

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Hurworth Grange
on Thursday 7th October 2021**

Parish Councillors present: -

Cllr Graham Wylie, Cllr Lynn Wylie, Cllr Elaine Hedley, Cllr Peter Foster, Cllr Janine Forster, Cllr Amanda Oughton, Cllr Dorothy Oughton, Cllr Kelvin Russell, Cllr Peter Willis, Cllr David Crisp,

Also

Cllr Tostevin, Peter Allan (Parish Clerk) and six members of the public.

524. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bree Stamp, Cllr Chou

525. Declarations of Interest

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

526. Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and public.

a. Council Vacancy

The Chairman stated that the last day for an election to be demanded is 9th October, after which the Council has the power to co-opt a new Councillor. At present the Council has received three candidate applications. The candidates will be interviewed and a person selected to fill the vacancy. **Action Chairman**

b. Welcome to Hurworth plaques

The Chairman reported that two plaques have now been installed, in accordance with the DBC structural regulations.

There have been one or two observations that the plaque near the Comet Inn is actually in Hurworth Place, and should be moved.

It was pointed out that the plaques are welcoming people into Hurworth Parish, and not differentiating between, Hurworth Place, Hurworth village, Hurworth Moor or Skipbridge, and the current position of the plaque welcomes people coming over Croft Bridge from Yorkshire.

The Chairman called for a vote, Seconded by Cllr Hedley.

‘Shall the Council leave the plaque where it has been installed’

The result of the vote was 8 in favour of leaving it, with 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

527. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2021

The minutes were accepted by the Council, proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie and seconded by Cllr Hedley.

528. Public Participation

1. A plaque will be fitted to one of the Parish benches in memory of Elaine Plant, who died recently, and has been a resident of this parish for many years.
2. There was a discussion about the bus route change which was going to take place prior to the pandemic. Cllr Dorothy agreed to contact DBC transport and Aviva to follow up on the promises made to HPC. **Action Cllr Dorothy Oughton.**

3. A resident has written to the Council suggesting that a Youth Shelter should be erected to allow young people to have a meeting place.
Several different opinions were expressed, and it was agreed that the Council will talk to Martin Stand and the youth group, to seek their opinion and advice. **Action Cllr Bree Stamp and Chairman.**
4. A resident brought up the ongoing problems of parking near and around the Secondary School. Recent complaints are in relation to teaching staff parking on the main road, as well as parents parking in the Surgery car park whilst waiting for their children. The resident suggested that the school should provide more parking space within the school grounds; the Chairman responded that the school buses move in and out, and this impedes additional space for parking in the school grounds.
It was agreed that the Council will speak to the school management. **Action HPC**

529. Planning Applications

Councillor Willis gave the following report: -

Planning Report for September 2021

36 Friars Pardon

Extensive work is being carried out in the garden of the above property

I am trying to get hold of a copy of the original planning application from Lorraine in order to ascertain the extent of the work which is well underway

There has been no work carried out beyond the dwelling boundary

At present there does not seem to be any reason for objection

19 Friars Pardon

Status on the Darlington Planning portal is “awaiting decision” – however work has started

No objections were reported on the planning application

2/3 Meadowbank Close

Objections have been raised by Hurworth residents regarding the extension of the curtilage of these houses.

Railway Heritage have also raised concerns.

Copse Haven Roundhill Road

Permission to develop dog training field

Numerous objections listed including suitability of fencing proposed and land ownership

All other planning applications do not provide any concerns or objections

530. Tree Report

Cllr Foster gave the following report: -

Now that autumn is upon us, the leaves are falling, and these can be a problem to the drains. However, all the trees are in good condition, including the trees in the Heritage Orchard, which I have recently inspected.

The large tree near the playground at Hurworth Grange needs to have the dead branches removed; this will be a big job as it will require a cherry picker to achieve the reduction. We have been contacted by residents bordering Lychgate, regarding overhanging branches. Lychgate is owned by Shepherds who built the estate, and they provided it as an amenity area for the nearby residents.

Eight years ago, the Parish Council, as a gesture of good will, undertook a 'Duty of Care'.

Over the years this has cost the council a few thousand pounds, and the area is not used by the community. Lychgate does not add to the village beauty, nor does it provide a community facility.

I propose that the Council withdraw their 'Duty of Care', and the neighbouring residents can maintain it themselves. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Dorothy Oughton.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed by nine votes to one.

Cllr Lynn Wylie objected to the comment 'Lychgate does not add to the village beauty, and the area does not provide a community facility' and highlighted all of the effort and good work that EPICH have carried out over the last several years, with very little cost to the PC, in maintaining the area as an important wildlife corridor. Over the past 12 months significant planting has been done, and it is hoped that come Springtime, we will be able to see the benefit of this planting. It was agreed that EPICH are to be allowed to continue to work on the Lychgate amenity area.

HPC will no longer carry out any work on the Lychgate amenity area, and have now formerly withdrawn their voluntary duty of care.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton drew attention to the plaque which used to be placed beside Lychgate, but has now disappeared. The plaque should actually have been behind Lime Cottage, as historically this is where the lime was kept for the plague pits on the village Green. Cllr Lynn Wylie advised that the plaque was factually incorrect, which has been discussed previously, so it could not be reused anyway.

The council agreed that a new plaque will be made and located in the correct historical position. **Action Clerk and Cllr Oughton**

531. Roads and Pathways Report

Cllr Willis, reported as follows: -

An official Audit of the roadworks carried out for the traffic calming on Roundhill Road has been carried out by DBC, in co-operation with Ward Cllr Tostevin. A report will be prepared and we should hear shortly if the configuration will be left as it is, or changed to an alternative design.

The pathway beside the Bellway estate is in poor repair.

532. Youth and Playground Report

Cllr Stamp was not able to attend this meeting, but provided the following report: -

The playpark up date has been delayed. Unfortunately the correct procurement procedure was not followed by the Parks DBC department and the work now has to put out to tender.

New dates are:

DBC Parks Dept. to complete the documentation - by 24th September
Procurement to authorise documentation and enter on NEPO portal – go live 4th October
Tender will be on the portal for a six week period – closes Friday 12th November
Appoint contractor to do the work by Friday 19th November
Place order with appointed contractor w/c 22nd November

Most suppliers are currently working to a 10 week lead time from when the order is placed meaning earliest installation date would be w/c 7th February 2022.

533. Open Spaces & EPICH Report

Cllr Lynn Wylie submitted the following report: -

Open Spaces Report – October 2021

Tree and Asset Database

Work on the Tree Policy has now been completed and will be made public once Parish Council approval is given. Thanks are extended to Graham Wylie, Peter Allan and Mike Gilbey for their support with this Project.

It is hoped that the revised Tree Policy will provide a much more comprehensive support (it has increased from 5 pages to 9 pages in length) with decision making related to the trees/ hedgerows within Hurworth and Hurworth Place.

The Asset Database provides both the Clerk and Councillors with a comprehensive record of all land ownership along with locations of benches/ notice boards etc within Hurworth and Hurworth Place.

All supporting digital documents relating to EPICH responsibility, Open Spaces Policy, HCA responsibility and Land Registry documents will also be saved in the same central location for easy reference.

A motion was tabled that ‘the Council will adopt the revised Tree Policy and implement it as from this meeting date’. Proposed by Cllr Lynn Wylie, Seconded by Cllr Crisp; the vote was unanimous.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lynn Wylie and also Mike Gilbey for all the work that has gone into preparing this database and Tree Policy.

EPICH Report – October 2021

Heritage Orchard

Following (further) recent vandalism of the ‘step over’ fruit trees, it has been agreed to remove the step over trees; this will be completed during the dormant tree growing months of late autumn / early winter.

Work is nearly finished on the information panel by our resident artist, Jaime Westwood, and it is hoped that the sign will be ready for installation by the October half-term holiday: the cost for this panel is being covered by the remainder of the TVNP grant.

Hurworth Show

EPICH had their usual stall selling various things such as their popular jars of honey, packets of wildflower seeds, bird boxes, hedgehog highway gates etc. All proceeds will go towards supporting the work carried out by the EPICH volunteers

Projects

To save costs of buying plug plants, EPICH members, with spare greenhouse space, have started growing our own wildflower plugs to support the various planned planting schemes in both the Heritage and Lychgate Orchards, as well as around the Grange grounds.

If this is a success, then EPICH members will repeat this in future years to save on costs of buying nursery grown plugs.

The usual Autumn bulb planting starts on the 9th October, with further sessions planned for the 16th and 23rd October. If you would like to volunteer, please watch out on Hurworth Live for times and locations; your help will be very much appreciated.

The chosen areas are:

- to consolidate the successful bulb planting along the Primary school footpath (between Roundhill Road and Westfield Drive),
- taking advantage of the recently disturbed ground (following recent works completed by NWL) around the Grange picnic bench,
- planting dwarf Daffodil bulbs along the verges of The Green between the Bay Horse and the Priory

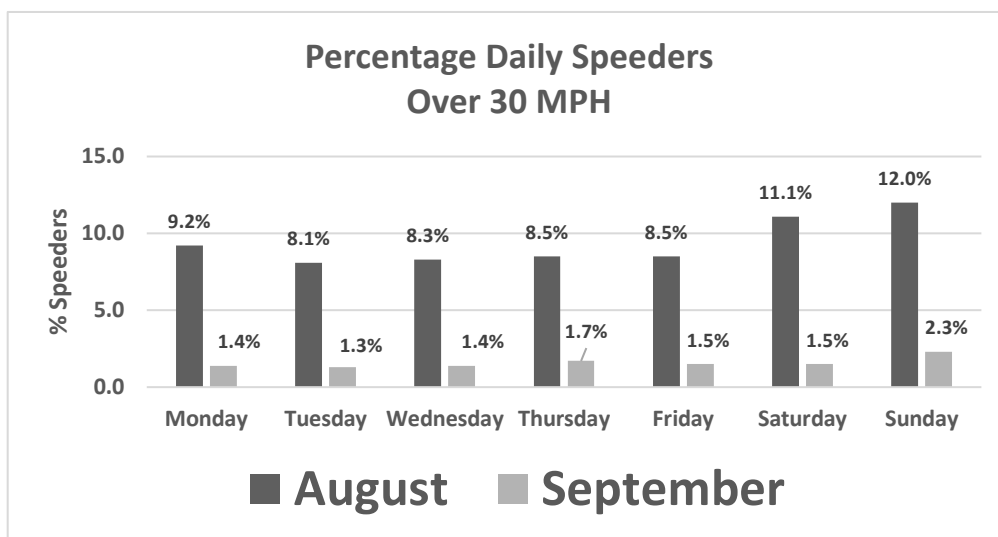
534. Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Hedley submitted the following report for September 2021: -

September Traffic Report

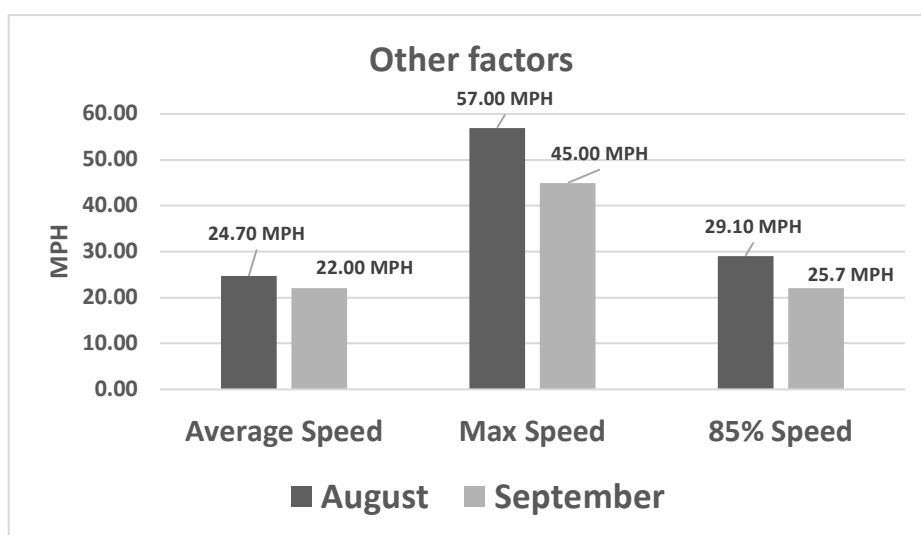
This month's report looks at the effect that the installation of Speed Humps on 6th September, has had on Roundhill Road traffic.

1. Daily Speeders in **August (No Humps)** and **September (With Humps)**



The installation of Speed Humps seems to have considerably **reduced the percentage of speeders over 30 MPH.**

- Monthly figures for Average, Maximum and 85th Percentile Speeds
(With an 85th percentile value of 28 MPH, 85% of traffic is doing **28 MPH or Less**).



Average Speed Down, Maximum Speed Down, 85th Percentile Speed Down (**85% of traffic is now at or below 25.7 MPH a big drop from 29.1 MPH in August**) Full details of September traffic can be found on the website:

www.hurworthonline.com

535. Crime and Security Report

Cllr Amanda Oughton that the September crime figures were not available, but will be published on the HPC web site.

536. Parish Walks Programme

Cllr Forster gave the following report: -

The final walk of the year was held on 25th September. It was attended by four adults and one child. Refreshments were provided at Hurworth Grange for those who took part.

The poor turnout was partly due to confusion over the actual date of the walk, as the date being changed from the 19th September to the 25th September and several walkers had attended on the previously advertised date.

537. Allotments

Cllr Crisp gave the following report: -

As Autumn arrives, the activities at the allotments are winding down. A skip has been ordered for the 22nd October, and this will allow a clean-up of the plots.

There are five people on the Strait Lane Waiting List at present.

The allotment holders are holding a Halloween Fun Day on 31st October, with fancy dress, games and refreshments. This will be funded by the profit made from the Summer Fun Day.

538. Matters of Interest

a. Project Report

The Chairman revisited the projects listed for the current financial year. He reported on the progress with the Village History plaque, which has been ordered, and work is underway on the design and historical detail collated for the information panels.

Cllr Wynn Wylie suggested that an additional plaque could be located in Hurworth Place, as there are a lot of interesting buildings and areas here too.

Cllr Dorothy Oughton said that she is still working on the design of Jean's Garden.

No new projects were brought to the table.

b. Firework Night at the Priory field

Cllr Russell outlined the plan that Hurworth Albion are contemplating for a firework display on 5th November. The estimated cost will be £2,300, and the club does not have any funds to stage the event. He asked whether the Parish Council will host the event.

Various suggestions were made by Councillors regarding charging an entrance fee, of either £2 or £3, and as 800 people are expected to attend, this would be a major contribution. Apparently approximately 800 attended last year, and it was very successful.

Cllr Lynn Wylie suggested that the Council may be able to lend the money to Hurworth Albion, and have it repaid (less a Council donation, as the event will be a social event for the village) after the event.

Cllr Russell said that he needed to take the views of the Council back to the committee, and that they will return shortly with their views.

539. Accounts Payable

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

Hurworth Parish Council - Accounts Payable September 2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
M Harrison	103579	Repairing parish notice board, handyman	430.00
Johnston Trees	103580	Treework	148.50
M Harrison	103581	Grass cutting Heritage orchard	40.00
G Wylie	103582	Sports Day Section 137	120.00
Hurworth PTA	103583	Section 137	300.00
M Harrison	103584	Refurbishing benches etc	440.00
Wave	103585	Allotment water	61.27
P D Allan	103586	Defib battery replacement	198.00
MT Print	103587	Parish Chronicle	676.00

A Iles	103588	Salary	490.05
P D Allan	103589	Salary	1227.60
Inland Revenue	103590	PAYE	245.40
M Harrison	103591	Installing Hurworth welcome signs, etc	425.00
P D Allan	103592	Admin expense 2 months	41.24
Barclays Bank	DD	Bank charges	2.30
BT Comms	DD	Telecommunications	163.56
Mazar Audit	103593	Audit fee	360.00

**Total expenditure for
September 2021**

5368.92

540. Financial report

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

Financial Report to 30th September 2021																			
BLUE-Allocated	BLUE-Allocated																		
	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																			
Precept	50000													50000	50000	50000			
VAT & Litter Picking refund			1880		3119						3200			8199	4999	9000			
Rent & Interest	350	600	2			3	100		10		10	160	1264	964	500				
Grants													0	0	2000				
Allotment rent											1180		1180	0	1180				
Total Revenue	50350	600	1882	0	3119	3	100	0	10	1180	3210	160	63623	64963	71680				
Expenditure																			
Salaries & NHI	1451	1340	1330	1451	1330	1363	2050	1350	1350	2050	1350	1350	20763	8865	16800				
Gen. Admin Expenses	365	370	762	185	173	605	350	340	300	300	350	300	5000	3060	5000				
Trees	0	265	0	0	455	145	650	500	700	400	400	250	3760	860	7500				
Open Spaces	515	47	195	22	17	520	400	500	600	500	500	200	4016	1310	7000				
Section 137	110	1400	600	2325	300	335	500	300	300	200		500	5678	6278	10500				
Projects	0	0		0	938	340	1200	400	2000	1300	600		6778	1278	12000				
Repairs, Maint & Training	0	0		0		0	120	50	150	2100	150	100	3670	0	1500				
Newsletters & Posters	10	128		60	0	676	60	60	60	60	800	60	2034	874	3400				
Youth Activities & Scarescows						0	1000					200	1200	0	0				
Path/ Grt Heritage Trail							120	60		320	500		1000	0	2000				
Allotments	15		193	360		61		420			200		1240	629	1250				
Highways							520			300	100		1000	0	1000				
Handyman				200		0	200	100	200	100	100	100	1000	200	1200				
Parish Walks						0	30		200				230	0	1600				
Capital Expend & N Plan	1000			2890	250					250			4367	4108	1518				
VAT		6	30	812	224	120							1254	1254					
Total Expend	3465	4156	3180	8865	3635	5363	7660	4680	7060	8880	5790	3600	66470	28731	72968				
													2163		-388				
Funds in Hand less ringf	64676	120569	117013	115715	106850	106274	100908	93348	88668	81618	73909	71329							
Revenue less expenses	55893	-3556	-1298	-8865	-576	-5366	-7560	-4680	-7050	-7709	-2580	-3500	12499						
Funds in Hand	120,569	117,013	115,715	106,850	106,274	100,908	93,348	88,668	81,618	73,909	71,329	67,829	Ringed						

The above Report is also available on the web site, where it is in larger print.

541. Association Reports

a. Cllr Foster gave a report from the Airport Consultancy Group: -

The airport is now officially designated as an International Airport.

This means that it will be operational 24 hours every day.

FEDEX has taken over from TNT, and have great plans for the airport.

The corporate plan is for flights from Europe to call at Teesside International Airport, and then fly to the USA. Similarly, flights coming the other way from USA to Europe will stop at the airport. This will generate a massive increase in activity, revenue and jobs for the region.

Mr Phil Forester has taken over as the Chief Executive.

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

Hurworth Community Association Report – October 2021

The Coffee Pot is continuing to prove to be a hit with visitors to the Grange. As we move into more inclement weather conditions, there are plans to purchase proper outside furniture, which will maintain the option of sitting outside/ higher level of covers.

Building on community focussed events, as well as taking full advantage of the improved Grange facilities, a Christmas Fair has been planned and confirmed to be held on Sunday 5th December. The response from local artisans has been fantastic, and invoices have been sent to all 50 prospective stall holders.

Continuing with community focussed events, the EPICH Chair, Pat Simpson, along with Lynn Wylie proposed a Wassail to be held on 17th January in the Heritage Orchard. This will look to involve the local Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers groups, along with the local community. Discussions have also been held with the Coffee Pot to remain open and offer drinks and hot food options to the participants.

542. Any Other Business (non-financial).

No topics were presented.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20pm