

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on 15 January 2019 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Councillor M Wilkinson (in the Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Anderson, W Barrett, A Batey, I Stewart-Ferguson, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson (Chair)

County Councillor C Carr

Mr J Walkden, County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor D Wood.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Batey and Councillor C Carr declared an interest in item 90, as both were current serving members of the County Durham & Darlington Fire Authority.

Councillor B Anderson declared an interest in item 95 and the decision to be made on allotment rents as he was a current tenant of one of the sites.

90. PRESENTATION BY COUNTY DURHAM & DARLINGTON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The Chair welcomed Mr J Walkden (County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue) to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an short presentation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation including details of its Medium Term Financial Plan and impact upon local fire services. It was explained that the consultation period ran until 4 February 2019 and public participation was encouraged. The document outlined the options and impact upon services was available online or in hard copy from the Fire Service.

91. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Minute number 73, paragraph 5 to include as the last bullet point; to make events at the Museum ticketed.

92. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

The Clerk circulated a copy of the previous month's police report highlighting issues and priorities for the Neighbourhood Policing team in the area. It was noted that there had been some issues with potential unlicensed scrap collectors operating in the area and residents were urged remain vigilant and report anything suspicious via 101.

In addition, it was reported that there was, known bogus calls being received by some residents where personal details were being requested by the caller. It was also reported that there was knowledge of scam emails being received regarding television licences and any incidents of this nature should also be reported to the police.

The Clerk advised that a request had been made to the Neighbourhood Warden for an update to be provided on the use of covert CCTV in the parish area; however, this had not yet been received.

93. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- Statutory Licensing Policy – 12 week consultation period commencing 12 February 2019.
- DCC to assume control of CCTV and bus lanes within the County area. Fines of £60 to be imposed on authorised vehicles using bus lanes.
- Redesignation of Streets for Street trading purposes.
- Retail offer for County Durham to be considered by Cabinet
- Tourism – Promotion of Locomotion and Stephenson’s Railway
- Increased traffic on Visit County Durham’s website following local episode of Countryfile
- Seaham Food Festival and the Cricket World Cup coming later this year

94. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

Resolved: that the following amounts be approved for payment for months December 2018 and January 2019

Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	601.49
Litter picker (Wages)	325.76
Litter picker (Wages)	274.05
HMRC – Payee 10	127.60
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	611.39
HMRC Paye 10	50.00
Litter picker (Wages)	200.56
Litter picker (Wages)	368.01
SLCC Subscription	34.00
Allotment Water Rates	300.00

95. COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/20 AND PRECEPT 2019/20

The Clerk circulated a report for consideration which set out the proposed budget for the Parish Council for 2019/20 and recommended a budget and precept level to be charged for 2019/20.

Following a vote being taken it was

Resolved:

- i) That the draft budget for 2019/20 be approved.
- ii) That the council issues a precept of £36,000 for the 2019/20 financial year resulting in a 2.6% increase.
- iii) That allotment rents be increased by £5.00 each year for 2 years with 12 months’ notice to be given in April 2019.
- iv) That the council note the earmarked and general reserves position.

96. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that the following requests for financial support had been received:

- i) Volunteering Matters
- ii) North of England Brass Band Championships

Resolved: That each of the above organisations be granted £100.00 towards their cause.

97. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that the fence at High Handenhold had yet to be repaired however; a quote had been sought and was expected within the next few days. Further details would be reported in due course.

98. URPETH GRANGE

The Chair advised that contact had been received from a resident of Askrigg Close regarding bin storage. Councillor Batey advised that she was aware of the situation and was of the understanding that Planning were now involved in the matter.

It was suggested that a notice be displayed in the parish noticeboards advising how residents could report issues to Durham County Council, especially neighbourhood or environmental matters. The Clerk agreed to place a notice outlining the process.

Further issues relating to the Urpeth Grange area were reported including; cutting back work to be undertaken, damage to dog bins and tyres that had been dumped at Wensley Close. Matters which had safety implications were raised which included concerns regarding the openness of new kick about area and that a request should be made for the area to be fenced off and appropriate signage to be displayed warning motorists of children playing.

It was also noted that the Clerk was actively seeking compensation from Northumbrian Water for the damage to flowerbeds and reinstatement works, which needed to be completed. An update would be provided when available.

99. WEST PELTON

Councillor Anderson reported on various issues within his area including those which had now been resolved including:-

- Resurfacing work now completed. Signage had now also been removed
- Dog fouling in the area continued to be a problem
- Drainage issues at Twizell Lane continued to be ongoing issue despite some clearing of drains having been undertaken recently.
- Edenfield sign needs replacing
- Request for a litter bin at the bus stop opposite the village chip shop
- Reinstatement of the wild flower bed in the recess by the playing field, directly opposite the Corner Shop.
- Request submitted for Grit bins on Twizell Lane, New Road, Urpeth and Stoney Lane, Urpeth

100. BEAMISH

Councillor Scott provided an update on ongoing matters and new issues that required attention including:

- Reduction seen in fly tipping, despite ongoing issues with dog fouling and tipping of waste at Eden Place car park.
- Some fencing repairs required at Picnic area a bike were using gaps in fence to get through and were causing damage to the grassed area.
- Near miss on A693 roundabout where car was damaged but had left the scene
- Yellow lines at restaurant still needed renewing

- New owners of restaurant had been seen to be clearing up the private car park area which was positive
- Speeding continued to be an issue throughout the village, which needed addressing by the police.

Councillor Batey advised that she had taken note of the issues that she could follow up and an update would be provided in due course.

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting and in an update from Beamish Museum, it was noted that the Deputy Director had met with the Safety Advisory Group and Go North East, which had been positive. A commitment had also been made by the museum to attend future SAG meetings. In addition, the museum had set a meeting up with Cabinet Member Councillor Carl Marshall and an officer from Durham Police to discuss the matter further.

There had however been no update provided regarding the governance arrangements of the Museum Board, nor whether consideration had been given to the inclusion of local members on this Board. The Clerk agreed to maintain contact with the museum with a view to obtaining regular updates.

101. HIGH HANDENHOLD

Councillor Anderson advised that there had been numerous reports and he had witnessed himself first hand a vehicle traveling at speed on Baytree Terrace, where any oncoming traffic had to stop and in some cases back up to allow it to pass. He had taken the number plate of the vehicle and reported to the police.

102. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Ferguson advised that he was still exploring options for a memorial or piece of artwork to be installed on The Parade, although it was noted that any project would be more modest than he had originally anticipated.

In addition he advised that he would continue to press the County Council on the street lighting issue raised some time ago and would of course provide an update where possible.