

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30 p.m.

G Holmes-Wood (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, G Holmes-Wood, R Johnson, B Scott and D Wood

114. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stewart Fergusson and County Councillor P Pringle.

115. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

116. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

117. Public Questions / Representations

There were no public questions or representations.

118. County Councillor Report

County Councillors D Wood and A Batey provided an update on matters relating to the County and parish area including:

- DCC Budget meeting – Council tax set at 4.99% and 3.75 million of reserves were also forecast to be spent.
- Defibrillator – The school at West Pelton whilst supportive of the siting of a defibrillator on site have to first prove they have permission from landowner (DCC). Councillor Batey had also contacted the Cherry Tree pub who had also agreed to installation at their premises. Discussions were still ongoing with Ill Canello but it was hoped that they to would be in support.
- Highways – Consultation would be impacted by purdah due to the PCC and Mayoral elections taking place on 2 May.
- Market activity week details
- DLI – Motion to DCC Council meeting next Wednesday asking for work to stop on site immediately in light of works disturbing consecrated ground.
- Footpath on hill at Urpeth Grange currently in state of disrepair, County Councillors had previously paid for surface dressing however work was now required to bring this walk to school route back up to standard. The Clerk agreed to write to DCC to report before any further action taken.

- Comments made by residents regarding daffodils not coming through since work carried out on St Bennet's Way by the water board some time ago. The Clerk agreed to contact Northumbrian Water to ask for replacement bulbs as a gesture of good will with a view to the parish council undertaking a community planting project.
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service - Community Risk Management Plan, consultation running until 10 May.

119. Clerks Report and Correspondence

(i) Update on Website

The Clerk advised that work was underway on the website and it was hoped that it would be live within a few weeks. Some work would still need to be undertaken by the Clerk after that time to populate the site.

Gov.uk email addresses would be made available for any Cllr who would like one.

(ii) Poppies Project 2024

The Clerk advised that a joint meeting had taken place on Monday evening with Pelton and Ouston Parish Councils and the minutes of that meeting would be circulated following the meeting.

Councillor Wood noted that each council had been tasked with reviewing which areas would be selected for poppies to be displayed on lampposts. A further meeting of the group would be held in May to collate information and discuss next steps.

Discussion then took place regarding options for residents and businesses to sponsor a lamppost by making a donation to the RBL which would pay for a poppy to be displayed with details of donations made and lampposts number displayed on the website. Discussion ensued around the suitability of crowdfunding for this purpose and the Clerk agreed to seek further information from CDALC.

120. Grounds Maintenance Contract 2024/25

The Clerk presented costs associated with the 2024/25 planting schedule for review and approval.

Resolved: That the Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2024/25 be amended as follows and a quote be sought based on the following:

- Summer bedding only to be provided across all beds;
- Request for DCC to create and dress x 2 beds at Beamish, with flowers to be provided by Beamish Museum and planted by community volunteers
- Request for DCC to create and plant x 1 bed at Pelton Lane Ends

121. Big Spring Clean

The Clerk advised that as the previously arranged date had to be postponed to allow for better attendance, a revised date should be set to undertake a clean-up at the following areas:

Urpeth Grange – 6 April, 10.00 a.m.

High Handenhold Playing Field – 14 April, 11.00 a.m.

122. Finance Matters

(i) Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be agreed for payment.

Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	947.47
HMRC PAYE	232.90
HMRC PAYE	66.60
Litter picker (Wages)	266.84
Litter picker (Wages)	334.44
HugoFox Monthly Fee	11.99
Biffa Skip Hire	361.61
Zurich Municipal	1091.73
Pest Control Contract	1977.28
Wave Water Utilities	127.65

123. Allotments

(i) To discuss options / proposal to purchase Allotment Management Software

The Clerk advised that she had been exploring options to streamline office processes and had identified software which could be utilised to help manage registers, rent, correspondence and record and track progress against site inspections.

Unfortunately, the company contacted had not yet supplied a quote however this would be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion / consideration.

124. Ward / Area Matters

(i) Eden Place Car Park

The Clerk confirmed that they had been no progress in this regard, however agreed to contact Beamish Museum to see whether they had made any progress regarding the transfer to DCC. Councillor Batey also agreed to raise with the Chief Executive to see whether he could assist in moving the process forward.