

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 February 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, I Mullaney and B Scott

County Councillor D Wood.

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

113. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(i) Mr L Stokes, Banks Group – Moss Close Farm, Pelton

Mr Stokes provided an update on the proposed development of Moss Close Farm and advised that a reserved matters application, would be submitted to Durham County Council within the coming weeks. He reported that the application remained fundamentally unchanged since the outline application was submitted in 2017, with access and the number of houses being the same.

It was noted that the parish council were extremely disappointed that Miller Homes had been posting leaflets through the doors of residents in Pelton, regarding the development, prior to them notifying the council that they had been awarded the contract. Mr Stokes advised that Miller Homes had been invited to attend the meeting this evening, however had declined. He was also not aware that leaflets had been distributed.

Councillor Wood asked whether a Liaison group was to be formed and whether the parish council would be able to actively input into that group as a statutory consultee. Mr Stokes advised that he would ensure that the Clerks details were passed on to Miller Homes. Mr Stokes also advised that should anyone wish to contact him directly about the application or site they could do so by contacting him at Banks Group on 0191 378 6219 or lewis.stokes@banksgroup.co.uk

Mr Stokes went on to provide an update on the mining of the Pont Valley site and advised that an extension to the site had been agreed. The site however, was to be completely worked and restored by the same end date in 2021 and there would be no increase in vehicle movements as a result of the extension. He noted that this was mainly due to the site currently being ahead of schedule and because restoration of the site was happening progressively as it was worked. He further noted that if the site

was not extended and work to extract coal did not continue, there would be greater reliance on imported coal beyond 2024.

The Chair thanked Mr Stokes for his update and asked that the Clerk be informed of any further updates in due course.

(ii) Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020/2023 – County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service.

The Chair welcomed M Clark, Assistant District Manager to the meeting who was in attendance to provide a short presentation on the 2020-21 consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan.

M Clark advised that managing the services finances had become more challenging than ever over the last few years and in the face of continuing uncertainty over future funding arrangements, it was essential that the service had the resources it needed now and in the future. Planning and identifying ways in which the service could change without impacting upon the service provided was therefore crucial going forward.

The purpose of the consultation was therefore to seek public views on; the 3 year IRMP, emergency response review, response standards, arson reduction, safe and well-being visits and charging businesses for false alarms from unwanted fire signals.

Councillor Batey noted that despite the ongoing challenges faced the service had still managed to reinvest in fire stations and the additional 6p on £2 per week council tax levied by the fire authority was minimal, without this additional charge a real impact upon service provision would be likely.

Further discussion took place regarding retained fire fighters, response times, road traffic collisions, arson, ASB and false alarms.

In conclusion M Clark asked that members complete and return the circulated document and encourage others to either complete online or request a hard copy by contacting the CDDFRS Service Headquarters.

114. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Resolved:

That, Mrs I Mullaney of Pine Cottage, High Handenhold be duly elected to the office of Parish Councillor for the Urpeth Ward of Urpeth Parish Council and that she sign her declaration of acceptance of office, within 28 days of the appointment.

116. 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 there had been an arrest made in relation to vehicle crime in the area.

Further information was reported with regard to a drug seizure which had been made in the Grange Villa area.

The Clerk advised that she had been unable to contact the Neighbourhood Wardens for a second month to obtain an update on the use of the covert CCTV camera and warden activity within the parish area.

117. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- Pocket Park Funding – all three applications across the division had been unsuccessful. In light of this a discussion was needed to determine whether to proceed with the 106 application, and if so, what elements of the plan for Edenfield park could be progressed within the constraints of the funds available. It was agreed that the Clerk along with the local divisional members and Councillor Anderson meet with the planning authority to discuss further.
- Pelton Cemetery – works now underway, however poor weather had resulted in some minor delays.
- Portable Speed Visors – a list of 20 sites across the division had now been submitted and further information was awaited. An update would be provided as soon as possible.
- Selective Licensing – consultation ongoing.
- Town and Villages Programme – to provide an update if possible at the next meeting.
- BMX track at Urpeth Grange – consultation event had now been held and feedback so far had been positive.
- 16 March – public meeting to be held on Broadband access
- Small grants – any small projects for community groups or organisations may be able to access some funding via the local divisional county councillors.

118. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: that the following amounts be approved for payment.

HMRC PAYE 11	132.20
Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	638.30
HMRC PAYE 11	2.80
Litter picker (Wages)	366.65
Zurich Municipal Insurance	934.53
D Rand – Purchase of Book x 3	30.00

119. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised that she would raise any updates she had under the items of business to follow.

120. ALLOTMENTS

(i) High Handenhold

Tyne Rivers Trust – site visit undertaken to determine whether any issues with flooding. Nothing to report at this stage, however the Trust would be putting together a report by the end of March for the Environment Agency.

Boundary Wall – Clerk to arrange a site meeting with a groundworks company to assess whether any work to wall required.

(ii) Plantation View

Request for keeping of livestock – The Clerk advised that a request had been received for a tenant to keep a goat on their garden. Members duly considered the application however refused the request in light of concerns regarding; noise, damage to gardens should it escape, potential lack of shelter / water and animal welfare. It was also noted that there was no wider benefit to the area by permitting such a request and it did not offer any environmental benefit to the allotment site.

121. URPETH GRANGE

The following matters were reported for information and or action:

- Street lighting – lights not working to be replaced.
- Shrub bed at Redmires requires attention.
- Street sign at North View reinstated following damage.

122. WEST PELTON

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

- Potholes – currently being repaired
- Issue with inconsistent height of dropped kerb at the underpass on A693 to be reported via D Battensby, DCC.
- Issues with tractor picking children up from school and blocking the road, access and sightlines.

123. BEAMISH

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

- Street light on Station Road, number 439 out for 2 weeks
- Eden Place Car Park – requires attention. The Clerk agreed to seek assistance from the Clean and Green team and arrange for a visit to be undertaken.
- Accident at roundabout at Beamish on A693, car gone over roundabout and damaged poles for signage. Councillor D Wood agreed to report.

124. HIGH HANDENHOLD

Councillor Mullaney advised that the paved slabs on the pavement near the public house were terribly uneven and a danger to pedestrians. In addition, she asked whether anything could be done to clean up the bus shelter as it often smelled unpleasant as a result of patrons of the nearby pub using it to urinate in. Councillor Wood agreed to take the two issues forward with DCC.

The Clerk advised that following discussion at the previous meeting relating to cars and vans parking and driving across the land opposite Baytree Terrace, Councillor Wood had sought a quote for the land to be partially fenced off with low level fencing. The cost would have to be met from the council budget however County Councillors may be able to contribute towards the cost from their Neighbourhood budget. The Clerk went on to advise that a note was to be given to all allotment tenants on rent collection day advising that should they be found to be parking or using the land for access then their tenancy may be called into question.

Discussion ensued as to whether the project was a current priority given that Eden Place Car Park which was used by many more people was in need of refurbishment. It was therefore agreed that a further discussion and decision be taken on the matter following further information obtained in relation to both sites.

125. PELTON LANE ENDS

Matters relating to Pelton Lane Ends had been covered under item 113(i).