

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2017 in the Communal Room West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

### **Present:**

Councillor B Anderson (Chairman), Councillors A Batey, J W Barrett, I Stewart-Fergusson, B Scott, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson

Mr D Shotton (Allotment Association – Plantation View)

### **98. PERSIMMON HOMES – Update on Urpeth Grange Development**

The Clerk advised that R Cook was unable to attend the meeting however had forwarded a brief update as follows:

- As of 6 October, 18 of the 47 dwellings remain to be sold.
- Whilst no traffic calming measures were requested as part of the planning permission, white lines were to be painted along the site entrance to ensure that road users gave way.
- Regarding an issue raised at the last meeting relating to bin collections it was the developers understanding, that once a property had been completed and a request for a bin had been made, this would automatically enrol them on the bin collection schedule.

Councillor Batey commented that she still had concerns regarding the speed of traffic entering and existing the estate and suggested that the highways department of DCC may need to carry out some observations to determine whether a formal give way or traffic calming scheme was required.

### **99. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors C Carr, D Wood and Mr R Cook (Persimmon Homes)

### **100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **101. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **102. POLICE REPORT**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the PACT report for the previous month detailing policing activity and current priorities. In addition to the matters reported, Councillor Batey advised that there had also been a recent incident with a scooter on the Urpeth Grange

estate. Other issues not presented in the report related to a fire on one of the allotment sites and a damaged tree/fence on Station Road, Beamish.

### **103. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor Batey provided an update on matters relating to the County Council, including:

- Revised offer now accepted by Teaching Assistants.
- Tickets for Lumiere on sale from today
- MTFP – DCC to continue to achieve savings going forward
- Chester-le-Street AAP – Christmas Festival Light Switch on 30 November
- County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue have advised that the Pelton Division has been identified as a hot spot fire area. In addition a request had been received for the Fire Service to attend a future meeting to discuss the financial position of the fire authority and consult on its budget for 2018/19.

### **ACCOUNTS**

#### **104. Monthly Finance Report**

**RESOLVED:** that the circulated schedule be approved for payment and the balance of the council's accounts be noted.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

#### **105. Code of Conduct**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the revised Code of Conduct which was recommended for adoption by NALC.

**Resolved:** That the Model Code of Conduct be agree and adopted in accordance with national guidance.

#### **106. Data Protection Regulations Training**

The Clerk advised that an invitation for the Clerk and Councillors had been received to attend a training session on changes to Data Protection Regulations and the impact it would have upon local councils from 2018. Anyone wishing to attend should notify the Clerk.

#### **107. Website**

The Clerk advised that the website was now 'live' and was the second top hit on google when searching for Urpeth Parish. Members were encouraged to forward any ideas or further information they would like to have uploaded on the site to the Clerk.

#### **108. Attendance of Area Action Partnership**

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from Chester-le-Street AAP regarding attendance at a future meeting of the parish council and members were in agreement that they be invited to attend a meeting when mutually convenient.

#### **ALLOTMENTS**

#### **109. Allotment Committee Terms of Reference and Complaints Procedure**

The Clerk advised that following discussions at the previous meeting she had revised the Committee's Terms of Reference and procedures for dealing with allotment complaints. A copy was circulated to members and views sought.

**Resolved:** That the item be listed on the agenda for the next meeting allowing members time to consider the revisions and comment accordingly.

#### **110. Skip Hire – Twizell Lane**

The Clerk advised that a skip would be available for allotment holders to use on 21-22 October 2017.

#### **111. Dirty Gardens**

Reports were given regarding dirty gardens.

**Resolved:** That letters be forwarded to tenants in line with the tenancy agreement.

#### **WEST PELTON**

#### **112. Traffic Calming**

The Chairman advised that requests had been received from residents for traffic calming measures to be put in place in the area. Councillor Batey advised that she would look into this further and noted that it was likely that a traffic assessment would have to be carried out in the first instance.

#### **113. Drainage**

Further to reports to the previous meeting the Chair advised that 2 further drains had overflowed and flooded the corner shop.

#### **URPETH GRANGE**

#### **114. Environmental Issues**

Councillor Batey noted that there were some problems within the estate of overhanging shrubs from private properties encroaching on to the public footpath. It was suggested that letters be sent to the homeowners asking them to trim back the vegetation.

It was also noted that the overgrown thorn bush at St Benet's had been reported twice, although had still not as yet been cut back.

Issues with fly tipping within the estate remained and a number of hot spots areas were identified. The Clerk advised that the Neighbourhood Warden for the area had agreed to attend the next meeting and this information could be passed directly to him at that time. It was also noted that there had been a garden fire recently in Penhill which had caused nuisance to neighbouring residents.

#### **115. Street lighting**

Councillor Batey asked that should anyone notice any issues with street lighting in the area that they report it directly to Durham County Council as there had been a few issues with some lights being left on throughout the day.

### **BEAMISH**

#### **116. Flytipping**

Councillor Scott reported that fly tipping continued to be a problem in the area. He further asked whether any progress had been made in obtaining a litterbin near the Shepherd and Shepherdess. Councillor Batey agreed to follow this up.

#### **117. Environmental Issues**

Councillor Scott asked whether any information had been received as to why some of the larger trees at the exit to Beamish Village had been removed or thinned out. Councillor Batey advised that due to the number of traffic incidents in the area work was taking place to improve visibility splays and sightlines.

#### **118. 30mph Speed Restrictions**

Further to discussions at the previous meeting it was noted that there was no updates to provide at this time however the Clerk and Chair would ensure that this issue was followed up.

### **HIGH HANDENHOLD**

#### **119. Flooding – Birklands Lane**

Councillor Batey advised that Birklands Lane had been significantly flooded over a 3 day period and asked that the matter be raised and information sought from NWL.

#### **120. Speeding**

It was reported that speeding traffic remained an issue through High Handenhold and on Birklands Lane.

### **PELTON LANE ENDS**

#### **121. Request for Flower Bed**

The Clerk advised that subject to a suitable quote would be rolled into the yearly flower bed maintenance programme operated currently by Durham County Council.