

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30pm.

B Scott (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson and G Holmes

County Councillors P Pringle and D Wood

59. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

60. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

61. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 October 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

62. Public Questions / Representations

There were no questions from the public.

63. Police & Neighbourhood Warden Report

There were no major issues to report. Members were reminded that the police were to attend future Councillor surgeries and the dates for those sessions were set in consultation with the police.

It was reported that a large fly tip had taken place within Beamish, however the land was not owned by DCC.

64. County Councillor Report

Further to previous discussions and agreement to support a highways scheme for improvement works across the division, Councillor D Wood provided an update on the requested changes that had been made via Highways as a result of discussions at the previous meeting. An update would be provided as soon as possible.

Councillor Wood then went on to provide an overview of county council activity and matters affecting the parish and division including ongoing projects and consultation as follows:

- Boundary Review on County Durham Electoral Divisions – recommendations made to the Local Government Boundary Commission by the Councils Working Group suggested that the council would be able to continue to deliver

its statutory functions with 98 councillors. This had been agreed by County Council and following some additional input from the working group was submitted to the LGBCE earlier in the month.

- Devolution deal for County Durham – whilst there were indications that the Joint Administration had already commenced negotiations with the LA6 without consultation, the LA6 they were yet to vote on Durham joining up. Councillor Batey provided further detail as to the potential impacts that the deal could have for County Durham including the loss of vital transport funding.
- Miller Homes – issue regarding hedgerow cutting reported in and responded to via Planning.

65. Correspondence and Clerks Report

(i) Development of Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that following agreement at the previous meeting to pursue the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, a boundary plan had now been drawn up to identify the neighbourhood area and a letter drafted by Pelton Parish Council, which Urpeth were asked to endorse prior to its submission to Durham County Council.

Following lengthy discussion on the matter, Members were in agreement that they would feel more comfortable if Ouston Parish Council were included in the neighbourhood plan area, given the potential future changes to electoral boundaries which were currently subject to review.

Resolved: That the council note the update provided and notify Pelton Parish Council that they wished Ouston Parish Council to be consulted again on their inclusion in the plan.

66. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be approved for payment

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	904.39
HMRC PAYE 7	171.60
Litter picker (Wages)	364.80
HMRC PAYE 5	91.20
Litter picker (Wages)	456.00
Mazars LLP – Audit Fee	408.00
Donation to Halloween Event Ouston	100.00

(i) Outstanding Invoice

The Clerk advised that payments for the ground's maintenance contract had still not been made to DCC on the basis that no further clarification had been sought regarding the billed amount and work undertaken. It was noted that a further request for information would be made and an update provided when possible.

(ii) Water Billing Query – High Handenhold

The Clerk advised that a bill had been received from Wave Water Utilities who supplied the water at the allotment sites, which highlighted that the water account was in significant credit and enquiries were being made as to whether this amount could be returned to the parish council. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

67. Allotments

(i) Dirty Gardens

The Clerk advised that some garden had now become vacant on High Handenhold following letters sent relating to dirty garden. Arrangements would be made for these to be relet from the waiting list. A further site visit to review progress was arranged for 22 October.

(ii) High Handenhold – Installation of gates

Councillor Barrett noted that work on the installation of the gates would be taking place imminently. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

(iii) Request for Skip at West Pelton

The Clerk advised that arrangements were being made for a skip to be delivered to Twizell allotment site.

68. Beamish

(i) Update on Planning Application DM/21/01633/FPA

An update was provided regarding plans for representations to be made at the Planning Committee the following week when the above application was to be considered. A meeting with residents was scheduled to take place to go through the finer details of the representations to be made and work was well underway to prepare the statement on behalf of the parish council which would be read by Councillor Batey.

(ii) Other ward matters

Further updates either for information or action relating to Beamish were as follows:

- Remembrance Sunday – service to be held at Beamish commencing at 1.00 p.m. Flyers had been produced and would be distributed to encourage wider attendance.
- Noisy and speeding vehicles causing nuisance on A693
- Parking on grass verges at Eden Place Car Park becoming more frequent. Work started last year on upgrades at this location to be followed up. In addition, Motorhomes using the site frequently for over night stays which added weight to the argument that improvement works were required in this location.
- Advertising noticeboards left on roundabout along with wildflower cuttings which required action by DCC to clear.
- Further issues regarding road markings at Ill Canello and some tarmacking which had taken place over old bus stop marking making them no longer visible.

69. Urpeth Grange

Councillor Batey reported upon a serious road traffic accident which had occurred near St Bennet' school. She noted that the road was used at high speed, with no crossings in place and that a request should be made to local schools and the bus companies they use, to travel around the estate on the footpath side of the estate and not use bus stops on the opposite side of the road to avoid the need for young people to cross at potentially dangerous locations. The Clerk agreed to write to the schools in question and ask them to review their arrangements.

70. Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson raised a query regarding the installation of flower beds following on from a site visit which had been undertaken with the clean and green team. County Councillor D Wood advised that he had not received a quote for this work from DCC, however noted the comments made regarding utilising private landscaping firms to undertake the work.

71. High Handenhold

County Councillor D Wood reported that he was awaiting a quote from DCC relating to bird's mouth fencing opposite Baytree Terrace. An update would be provided when possible.

72. West Pelton

There were no matters to raise under this item.

73. Vacancies in the Office of Parish Councillor (West Pelton and Urpeth Grange Wards)

The Clerk circulated for information a copy of a notice which would be displayed in noticeboards advertising casual vacancies in the office of Parish Councillor.

74. Any other business

There were no further items of business.