

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.00pm.

### **Councillor A Batey (Chair)**

#### **Present:**

Councillors W Barrett, G Holmes, I Stewart-Fergusson and B Scott

County Councillor D Wood

#### **1. Election of Chair**

**Resolved:** That Councillor B Scott be elected as Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **2. Acceptance of Office of Chair**

The Chair signed the acceptance of Office of the Chair in the presence of the Clerk.

### **Councillor B Scott (Chair)**

Councillor Scott gave special thanks to Councillor Batey as outgoing Chair and thanked her on behalf of the council for her work during the term of office.

#### **3. Election of Vice-Chair**

**Resolved:** That Councillor G Holmes be elected as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **4. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Pringle

#### **5. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest. Members were reminded that any updates required to their Declaration of Interests Form should be made and returned to the Clerk.

#### **6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, with the inclusion of County Councillor D Wood as being in attendance.

#### **7. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies**

**Resolved:** that the following appointments be agreed.

- (i) Allotments Committee – Councillors A Batey, B Barrett and B Scott

- (ii) CDALC Annual Meeting – Councillor G Holmes
- (iii) Smaller Local Councils Forum – to be arranged when attendance required

## **8. Adoption of Council Policies**

**Resolved:** that the following policies having been reviewed and where necessary updated be adopted.

- (i) Revised Standing Orders 2022 to include recommended NALC changes relating to procurement.
- (ii) Code of Conduct
- (iii) Financial Regulations

## **9. Public Representations**

- (i) Miller Homes – Update on Moss Close Farm Development

The Clerk advised that the following update had been received from Miller Homes:

- 24no legally completed plots
- 33no plots exchanged contracts
- 17 plots reserved
- Total 74no plots which are sold or reserved
- 7no affordable rent plots which are now under contract to a housing association
- 109no plots left to sell.

- (ii) Public Questions

There had been no public questions submitted in advance of the meeting and there were no members of the public in attendance.

## **10. County Councillor Report**

Councillor D Wood provided an overview of current issues relating to the County and Pelton Division area as follows: -

- Funding for Platinum Jubilee events provided by County Councillors. Event at Ouston Community Centre also supported by Urpeth Parish Council by way of donation.
- Formal dedication of bench for Mr Derek Bates took place the previous day and was well attended.
- Update on Selective Licensing (covering West Pelton)
- County Council HQ – sale of HQ and relocation of existing County Hall to Aykley Heads Business Park approved by Cabinet.
- Go North East – consultation on changes to bus services. Those changes would impact upon residents within the parish and concerns should be expressed that the council has not been consulted.
- Update on DLI Museum and History Centre

- Update on Station Lane traffic regulation order – consultation ongoing, should there be no objections work would likely start and be completed within 2 months.

## **11. Monthly Accounts**

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

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	794.21
HMRC PAYE 12	176.52
Litter picker (Wages)	364.80
HMRC PAYE 12	91.20
Litter picker (Wages)	456.00
The Sign Maker – Jubilee Plaque	108.15
Donation to UCA – Jubilee Event	250.00
Pest Control Contract	2135.62

## **12. Clerks Report**

The Clerk provided the following updates for information / action:

- (i) Request for representative to attend a Neighbourhood Planning Information session hosted by Pelton Parish Council. Date to be confirmed.
- (ii) Date for planting of Jubilee Roses – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 11.00 a.m.  
A plaque and roses had been ordered.
- (iii) Update on SLA for Grounds Maintenance Contract – discussions with DCC ongoing.

## **13. Allotments**

- (i) High Handenhold

The Clerk advised that Councillors B Barrett and B Scott had sought to obtain quotes for the supply and installation of gates to High Handenhold allotments. Following consideration of the quotes it was agreed that the contract should be awarded to Lowrie Fabrication. A date for the commencement of works would be agreed in due course.

In addition, following the previous site visit undertaken by the Allotments Committee, letters were in the process of being sent to those gardens where work was required within a specified period.

## **14. Ward Matters**

The following issues were reported for information / action:-

- (i) Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson provided an update on matters which he had taken up with Clean and Green and Councillor M Wilkes regarding fly tipping. He further noted

that in responding to the Karbon Homes planning application he had found it difficult to find accurate A693 statistics to support his arguments. Councillor D Woos agreed to provide the information from the most recent two traffic surveys undertaken.

In addition, it was reported that fencing at the Aged Miners homes had come down some time ago and was an eyesore. Although it was unknown who would be responsible for its repair Councillor Wood agreed to report in.

(ii) Urpeth Grange

Issues were noted with regard to the grass cutting backlog, overgrown street signs, damaged street signs and overhanging trees on streetlights around the estate.

A further update was provided in respect of the transfer of the play park to DCC and it was noted that this was now going through due process. It was hoped that completion would take place very soon. Councillors Batey and Wood suggested that the parish council may wish to hold an event at the play park when the transfer is complete for the residents of Urpeth Grange.

(iii) Beamish

Councillor Scott noted that the Perspex bus shelter at the top of the village required cleaning. In addition, he noted a request which had been made at the previous meeting regarding the possible placement of flower tubs on the memorial site. It was noted that due to highway constraints it was likely that approval would not be granted at this location, however Beamish Museum should be approached to see whether they would be interested in providing some tubs for around the village.

Planning Application – DM/21/01633/FPA

The Clerk advised that it was possible that this application would be heard by committee on 30<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that a meeting with residents would need to take place before this time and arrangements made for the council to make representations at the meeting.

(iv) West Pelton and High Handenhold

Similar issues were reported in these areas with overgrown footpaths and litter being particularly prominent at West Pelton outside the shops and at St Paul's Terrace

## **15. Any other business**

(i) Timing of Future Meetings

Following a trial period of holding meetings at 6.00 p.m. the council agreed to commence future meetings at 6.30 p.m. with a view to reviewing again ahead of the winter.