

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 June 2018 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

### **Present:**

Councillors B Anderson, A Batey, W Barrett, B Scott, F Wilkson and M Wilkinson

County Councillors C Carr and D Wood

3 members of the public.

### **Councillor M Wilkinson (Chair)**

#### **21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson

#### **22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor A Batey declared an interest in Item 11 on the agenda in respect of discussions relating to Bradley Close.

#### **23. MINUTES**

That the minutes of the meeting of held on 15 May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **24. PERSIMMON UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT URPETH GRANGE**

The Clerk advised that R Cook, Persimmon Homes was unable to attend the meeting however had forwarded the following update:-

- 2 properties were left to sell and a further 2 to be completed by the end of June.
- Work on the play area was slightly behind schedule and although equipment was now in place, some fencing and regrading works were yet to be completed.

Councillor Batey went on to provide further detail relating to progress against works, noting that there were ongoing issues which required resolution including: footpath regrading, tidying of weeds and cutting back of the hedgerow.

Further discussion and debate took place regarding the maintenance of the play area and it was noted that the parish council were not liable for its up keep, maintenance or insurance and this would be the responsibility of Durham County Council.

#### **25. POLICE AND PACT**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the PACT report which detailed police activity in the area for the previous month. In addition, an update had been provided from the PCSO which detailed further police activity in the Pelton, Grange Villa and Perkinsville areas.

Following a query from Councillor Anderson regarding reportable road accidents, it was suggested that this information could be obtained from the local PCSO Connor Wood or one of his colleagues.

## **26. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Councillors C Carr and D Wood provided an overview of activity relating to County Council business and matters relating to the parish area as follows:

- £230m savings achieved since 2010, and a loss of 2,800 jobs. Despite the uncertain financial situation the council had been able to maintain its frontline services and were in a strong position to be able to sign off the budget for the next financial year.
- Big events coming up over the summer months to include; Flying Scotsman visit, International Cricket, Miners Gala and the Durham Brass Festival.
- Take up of garden waste bins this year had decreased and it was noted that many households now shared their garden bin with a neighbour. It was noted that this may also be as a result of the recent price increase proposed for 2019/20.
- Update on Miners banner and thanks to Councillor Barrett for his perseverance and commitment to having the banner returned to its rightful place. Details were also provided regarding arrangements for the Miners Gala to be held on 14 July 2018.

## **27. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**Resolved:** That the following amounts be approved for payment:

HMRC Paye 2	£137.20
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	£650.49
HMRC Paye 2	£75.00
Litterpicker (Wages)	£326.33
HMRC Paye 2	£42.80
Litterpicker (Wages)	£466.15
Internal Audit Fee	£150.00
ICO Registration Fee	£30.00

## **28. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised that items of correspondence would be addressed under the relevant items below.

## **29. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk provided an update on a number of issues at High Handenhold allotments, mainly relating to dirty gardens and agreed to provide an update at a future meeting on progress in this regard.

A further update was also provided regarding attempts to resolve a footpath obstruction at Twizell Lane.

## **30. WEST PELTON**

Councillor Anderson provided an update on previously reported issues including:

- Request for the extension of 20mph zone
- Request for salt bin agreed by DCC
- Request for directional signs at T-junction on A693
- Continued reports of dog fouling

- Ongoing issues regarding bin storage.
- Lawson Court development
- Concerns raised regarding the junction and parked cars obstructing the view for drivers.
- Request for warning sign to be installed near to children's play area

Councillor Batey noted that the County Council would be installing a bin next to bus stop opposite the shops and in addition yellow mandatory no parking lines would be installed by the pie shop to prevent persons from parking in front of the dropped kerb which was used for access.

The Clerk further reported that in relation to matters brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood Warden after the last meeting, the warden had advised that no action would be taken to resolve those matters.

**Councillor Batey as a dual hatted member, declared an interest in the following item, and although it was agreed that she may remain in the meeting, she did not take part in the voting on this matter.**

### **31. URPETH GRANGE**

Councillor Batey, in referring to previous discussions regarding speeding vehicles on Bradley Close, advised that following the last meeting and deferral of the item, she had sought further advice from DCC who had advised that no less than 5 speed humps would be required and could be installed at a cost of approximately £9,000. Divisional county councillors had agreed that that they would each contribute a sum of money towards the project, but would also seek to obtain a contribution from the parish council.

Councillor Barrett commented that he could see that this was a common sense approach and was needed to mitigate the existing speeding issues. Councillor Batey reiterated that this issue presented a unique set of circumstances given its proximity to the new children's play area, its proximity to the road and the volume of traffic which used the road to access and exit the estate.

Councillor Anderson added that although he acknowledged the issues at Bradley Close there were many other ongoing issues across the parish area, which he felt had been presented month after month without resolution or action by the County Council.

Lengthy discussion and debate took pace regarding the matter and in order to move progress on the item the Clerk suggested that given the above concerns raised regarding other projects which required attention within the area, that at its next meeting, the council should consider the development of a parish plan alongside establishing priorities for the wider parish area.

Taking into consideration the above, Councillor Barrett **MOVED** that the parish council support the traffic calming scheme at Bradley Close by providing a contribution of £2000 towards the total cost.

Councillor F Wilkinson **SECONDED** the motion, however requested that an amendment to the be made to read as follows: That the parish council support the traffic calming scheme at Bradley Close by providing a contribution of 25% of the total cost.

Councillor Barrett accepted the amendment.

**Resolved:** That the parish council provide a contribution of 25% of the total cost of the installation of 5 speed humps at Bradley Close, on the proviso that the county council carry out a period of consultation with the residents of Bradley Close prior to any work taking place.

### **32. BEAMISH**

The Clerk advised that she had notified the Neighbourhood Warden that there were issues with fly tipping within the area and it was noted that the locations reported were already on the current list of CCTV deployment areas. In addition the Wardens had also been approached regarding issues at the car park adjacent to Ala Spicery and they had agreed to engage with the business with a view to tidying this area up.

Councillor Scott then went on to provide a summary of ongoing issues within the Beamish area including:

- Request for noticeboard to moved to a more prominent location;
- Shrub beds on Stoney Lane untidy and it was felt that its removal and replacement with a grassed area would better suited.
- Some areas now very overgrown and cutting back required.
- Yellow lines outside Ala Spicery need repainting as cars parking in this location were causing obstruction.
- Issues regarding recent work on private development near Shepherd and Shepherdess. Assistance had been provided by DCC to rectify the situation.

Councillor Anderson further reported that the gentleman who had been commissioned to carry out improvement works to the memorial stone area was expected to start work within the next few weeks.

### **33. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

There were no issues to report although it was acknowledged that speeding remained an issue on Baytree Terrace.

### **34. PELTON LANE ENDS**

It was noted that there had not been an update on the Moss Close Farm application for some time and it was suggested that contact be made with the Planning Officer to obtain an update on progress.

In Councillor Stewart-Fergusson's absence it was further reported on his behalf that he was still attempting to engage with the County Council regarding street lighting on the A693 although to date no response had been received.