

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 January 2020 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00pm.

### **Councillor W Barrett (Chair)**

#### **Present:**

Councillor W Barrett (Chair), Councillors B Anderson, A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, B Scott and W Trimble.

County Councillor D Wood.

Mrs I Mullaney (observer)

#### **96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor C Carr.

#### **97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor B Anderson declared a personal interest in Item 100 (i) Allotments, as he was an allotment holder at the site in question and had held conversations with the applicant regarding the matter, prior to the meeting. It was agreed that although Councillor Anderson should not take part in the discussion or voting on the matter, he may be permitted to remain in the room whilst it was being discussed.

#### **98. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no representations from the public.

#### **99. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **100. ALLOTMENTS**

##### **(i) Application for the keeping of Honey Bees on Plantation View Allotments**

The Clerk presented the report which provided details of the application, consultation responses and advice sought from relevant agencies.

It was noted that in total 7 objections had been received from allotment tenants and residents of neighbouring dwellings, however the concerns raised were felt to have been mitigated within the tenants new terms and conditions and advice and guidance which had been received from Durham Beekeepers Association (DBKA).

The applicant was also in attendance and provided a brief summary of his plans. He thanked the parish council for their thorough work in bringing the application forward for determination this evening.

The Clerk advised that should Members be minded to approve the application; any permission would be subject to the requisite documents being provided in advance of

any bees being brought on to the site. A 12 month probationary period would also be put in place.

Following careful consideration and discussion Councillor Batey **Moved** that the application be approved subject to the conditions as listed within the report. Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson **Seconded** that motion.

**Resolved:** That the application be granted in line with the conditions as detailed within the report.

## **(ii) Other allotment matters to be considered**

### Pest Control Contract 2020/21

The Clerk advised that the current contract with DCC had expired and Members should therefore determine whether to continue with the service provided by DCC for 2020/21. The contract cost had not increased since last year and feedback on the service provided had been extremely positive.

**Resolved:** That the contract for pest control services for 2020/21 be awarded to DCC.

### Site Inspections

The Clerk advised that the Allotment Committee should set a schedule of inspections for the coming year.

### Plantation View

Pond Application – Members considered an application from a tenant to install a small pond on their allotment site. Having taken into account the views of the Allotment Association the application was approved.

Flood Defence – it had been brought to the attention of the Clerk that a tenant was repeatedly leaving the flood defence gate open on the site, despite requests not to do so. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the tenant to advise.

### High Handenhold

Land opposite Baytree Terrace – County Councillor D Wood advised that he had received a complaint from a resident regarding cars driving across and parking on the grassed area at the entrance way to the allotment site. Councillor Wood suggested that the parish council may wish to look at installing some fencing or bollards around the piece of land to prevent any further access.

Members noted that this had been raised as an issue previously and tenants had been instructed at that time. The Clerk advised that she would issue a notice to all tenants when rent was collected advising that vehicular access should not be taken across the grassed area, anyone found doing so could be at risk of further action.

## **101. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the PACT report detailing the previous months policing activity and priorities. It was reported that vehicle crime continued to be an issue in the division. Residents were urged to be vigilant and check home CCTV where possible,

when it was known that an incident had taken place. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the police.

Further information was reported with regard to issues with trial bikes using woodland area and the action that was being taken by the landowners and police to tackle this issue going forward.

## **102. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Wood provided an update on County Council matters and those relating to the parish area including:

- Applications for Pocket Park Funding and 106 monies awaiting determination.
- New Leisure Centre to be built at Chester-le-Street and some refurbishments to be made to the Louisa Centre at Stanley.
- Portable Speed Visors – DCC to review suggested locations, further information to be provided when available.
- DCC Town and Villages Project – impact upon Pelton division.
- Speedwatch – Volunteers must attend a training course and be able to attend any site at the request of Durham Constabulary (not necessarily within the parish area).
- BMX Track, Urpeth Grange – consultation event to take place with young people.
- Selective Licensing Update – 10 week consultation ongoing.
- Pelton Cemetery – landscaping to take place to replace unsafe trees which were removed.
- CDD Fire and Rescue Service – to attend next meeting to give update on budget situation and local impact.

## **103. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment for months December and January.

HMRC PAYE 9	132.00
Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	706.47
HMRC PAYE 10	1.20
Litter picker (Wages)	360.04
Subscriptions	132.00
HMRC PAYE 10	132.20
Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	629.90
Litter picker (Wages)	332.51
DCC – Pest Control Contract	2132.35
Wave Water – Allotment Water Rates	91.83

## **104. COUNCIL BUDGET 2020/21 AND PRECEPT 2020/21**

Members considered a report of the Clerk which set out the proposed budget for the Parish Council and recommended precept level to be charged for 2020/21. The report further highlighted variances within the 2019/20 budget and detailed reasons for the increase in the estimated budget for 2020/21. It was noted that these were mainly as a result of increasing contract and service prices, the National Living Wage increase and an increase in the Clerks salary to bring it in line with the National Agreement for Local Council Clerks.

Following lengthy discussion and debate it was

**Resolved:**

- (i) that the Budget for 2020/21 be approved.
- (ii) that the Council issues a precept of £37,000 for the 2020/21 financial year.
- (iii) that there be no increase in allotment rents for a period of two years after 2021.
- (iii) that the increase in National Living Wage to £8.21 be noted.
- (iv) that the Clerks salary having been reviewed, be set on a fixed 'spot salary' at SCP 18 in line with the National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of Local Council Clerks in England and Wales.

## **105. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk provide the following update:

- Issue with Litter picker being unable to drop waste at HWRC. DCC had agreed that they would collect the waste from an agreed location going forward. Councillor Batey suggested that the Litter picker be asked to separate recyclables from general waste on his round. The Clerk agreed to discuss with him.
- Advert for Litter picker / Shrub bed operative / handyman – closing date for application 28 February, interviews to be held shortly thereafter.
- Moss Close Farm development – Lewis Stokes requested to attend next meeting to provide update on reserved matters planning application.
- Flower beds at Beamish and West Pelton, Martin Briscoe DCC to attend both sites to provide a quote. Councillor Stewart-Fergusson requested that if possible this be undertaken after 3pm on a Friday.

## **106. URPETH GRANGE**

The following matters were reported for information and or action:

- Persimmon Liaison Group – presently quiet to be followed up on.
- Tarmac at Ripley Close lifting - management company responsible.
- Request for paved path linking Redmires and Penhill Close.
- Bradley Close speed humps now installed and positive feedback received.
- Sign at North View knocked over. To be reported.

## **107. WEST PELTON**

Councillor Anderson advised that there were a few issues within the West Pelton area which required attention including:

- Potholes – deeper than 1.7cm at Plantation Virew and Twizell Lane.
- Issue with inconsistent height of dropped kerb at the underpass on A693.

Councillor Wood agreed to report the issue with potholes and the Clerk would contact Highways with regard to the dropped kerb issue.

#### **108. BEAMISH**

Councillor Scott advised that fly tipping continued to be an issue and the general untidiness of Eden Place park was disappointing. He asked whether it would be possible to request the covert camera to be deployed within the area. It was also suggested that Graham Cousins, DCC be notified of the ongoing issues within Eden Place car park.

He further reported that hedge cutting was desperately required at the boundary of the Ill Canello car park as visibility was poor. He added that he hoped that this could be achieved prior to the bird nesting season.

#### **109. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

The Clerk advised that Mrs I Mullaney of High Handenhold had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council in the Urpeth Grange Ward. The Clerk advised that with members agreement this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **110. PELTON LANE ENDS**

Matters relating to Pelton Lane Ends (Flowerbeds at the Parade and Moss Close Farm) had been covered under the Clerks Report.