

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

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

#### **Present:**

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

#### **201. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Trimble and County Councillor C Carr.

#### **202. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **203. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **204. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT MOSS CLOSE FARM**

The Chair welcomed E Burton, Miller Homes to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an update on progress being made at the Moss Close Farm site. He advised that the site was progressing well whilst working within the current constraints and regulations as a result of the current lockdown situation. He advised that he was aware that there had been some initial issues with wagons parking waiting to access the site and mud on the road, however these had now been addressed by introducing additional measures over and above what would normally be in place on a site of this scale.

It was expected that the first phase of vibro-piling would be completed this week which was one of the major groundwork stages of the development. He went on to advise that it was expected that a show home would be ready around June / July and the site would at this stage, begin to look more like a housing development.

Concerns had been raised previously regarding on site drainage and it was noted that when the off-site drainage was scheduled to be connected Miller Homes would notify the Clerk and County Councilors to give advance notice.

Discussion ensued regarding the wheel washing facility, works vehicles access and issues regarding landscaping and planting.

E Burton added that although he did not attend site regularly, he was happy to pass on any further issues that the council may have to the site contact.

## **205. MINUTES**

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## **206. POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT**

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## **207. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

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

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- County Hall, Durham to be used as a vaccination centre.
- Speedwatch not able to currently take place and therefore road safety figures were difficult to obtain at this time. In addition, the previously agreed speed visors project was not going to proceed, however community speedwatch would commence as soon as it was safe to do so.
- Update on Free School Meals and voucher scheme put in place.
- 3 of the 5 schools in the area had been successful in bidding for free IT equipment for those children who were eligible for free school meals.
- Meals on Wheels – funding currently in place until February, however this was hoped to be extended until at the end of the financial year.
- Foodbank donations had been amazing, and much support had been provided through donations to those most vulnerable in the community.
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- Eden Place – request for Find and Fix to review the area for potential improvements under the new initiative
- Line markings and yellow lines at Beamish and High Handenhold reported for action by DCC
- Contact made with DCC Ecologist regarding additional planting at Station Lane.

## **208. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment.

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| Clerk (Wages and Expenses) | 751.32 |
| HMRC PAYE 8                | 175.00 |
| Litter picker (Wages)      | 384.80 |
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| Mazars Audit Fee            | 240.00 |
| Water Rates – Allotments HH | 22.24  |

**RESOLVED:** That following a request for a reduction in working hours from the Litter picker / Shrub bed operative, an agreement be put in place to allow the employee to work 9 hours (6 hours Litter / 3 hours Shrubs) instead of the contracted 12, with a review to take place by April 2021.

## **209. COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2021/22**

The council considered a report of the Clerk which set out a proposed budget for the Parish Council for 2021/22 and sought approval of the budget and precept level to be charged for 2021/22.

**Resolved:** That the

- (i) draft budget for 2021/22 be approved
- (ii) council issues a precept of £38,594.84 (includes LCTSG) for the financial year 2021/22, which represented a 0% increase on 2020/21
- (iii) allotment rent increase of £5.00 across all sites be deferred and collected in 2022
- (iv) Earmarked and general reserves be considered and reviewed throughout the year.

## **210. ALLOTMENTS**

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The Clerk further advised that a request had been made from a tenant of Plantation View allotments for the addition of a further 2 beehives to his plot. It was agreed that further information would be required from the Beekeeping Association before a determination could be made. The Clerk agreed to report back to the next meeting for due consideration.

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## **211. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair proposed that the Council waived Standing Orders in line with the Council Procedure Rules to extend the time allowed for the length of the meeting, as the meeting had reached the two-hour period specified within.

**Resolved:** That the proposal be approved.

## **212. URPETH GRANGE**

The following issues were reported for information and/or action:-

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Councillor Anderson noted that dog fouling continued to be an issue in the area as did the volume of waste which was accumulating around the shops despite an additional waste bin being provided at the bus stop.

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- Urpeth Grange Play Area – E-Petition had been extended until 1 February 2021. The Parish council would be able to determine their position on the matter once a response from DCC had been received.
- Dog fouling continued to be an issue around the estate

## **213. PELTON LANE ENDS**

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson was unable to join the meeting at this stage due to some technical issues however the main issues relating to the area had been covered under minute 204.

## **214. WEST PELTON**

Councillor Anderson noted that dog fouling continued to be an issue in the area as did the volume of waste which was accumulating around the shops despite an additional waste bin being provided at the bus stop.

## **215. BEAMISH**

Councillor Scott raised the following issues for information / action:

- Issue regarding state of verges, road safety concerns and disappointment at lack of consultation by DCC regarding the transfer of Eden Place Car Park to Beamish Museum in 2017.
- Additional tree planting as discussed at previous meeting – Councillor Wood to provide further information at the next meeting as agreed under minute 207.

Members discussed at length the issues regarding the land ownership of Eden Place car park and suggested that further information should be sought from DCC and Beamish Museum regarding the transfer, associated costs of its maintenance and information on the consultation carried out at the time of transfer.

## **216. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

Councillor Mullaney advised that the container stationed near the Allotments adjacent to Baytree Terrace had recently been removed and had improved the overall view of the area.



## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

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

#### **Present:**

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

#### **201. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Trimble and County Councillor C Carr.

#### **202. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **203. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **204. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT MOSS CLOSE FARM**

The Chair welcomed E Burton, Miller Homes to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an update on progress being made at the Moss Close Farm site. He advised that the site was progressing well whilst working within the current constraints and regulations as a result of the current lockdown situation. He advised that he was aware that there had been some initial issues with wagons parking waiting to access the site and mud on the road, however these had now been addressed by introducing additional measures over and above what would normally be in place on a site of this scale.

It was expected that the first phase of vibro-piling would be completed this week which was one of the major groundwork stages of the development. He went on to advise that it was expected that a show home would be ready around June / July and the site would at this stage, begin to look more like a housing development.

Concerns had been raised previously regarding on site drainage and it was noted that when the off-site drainage was scheduled to be connected Miller Homes would notify the Clerk and County Councilors to give advance notice.

Discussion ensued regarding the wheel washing facility, works vehicles access and issues regarding landscaping and planting.

E Burton added that although he did not attend site regularly, he was happy to pass on any further issues that the council may have to the site contact.

## **205. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **206. POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT**

Further to the usual police report which had been circulated, Councillor Batey advised that she had received no updates on policing activity in the area since late December.

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

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- County Hall, Durham to be used as a vaccination centre.
- Speedwatch not able to currently take place and therefore road safety figures were difficult to obtain at this time. In addition, the previously agreed speed visors project was not going to proceed, however community speedwatch would commence as soon as it was safe to do so.
- Update on Free School Meals and voucher scheme put in place.
- 3 of the 5 schools in the area had been successful in bidding for free IT equipment for those children who were eligible for free school meals.
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## **208. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment.

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| Clerk (Wages and Expenses) | 751.32 |
| HMRC PAYE 8                | 175.00 |
| Litter picker (Wages)      | 384.80 |
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| Mazars Audit Fee            | 240.00 |
| Water Rates – Allotments HH | 22.24  |

**RESOLVED:** That following a request for a reduction in working hours from the Litter picker / Shrub bed operative, an agreement be put in place to allow the employee to work 9 hours (6 hours Litter / 3 hours Shrubs) instead of the contracted 12, with a review to take place by April 2021.

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The council considered a report of the Clerk which set out a proposed budget for the Parish Council for 2021/22 and sought approval of the budget and precept level to be charged for 2021/22.

**Resolved:** That the

- (i) draft budget for 2021/22 be approved
- (ii) council issues a precept of £38,594.84 (includes LCTSG) for the financial year 2021/22, which represented a 0% increase on 2020/21
- (iii) allotment rent increase of £5.00 across all sites be deferred and collected in 2022
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The Clerk advised that there were some ongoing and unresolved issues relating to the unsatisfactory service provided under the DCC Pest Control Contract across all 3 sites, and whilst the contract was scheduled for renewal at the beginning of January, the Clerk advised that until the issue had been resolved this would not be signed. An update would be provided at the following meeting.

The Clerk further advised that a request had been made from a tenant of Plantation View allotments for the addition of a further 2 beehives to his plot. It was agreed that further information would be required from the Beekeeping Association before a determination could be made. The Clerk agreed to report back to the next meeting for due consideration.

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**Resolved:** That the proposal be approved.

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#### **Present:**

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

#### **Present:**

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

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- Beamish – Issue with overspill parking from Eden Place Car Park. It was reported that issues had occurred due to visitor numbers accessing the site for exercise, however due to the numbers attending at weekends the police had attended. Small signs were to be placed on site with the NHS 'Stay at Home' message.
- Eden Place – request for Find and Fix to review the area for potential improvements under the new initiative
- Line markings and yellow lines at Beamish and High Handenhold reported for action by DCC
- Contact made with DCC Ecologist regarding additional planting at Station Lane.

## **208. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment.

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Clerk (Wages and Expenses) | 751.32 |
| HMRC PAYE 8                | 175.00 |
| Litter picker (Wages)      | 384.80 |
| HMRC PAYE 8                | 7.60   |
| Litter picker (Wages)      | 201.36 |
| HMRC PAYE 8                | 48.80  |

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Mazars Audit Fee            | 240.00 |
| Water Rates – Allotments HH | 22.24  |

**RESOLVED:** That following a request for a reduction in working hours from the Litter picker / Shrub bed operative, an agreement be put in place to allow the employee to work 9 hours (6 hours Litter / 3 hours Shrubs) instead of the contracted 12, with a review to take place by April 2021.

## **209. COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2021/22**

The council considered a report of the Clerk which set out a proposed budget for the Parish Council for 2021/22 and sought approval of the budget and precept level to be charged for 2021/22.

**Resolved:** That the

- (i) draft budget for 2021/22 be approved
- (ii) council issues a precept of £38,594.84 (includes LCTSG) for the financial year 2021/22, which represented a 0% increase on 2020/21
- (iii) allotment rent increase of £5.00 across all sites be deferred and collected in 2022
- (iv) Earmarked and general reserves be considered and reviewed throughout the year.

## **210. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk advised that there were some ongoing and unresolved issues relating to the unsatisfactory service provided under the DCC Pest Control Contract across all 3 sites, and whilst the contract was scheduled for renewal at the beginning of January, the Clerk advised that until the issue had been resolved this would not be signed. An update would be provided at the following meeting.

The Clerk further advised that a request had been made from a tenant of Plantation View allotments for the addition of a further 2 beehives to his plot. It was agreed that further information would be required from the Beekeeping Association before a determination could be made. The Clerk agreed to report back to the next meeting for due consideration.

Finally, it had been brought to the Clerk's attention that dog fouling was once again causing issues at High Handenhold allotments, mainly from dog walkers passing through the site. It had been requested by the Association that the entrance gates be locked, however as this was a public right of way this would not be permitted. It was therefore suggested that the council try to obtain some signage from the Neighbourhood Warden's team to display on site as a deterrent.

## **211. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair proposed that the Council waived Standing Orders in line with the Council Procedure Rules to extend the time allowed for the length of the meeting, as the meeting had reached the two-hour period specified within.

**Resolved:** That the proposal be approved.

## **212. URPETH GRANGE**

The following issues were reported for information and/or action:-

- Urpeth Grange Play Area – E-Petition had been extended until 1 February 2021. The Parish council would be able to determine their position on the matter once a response from DCC had been received.
- Dog fouling continued to be an issue around the estate

## **213. PELTON LANE ENDS**

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson was unable to join the meeting at this stage due to some technical issues however the main issues relating to the area had been covered under minute 204.

## **214. WEST PELTON**

Councillor Anderson noted that dog fouling continued to be an issue in the area as did the volume of waste which was accumulating around the shops despite an additional waste bin being provided at the bus stop.

## **215. BEAMISH**

Councillor Scott raised the following issues for information / action:

- Issue regarding state of verges, road safety concerns and disappointment at lack of consultation by DCC regarding the transfer of Eden Place Car Park to Beamish Museum in 2017.
- Additional tree planting as discussed at previous meeting – Councillor Wood to provide further information at the next meeting as agreed under minute 207.

Members discussed at length the issues regarding the land ownership of Eden Place car park and suggested that further information should be sought from DCC and Beamish Museum regarding the transfer, associated costs of its maintenance and information on the consultation carried out at the time of transfer.

## **216. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

Councillor Mullaney advised that the container stationed near the Allotments adjacent to Baytree Terrace had recently been removed and had improved the overall view of the area.