

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.00pm.

### **Councillor A Batey (Chair)**

#### **Present:**

Councillor A Batey, W Barrett, G Holmes, I Stewart-Fergusson, I Mullaney and B Scott  
County Councillors P Pringle and D Wood

#### **79. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Anderson

#### **80. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **81. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **82. Public Questions / Representations**

The Clerk advised that there had been no questions submitted in advance of the meeting nor were any members of the public in attendance.

#### **83. Update on Moss Close Farm – Miller Homes**

The Clerk advised that no update report had been received in advance of the meeting. It was noted that despite a few issues, one of which relating to access to bus services the development was moving along at pace, with the entrance now complete.

#### **84. Police & Neighbourhood Warden Report**

The Clerk advised that the PCC Joy Allen had confirmed her attendance at the meeting scheduled to be held on 15 February at 6.00 p.m. and thought should be given as to the topics that the council would like to focus upon at that session.

It was further noted that the lack of PACT reports continued to be an issue and this could be addressed further at the meeting, along with non-attendance of PCSO's at meetings.

#### **85. County Councillors Report**

County Councillor D Wood provided an overview of issues relating to current County Council business and those issues affecting the parish area including:

- Beamish SpeedWatch undertaken this week, and of the vehicles recorded, 7 of which were issued with warning letters. The speed and volume of traffic was not significant enough to trigger police action at this time.
- Lampposts out at Beamish reported following on from last meeting.

- High Handenhold – continued issues regarding people parking on the grass opposite Baytree Terrace and further to previous discussions regarding a suitable solution, Councillor Wood was to seek to arrange a site meeting with affected residents and Clean & Green to discuss further when possible.
- Pelton Lane Ends – Litter bins issue with updated maps
- Traffic Surveys A693 – the average 5-day volume of traffic recorded was significantly higher than that recorded 5 years previously, which could likely be attributed to increased house building at Stanley and Consett. Further discussion regarding the impact this had for the existing road layout was to be further discussed, noting that accident statistics would also be considered. It was noted that recent temporary traffic lights on this road had caused some traffic build-up and subsequent complaints. However further information would be required to determine what action was required, if any including the impacts of any such measures on other access and exit points.

Councillor Batey further raised the following:

- Remembrance Day Service – well attended at Beamish and thanks for was given to Councillor Scott for distributing flyers through letterboxes notifying residents that it was taking place. Collections in total for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised this day, totalled £185.00, £54.00 of that coming from the Beamish service.

## **86. Monthly Accounts**

**Resolved:** That the following amounts be approved for payment

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	773.99
HMRC PAYE 8	805.38
Litter picker (Wages)	342.28
HMRC PAYE 8	85.40
Litter picker (Wages)	427.68
DCC Grounds Maintenance	10092.07
Royal British Legion x 3 Poppy Wreaths	49.50
Royal British Legion Donation	100.00
Brass Band Championships	50.00

### **(i) Additional Flower Beds at Beamish and Pelton Lane Ends**

The Clerk advised that the Chair had used her delegated authority to allow a revised contract to be signed for grounds maintenance to include 3 additional beds at a cost of £600 per bed per annum at the above locations and as previously discussed with the parish council at previous meetings. It was hoped that the beds would be installed within the coming few weeks.

**Resolved:** That the delegated decision be noted and approved.

- (ii) Gesture of thanks to those offering services to the Remembrance Service

Councillor Batey raised a suggestion to offer a small token of appreciation in the value of £20-30 to the Bugler who plays at the Beamish Remembrance Service.

**Resolved:** That the gesture to offer a small payment be agreed, with the amount to be determined ahead of next years' service.

**Councillor G Holmes and County Councillor D Wood  
left the meeting at this point.**

## **87. Correspondence and Clerks Report**

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence to report and other ward-based issues would be picked up throughout the course of the meeting.

## **88. Allotments**

The Clerk provided an update on various issues and correspondence made with tenants at all allotment sites with appropriate action and follow up agreed.

When the weather permitted, a site inspection by the Allotments Committee was required at High Handenhold to assess a garden ahead of any further action, following lengthy discussion with the tenant. The Association Secretary would also need to be present. This also followed on from previous discussions regarding a full inspection of all three sites, to record what equipment and structures were in place. Which was also to be arranged.

## **89. Beamish**

- (i) DM/21/01633/FPA – Construction of 24no. luxury holiday lodges on Land North West of Beamish Hall Hotel

Councillor Batey reported that she and the Clerk along with County Councillors had met with residents and DCC Planning officers via Microsoft Teams on 25 October to discuss the application in more detail. It was still unknown at this stage when the application would be considered, noting that further information had been requested from the applicant which would be subject to further consultation when received.

Residents had passed on their thanks and compliments to the parish council and local County Councillors A Batey, G Binney, P Pringle and D Wood for their support thus far.

- (ii) Ward matters

Councillor B Scott further noted areas of concerns or issues for action within the area as follows:

- Flytipping – incidences at Eden Place car park increasing and a request for CCTV deployment should be made

- Car parking at Ill Cancelllo – issues with takeaway customers parking on double yellow lines. Councillor Batey agreed to speak with Highways regarding this issue given the concerns regarding visibility and the danger pose to other road users especially during the darker winter months.
- New village signage requested in addition to those already requested at High Handenhold
- Traffic Noise from A693

It was also pointed out that the A693 round-about at the Beamish end needed addressing due to its poor condition. Given its prominent location it was suggested that there could potentially be scope to apply for a 106 contribution and include Eden Place in any such application. New village signage could also be included in any plans for funding. This was to be taken forward by the Clerk and Chair and an update provided at a future meeting.

## **90. Urpeth Grange**

### **i) Urpeth Grange Play Area**

No further update on transfer at this stage, however noting financial constraints of County Council funding it was noted that the issue needed chasing as a matter of urgency.

### **ii) Cutting back work**

Councillor Batey noted that despite some initial issues regarding the quality of the work undertaken to cut back large areas of overgrown trees, the work had now been fully completed.

## **91. High Handenhold**

Councillor Mullaney noted issues with dog fouling and the lack of bins provided from High Handenhold up to Beamish village. Councillor Batey noted that whilst dog bin use was monitored by the council, she agreed to make some enquiries in this regard.

## **92. Pelton Lane Ends**

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson asked whether it was known when the new flower beds would be planted up. The Clerk advised that the instruction had been given to the team to undertake the work late the previous week and it was hoped that both areas would be completed in the next few weeks.

He further went on to comment on his disappointment in the lack of police presence at meetings, however noted that he would be able to take this up with the PCC when she attends the meeting in February.

Regarding the development at Moss Close Farm, he asked whether there was any proposed dialogue to be had regarding the revised landscaping plans. The Clerk advised that the plans had been sent via Councillor Wood so he would be best placed to advise on the lines of communication that had taken place so far.

**93. West Pelton**

There were no issues to raise under this item.

**94. Any other business**

**(i) Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022**

Councillor Batey suggested that the parish council should consider what projects they would like to undertake for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and asked that ideas be forwarded to her for consideration at the next meeting. Suggestions may include things such as specific flower bed or tree planting or community-based activities.