

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30 p.m.

G Holmes-Wood (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, G Holmes-Wood, R Johnson, I Stewart-Fergusson and D Wood.

Also in attendance:

Durham County Council Highways Officers – E Brown and M McIntosh
Two members of the public in attendance.

66. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Scott and County Councillor P Pringle.

67. Declarations of Interest

Councillors A Batey and D Wood both declared an interest in relation to Item 7 on the agenda, as County Councillors who would be contributing to the project. In addition, Councillor Wood was also an elected member of Pelton Parish Council who were also involved in the project.

68. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

69. Public Questions / Representations

There were no representations made by members of the public.

70. County Councillors Report

Councillor Batey provided an overview of matters relating to the parish and wider county council area as follows:

- Operation Snap – which had been launched by Durham Constabulary aimed to reduce the number of road deaths by allowing the public to submit dashcam footage of unacceptable driving. A link to the online portal would be provided on the parish councils website.
- BMX track at Urpeth Grange – some damage to signs and other anti-social behaviour was being reported. However, the site had been well used by young people and those children were being encouraged to take ownership of

the track and positively encourage its use without causing disruption or damage.

71. Neighbourhood Plan Update

An update was provided to members on the outcome of discussions following the working group meeting which had been held the previous week, minutes had been circulated for information.

Following discussions at that meeting with the Planning Consultant, it was suggested that the plan may not be of benefit to the smaller councils given the sizeable proportion of green belt within the area which already benefits from its own planning protections.

The Council were therefore asked to consider withdrawing from the Neighbourhood area subject to further deliberations.

Resolved: That the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillors A Batey and D Wood left the meeting during the discussion and voting on the following item.

72. Pelton Ward Traffic Calming Scheme

The Council received a report and presentation from DCC Highways in relation to proposals for traffic calming measures across the Pelton division including those relevant to the Urpeth Parish area.

It was noted that areas which had been identified had been assessed for suitability and proposals in the areas of Beamish, High Handenhold, West Pelton and Urpeth Grange were discussed. The area of Pelton Lane Ends was covered under Phase 2 of the proposals.

Should the parish councils in the division agree to proposals and funding, further work would be undertaken to launch public consultation, followed by legal consultation in which would follow a similar process to that of a traffic regulation order.

Whilst discussing all schemes points were raised around 20mph limits around schools and noted that whilst this was already in place at West Pelton this would be beneficial at St Benets.

As a related issue Councillor Batey commented that following the recent temporary closure of St Benets school due to RAAC, pupils were getting picked up by a coach from this location however there was not a suitable and safe place for the children to wait nor for parent parking. M McIntosh advised that she was aware of the ongoing situation in this area and noted that the issues of car parking were being explored, with further finding expected from government to deal with issues resulting from the closure of schools across the County.

Following consideration of the proposals and requested funding contribution which had already been agreed in principle, it was;

Resolved That in fully supporting the Pelton Ward Traffic Calming Scheme, £8,000 which had been reallocated from election funding would be earmarked for Urpeth Parish Council's contribution to the project.

Councillors A Batey and D Wood returned to the meeting.

73. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be agreed for payment.

Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	944.80
HMRC PAYE	209.40
Litterpicker (Wages)	399.96
HMRC PAYE	100.20
Litterpicker (Wages)	500.16
HugoFox Monthly Fee	11.99

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from Ouston Community Centre for help towards supporting their Halloween event for children over the half term holidays.

Resolved: That a donation of £80.00 be granted to support the event.

74. Clerks Report

- (i) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Survey 2023
The Clerk welcomed feedback in relation to the above survey.
- (ii) Section 106 Funding
The Clerk advised that the council were now being consulted on 106 funding applications within the Pelton Division and comments on those circulated would be welcomed.

75. Allotments

It was reported that the Allotments Committee had recently undertaken a site inspection at West Pelton and tenants were in the process of being contacted where further work was still required.

76. Suspension of Standing Orders

In accordance with Standing Orders (Suspension of Standing Orders), Councillor Batey moved that the Council suspend Standing Orders to allow an extension of the meeting by 15 minutes to consider all items of business. Councillor Barrett seconded the proposal.

Resolved: That the Standing Orders be suspended to allow for continuation of the meeting and further items of business to be considered.

77. Ward / Area Matters

(i) Beamish

In Councillor Scott's absence the Clerk reported on issues he had flagged including:

- Grass cuttings on A693 roundabout near Museum requiring removal.
- Cutting back work required to footpath between Beamish Village and High Handenhold
- Replacement of black and white village signs with the county standard blue and yellow ones requested at Beamish and High Handenhold.

(ii) Pelton Lane Ends

Updates provided in respect of fly tipping and community litter pick. Further issue raised regarding DCC reporting via 'Do It Online' and how feedback was received following closure of a case.

(iii) West Pelton

Councillor Johnson reported two issues at/around the Edenfield play area which related to a possible fault in play park surfacing material. Photos were to be taken so that it could be followed up. In addition, tree cuttings left behind by Karbon Homes required removal.

(iv) High Handenhold

The newly installed fence opposite Baytree Terrace had caused some complaints due to the quality of the grass cutting around the fence posts. This had been raised via Councillor Wood.

(v) Urpeth Grange

Ongoing issues with Cherry trees which DCC were aware of and were investigating further including other overgrown areas of land which were not council owned.

78. Any other business.

There were no further items of business.