

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at Ouston Community Centre at 5.00pm.

Councillor A Batey (Chair)

Present:

Councillor A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, I Mullaney and B Scott

County Councillor P Pringle

12. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Anderson, B Barrett, G Holmes and County Councillor D Wood.

13. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17. Update on Moss Close Farm – Miller Homes

The Clerk advised that no update report had been received in advance of the meeting. Consequently, the Clerk agreed to raise the issue of non-attendance with planning, given that this had been a pre-requisite of the permission granted.

18. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

19. PACT & Neighbourhood Warden Report

The Clerk advised that there had been no questions submitted in advance of the meeting and no residents were in attendance. It was noted that there had been no reports received for some time and the Clerk agreed to query this with the policing team and PCC.

20. County Councillors Report

County Councillor P Pringle provided the following updates on matters relating to the County and parish area:

- Tenders for BMX Pump Track underway – hope to meet with young people in due course to provide updates and encourage their ongoing involvement.
- DCC traffic survey and modelling to be undertaken on A693 to determine suitability or requirement for traffic light system at the round-about

- Tenders for play area upgrades underway – hopefully work will be completed during the summer period.
- Eden Place Car Park – options being explored for improvement of facilities for potential extension of car park
- AAP Funding cut by new Joint Administration with additional funds being allocated to Neighbourhood Budgets.
- DCC to undertake review of the ongoing suitability of the newly built HQ at the request of the Joint Administration.

21. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: that the following amounts be approved for payment.

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	804.49
HMRC PAYE 8	174.20
Litter picker (Wages)	414.92
HMRC PAYE 8	85.40
Litter picker (Wages)	427.68
Ouston PC War Memorial Donation	1000.00
Wave Water Rates	93.15

22. Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Clerk presented a detailed financial report of the council's Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021. The report further included details of the Internal Audit and a copy of the report of the Internal Auditor outlining his findings.

Resolved:

- That the year-end position with regards to the balances of the council be noted.
- That Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 be approved.
- That Section 2 – Accounting Statements of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 be approved.
- That the Chairman of the council sign Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

23. Correspondence and Clerks Report

- Appointment of Litter picker / Shrub Bed Maintenance Operative

The Clerk advised that a suitable candidate had shown interest in the above position and with the Council's agreement the Clerk would offer the position, subject to acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of employment, which should include a requirement to pay for the cost of equipment should the employee vacate the position within a period of 6 months.

Resolved: That the position be offered to K Drummond, and upon acceptance of the terms and conditions, be supplied with the necessary equipment to undertake the role.

ii) Replanting of Boxwood at Beamish memorial stone

It was noted that the existing planting at the memorial stone was in a poor state and that the Clerk would make contact with J Conway with a view to replanting in the coming months.

Councillor B Scott commented that he would also like to see some seasonal planting done at Beamish and it was agreed that this would be taken up again with DCC in conjunction with other Clean and Green team issues such as planting at Pelton Lane Ends.

iii) Purchase of Office Equipment

The Clerk advised that the current laptop was no longer fit for purpose and required replacement. The existing equipment had been purchased 4 years prior and was now unable to perform necessary office tasks. Councillor Batey suggested that the alongside the purchase of a laptop, the Clerk should determine what, if any other equipment is required for her office use and also seek agreement from the Chair to purchase these at the same time.

24. Allotments

The Clerk advised that there had been some damage caused by a HGV to the perimeter fence of High Handenhold allotments. She advised that the driver involved had provided details to the Association Secretary and the Clerk would contact him with a view to arranging repairs or reimbursement for damage caused.

25. Beamish

DM/21/01633/FPA - Construction of 24no. luxury Holiday Lodges, Reception Building and Associated Landscaping | Land North West of Beamish Hall Hotel

The Clerk referred to previously circulated information regarding the above application and noted that consultation ran until 8 July 2021.

Resolved: that the Clerk prepare and submit an objection to the above application on behalf of the council.

The Chair advised that in her position as County Councillor she was aware that the application had been 'called in' and would therefore be considered by a Planning Committee. She further noted that a meeting was taking place later that evening with the developer to discuss the concerns of residents.

Councillor B Scott further noted areas of concerns or issues for action within the area as follows:

- Absence of litter bins in the area – much needed on road from Fire Station up to Ill Cancellio and near the bus stop at the Shepherd and Shepherdess.

- Fencing near roundabout at the junction of Beamish village damaged due to continuing issues with road traffic accidents and lack of clear signage warning drivers to slow on approach.

26. Urpeth Grange

i) Urpeth Grange Play Area

The Chair advised that almost all households had now signed the document which was to be sent to Gateway regarding the transfer of land, play area and funds to DCC. A further update would be provided when available.

ii) Root damage to foot paths

The Chair further noted that the issue of tree roots damaging footpaths needed further follow up an action.

27. High Handenhold

Councillor Mullaney queried whether there was routine cleaning undertaken on council owned bus stops and if not whether this could be raised with DCC.

She also noted that dog fouling was an issue within the area and asked whether the council could be approached with a view to install signage to act as a deterrent.

28. Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson advised that litter continued to be an issue around this area and suggested that an additional litter bin in in this area would be beneficial as would an organised litter pick.

29. West Pelton

There were no issues to raise under this item.

30. Any other business

There were no further items of business to be discussed.