was made that the detail included in the traffic reports is excellent, and that the trend of the aggregate traffic is slowly falling.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton reported: -

No SpeedWatch sessions were held in June 2021.

Cllr Lorraine Tostevin had requested, at the June HPC meeting, that a SpeedWatch was carried out at the Birches. However, following the Durham Police risk assessment, the location identified by Durham Police was found to be too close to the 30mph sign, so a satisfactory SpeedWatch session could not be completed.

So that effort, getting the equipment out, wasn't wasted, it was decided to complete a SpeedWatch at the usual location on Croft Road, near to Elmfield Road. However, on arrival, there were roadworks and traffic control in place, meaning that no SpeedWatch could be completed.

499. Parish Walks Programme

Cllr Forster reported as follows: -

Walk report – For Sunday 27th June 2021 (Canny Well Woods)

Attended by 6 people including 1 Parish Councillor - Janine Forster

Paths walked 12 & 13

Route started and finished at Hurworth Grange Community centre and took in paths around Croft parish.

All stiles used in Hurworth parish were in good condition.

Walk Length – 3.7 miles

Walk Time - 1.45 Hrs

500. Allotments

In the absence of Cllr Crisp there was no formal report.

501. Matters of Interest

1. Annual Assembly

The date for the Annual Assembly is Thursday, 22nd July, starting 7:00pm at Hurworth Grange. Refreshments will be served.

The Chairman confirmed that the Assembly will be going ahead as stated and that the arrangements are in hand.

Speakers are encouraged to show pictures and use slides in their presentation. A laptop, projector and screen will be provided.

2. Parish Chronicle

A list of the contents for the newsletter was discussed and names provided, for the preparation.

Cllr Hedley stated that the final day for submission will be 14th August.

3. Project Review

The Chairman went through each item on the 2021 Project Schedule, comments were noted, and the schedule was updated. Two projects were eliminated, viz:-

- a. There will not be a Scarecrow Festival this year.
- b. It was agreed that there is no requirement for more benches at this time.

All the other projects will be going ahead.

The Chairman invited Councillors to recommend any new projects.

Cllr Russell informed the Council that the toilet facilities at the Priory sports field are in very bad condition, and require an urgent refurbishment. Some funds are available, but there is a shortfall of £1100.

A motion was tabled by Cllr Graham Wylie, seconded by Cllr Sam Ring-Viney that the Council award £1,100 for this project. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chairman reported that the annual Outdoor Concert would go ahead on 17th July but will be subject to strict COVID19 restrictions. This will result in the attendance being reduced from approx. 1600 to 500, and extra costs incurred for outdoor toilets and security guards. A shortfall of £600 was anticipated.

Cllr Graham Wylie put forward a motion, seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie that the Council should award £600 to the Hurworth Village Hall, to assist the funding. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chairman informed the meeting the 10th Hurworth Country Fair would be staged on 18th September. The organising committee has informed the Council that sponsorship this year is much more difficult to obtain, due to the set back that local companies have experienced during the pandemic restrictions. A shortfall of sponsorship of approximately £3,000 is being forecast. A motion was tabled by Cllr Sam Ring-Viney, seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton that the Council award £1,000 to assist the Fair organisation for 2021. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been cutting back and trimming the hedges around the village. He had borrowed a strimmer from David Crisp, to who he was grateful. However, a standard trimmer is not powerful enough for such a large job, and it was suggested that an industrial strimmer is purchased to carry out this work in future. The Council agreed to purchase a strimmer, cost approximately £300. **Action - Cllr Russell agreed to support Cllr Graham Wylie with the purchase.**

502. Accounts Payable

The Schedule of Accounts for Payment for June 2021, having been distributed to all Councillors, was accepted with no queries raised by Councillors.

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable June 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
William Smith Ltd Traffic signs	103544	Traffic speed signs	370.27
Ken Pattison bird boxes	103545	Swift boxes	197.11
HCA Rent	103546	Annual rent	620.00
		Section 137, Armed	
Hurworth Village Hall	103547	Forces Day	300.00
WAVE Allotment water	103548	Allotment water	193.08
A Iles	103549	Salary	479.60
P D Allan	10355	Salary	762.20
Inland Revenue	103551	PAYE	87.80
BT Comms	103552	Telecomms	168.12
Barclays Bank	103553	Bank charges	2.30

Total Expenses payable for June 2021

£3,180.48

503. Financial report

The Financial report to 30th June 2021 has been distributed to all Councillors, prior to the meeting, and no queries have been raised.

Financial Report to 30th June 2021															
BLUE-Allocated	BLUE-Allocated				Ringfenced funds £12,689										
	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Total	Yr to Date	Budget
Revenue															2020-2021
Precept	50000												50000	50000	50000
VAT & Litter Paker refund			1800	3000							3000		7800	1800	9000
Rent & Interest	350	600	2	100		10	100		10		10	160	1351	961	500
Grants													0	0	2000
Allotment rent										1180			1180	0	1180
Total Revenue	50350	600	1802	3100	0	10	100	0	10	1180	3010	160	62331	61761	71680
Expenditure															
Salaries & NFI	1451	1340	1330	1500	1400	1400	1500	1400	1400	1500	1400	1400	17821	4121	16600
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	970	762	450	250	300	350	850	300	300	350	300	5547	2097	5000
Trees	0	250	0	600	600	500	300	500		400	400	250	3815	263	7500
Open Spaces	515	47	135	600	1200	500	400	500	200	500	500	200	5357	757	7000
Section 137	110	1400	600	500	1100	500	300	300	300	200		500	7418	2118	10500
Projects	0	0		400	2000	2000			2000	1300	600		8300	0	12000
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		300	80	250	120	50	150	100	150	100	1300	0	1500
Newsletters & Posters	10	120		120	0	850	60	60	60	60	800	60	2268	138	3400
Youth Activities & Scoreboards				400		1200	500					200	2300	0	0
Pathfinder Heritage Trail							120	60		320	500		1000	0	2000
Allotments	15		133			400		420			300		1228	308	1250
Highways							520			300	100		1800	0	1000
Handyman				100	100	100	200	100	200	100	100	100	1100	0	1200
Parish Walks						400			200				600	0	1600
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000			2600						250			3855	1000	1518
VAT		5	52	520									58	58	
Total Expenses	3405	4195	3180	8490	6730	8400	4970	4240	5410	5330	5240	3110	62211	10802	72968
Funds in Hand less ringf	64676	126963	117913	115635	110243	103515	95125	98255	86015	80615	76456	74226			
Revenue less expenses	55893	-3556	-1378	-5390	-6730	-8390	-4870	-4240	-5400	-4159	-2230	-2950	12499		
Funds in Hand	120,569	117,013	115,635	110,245	103,515	95,125	90,255	94,015	80,615	76,456	74,226	71,276	Ringed		

504. Association Reports

1. Tony Winnett provided the following update on activities at Tees Valley International Airport: -

Latest Information from Tees Valley International Airport.

The Airport report some new developments that have been taking place last week,

On Tue 8 June a Ryanair flight took off for Majorca. The first Ryanair flights from the airport for ten years.

On Fri 11 June Ryanair flew off to Alicante.

In spite of the lockdown there have been some important changes and additions to the Airport facilities:-

- Two new bars – The Goosepool and The Transporter
- New Landside Cafe
- Two new lounges – The Middleton and the Rockliffe
- New shops supporting local retail businesses
- Upgraded and improved security

More gates – with a designated gate for Ryanair.

Further to this report, Cllr Foster informed the meeting that there is currently a lot of activity at the airport, particularly now the EasyJet is using it as their Training Centre.

He said that he, himself, was well acquainted with the activities, and that anybody who enquired, or is interested can contact him directly, for further information.

2. Cllr Lynn Wylie provided the following report on behalf of HCA: -

A meeting was held on 15th June at the Grange. The following provides a high-level view of what was mentioned/ discussed:

- The Grange café (The Coffee Pot) opened on the 21st June; unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions not lifting, as planned on the 21st, the opening event had to be limited to HCA members + 1 guest only
- Initially the Coffee Pot is planned to be open Tuesday to Friday, 9:30am until 4pm and 9:30am to 2pm on a Saturday
- The new windows and door, for the bar area, have been delayed (due to materials shortage and high demand) and it is expected that they will now be fitted in mid-July
- Due to the concern around the Delta Covid strain, several groups are not expecting to return as early as first hoped; 1 group have even delayed their return until January 2022

505 Any Other Business (Non-Financial)

1. Cllr Russell reported: -

At a previous PC Meeting, the subject was raised regarding a resident having a long ongoing issue regarding the sewer overflowing and causing a problem in their grounds. Northumbrian Water had promised to design and provide a model of the appropriate solution by 30th June.

Cllr Russell is sad to report that this ‘model’ has not been forthcoming, and the problem continues. It appears that the sewer in question does not have the capacity to deal with the current volumes. The resident has requested the Parish Council to add their weight to resolving this matter, if the promised ‘model’ is not forthcoming by the end of July.

The Chairman offered to look further into this and take the appropriate action to assist. **Action - Cllr Graham Wylie.**

However, Mr Paul Howell MP stepped in, and offered his support to the matter and help to speed up a resolution.

2. Mr Paul Howell MP was invited to address the meeting.

Mr Howell told the meeting that the area he is covering is divided into seven zones, and it is his intention to visit all the Parish Councils during his tenure. Hurworth falls into a zone along with Neasham and Middleton St George, so will split his time between the responding PC meetings in rota.

Our MP is keen to integrate with the local councils, and to assist when appropriate.

3. The Chairman referred to the request received from an individual requesting to purchase a piece of HPC owned land in Friars Pardon; copies of the request and correspondence had been distributed to all Councillors for their consideration.

A discussion and exchange of views ensued, and finally a motion put to the Council by the Chairman, Seconded by Cllr Lynn Wylie, worded as follows:-

‘Does this Council wish to pursue this matter further, or close the subject forthwith’.

A vote was taken was taken, and unanimously the Council decided to close the matter and the potential purchaser will be informed that the land is not for sale. **Action - Clerk.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm