

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 May 2019 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Councillor M Wilkinson (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Anderson, A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson

County Councillor C Carr

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Barrett and B Scott

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor W Barrett be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor A Batey be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Councillor A Batey (Vice Chairman in Chair)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR TO URPETH WARD

The Clerk advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Resolved: That the following members be appointed to -

Allotments Committee: W Barrett, B Anderson and W Scott

Personnel Committee: Membership to be arranged on adhoc basis should a meeting of the committee be required.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved: That any members wishing to attend local CDALC meetings should notify the Clerk and; should nominations be sought for future AAP representation that this be considered at the appropriate time.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19

The Clerk presented a detailed finance report of the council's Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2019. The report further included details of the Internal Audit and a copy of the report of the Internal Auditor outlining his findings.

Resolved:

- (i) That the year-end position with regards to the balances of the council be noted.
- (ii) That the Internal Audit report be noted.
- (iii) That Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 be approved.
- (iv) That Section 2 – Accounting Statements of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 be approved.
- (v) That the Chairman of the council sign Urpeth Parish Council's Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

10. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

The Clerk circulated a copy of the previous months PACT report which contained information relating to police activity and policing priorities for the area.

Councillor Batey reported that the AAP had recently agreed financial support for electric bikes to be purchased for PCSO's to use in the local area.

11. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor C Carr provided an overview of activity related to Durham County Council and matters relating to the parish area including:

- Pelton Division members had held meeting with County Councillors C Marshall and O Johnson regarding Beamish Museum which had been positive, however it was noted that it was unlikely that any local representation would be invited on to the Board as the Museum were looking to reduce membership. It was however acknowledged that the Museum had made a commitment to meet regularly with the parish council.
- Annual Meeting of County Council to take place on Wednesday 22 May and a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council would be appointed.
- Presentation given to County Councillors on the County Durham Plan. The Plan was hoped to be adopted in early 2020.

12. ACCOUNTS

Resolved: that the following amounts be approved for payment

HMRC Paye 2	132.20
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	656.00
HMRC Paye 2	17.20
Litterpicker (Wages)	516.45
Inter-Line NE Limited	22.87

Greenham Safety Supplies	10.94
D Parr Gratuity Payment	100.00
M Turnbull – Internal Audit	150.00

13. CORRESPONDENCE & CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter from Councillors F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson advising that they wished to resign from their positions as parish councillor following the conclusion of this meeting. The Chairman at this point thanked both for their commitment and input into the parish council and its community over their period of service and wished them both the very best for the future. A presentation of flowers was then made.

The Clerk further advised that following the advertisement of the Litterpicker / Shrub bed maintenance operative post, no applications or expressions of interest had been received. It was noted that an interim arrangement may be possible and the Clerk would look into this further with a view to re-advertising the post later in the summer if required, upon her return from maternity leave.

14. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk provided an update on each of the sites as follows:

High Handenhold

- Work to repair perimeter fence now completed.

Twizell Lane

- Pest Control Officer attended site and baited traps following reports of increased sightings of rats.
- Request from association for skip for clearance of vacant plot. Agreed.

15. URPETH GRANGE

Councillor M Wilkinson noted that some of the hedge cutting back work had now been completed however there were still some issues with overgrown footpaths in Penhill Close. Councillor Batey noted that she would follow this up with Graham Cousins from DCC.

Councillor Batey further noted that DCC had now been out and inspected the flower beds which had been disrupted following utility works and it was reported that all beds were now all the correct size and height ready for summer planting.

Further discussion ensued regarding the ongoing delays regarding works planned to install speed humps at both Bradley Close and Melbeck Drive. It was noted that the delays were unacceptable and no justified reason for such delays had been given by DCC. County Councillor Carr agreed to take this up with the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services the following day and the Clerk further agreed to email the Chief Executive of DCC to advise of the urgency for this work to be completed.

It was also reported that there were ongoing issues with the Persimmons site and associated areas, in particular; the unsatisfactory way in which the kickabout area had been left, ongoing maintenance and planting of area including emptying of public waste bins and work

on the footpath link. It was agreed that this should be raised with The Head of Planning and Assets at DCC.

16. WEST PELTON

Councillor Anderson noted that work was still to be undertaken to rectify the issue of double white lines at the junction following work which had been undertaken there recently.

Councillor Batey agreed to follow this issue up.

17. BEAMISH

Councillor Anderson noted that some damage had been incurred to fencing at Eden Place Car Park following utility works which had been ongoing there, however some work was still ongoing on the site and this would be monitored.

He further noted that he had been in communication with DCC regarding pedestrian signs on the A693 and it was noted that DCC had agreed to resolve these issues.

18. HIGH HANDENHOLD

Councillor Batey noted that she had received some complaints regarding parking of a low loader vehicle on the grass verge by the allotment site.

Councillor Anderson noted that work to repair the stone water level indicators was still required under the bridge.

19. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson asked whether there had been any update regarding options for flower beds or tubs to be placed at The Parade. The Clerk advised that Councillor Batey had been unable to meet with Martin Briscoe from DCC due to leave, however she would follow this up and report back to the next meeting.