

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 May 2018 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors B Anderson, A Batey, W Barrett, B Scott, I Stewart-Fergusson

County Councillors C Carr and D Wood

Two members of the public.

Councillor B ANDERSON (in the Chair)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor M Wilkinson be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and that she sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form as soon as possible.

Thanks was given to the outgoing Chairman for his hard work and dedication, during his terms of office.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor W Barrett be elected as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year and that he sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

Councillor W BARRETT (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. The Clerk further reminded Members that should they have any updates to their Register of Pecuniary and other interests form than this should be declared as soon as possible and updated on the register.

5. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting of held on 17 April 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Resolved: That Councillors B Anderson, W Barrett and B Scott be appointed to the Allotments Committee of the council.

7. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved: That appointments to outside bodies be reviewed at a future meeting.

8. STANDING ORDERS

Resolved:

That the revised model standing orders as circulated be approved and adopted.

9. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

The Clerk presented a detailed finance report of the council's Statement of Accounts and Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018. The report further included details of the Internal Audit and a copy of the report of the Internal Auditor outlining his recommendations.

Resolved:

- (i) That the year-end position with regards to the balances of the council be noted.
- (ii) That Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 be approved.
- (iii) That Section 2 – Accounting Statements of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 be approved.
- (iv) That the Chairman of the council sign Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

10. 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 4 to be completed by the end of June.
- Work on the play area would commence on Thursday 17 May and would take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

11. 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 increased reports of ASB and speeding on Urpeth Grange in particular on Bradley Close. The update also noted positive news in that there had been a dramatic decrease in the number of vehicle crimes since a male had been arrested and subsequently given a custodial sentence.

The Clerk further reported that the current PCSO would be moving on to another job and with such PCSO Connor Wood would be taking over the role for the West Pelton area. PCSO Simon Walters would remain as contact for the Urpeth Grange area.

Members discussed at length ongoing speeding issues and in particular problems in the Beamish village area, as a direct result of visitors to Beamish Museum. The Chair welcomed to the meeting two local residents of Beamish who were also in attendance to voice their concerns regarding the traffic issues. Councillor Batey noted that a speed watch camera was hoped to be deployed in the area soon however residents were encouraged to be vigilant and report any repeat offenders via the police 101 number, if it had been possible to capture their vehicle details.

It was further agreed that contact should be made with Beamish Museum given that no response had been provided to the parish council following the last meeting with the Director.

12. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

It was noted that there were no major issues to report under this item.

13. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the following amounts be approved for payment:

HMRC Paye 2	£127.40
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	£611.39
HMRC Paye 2	£75.00
Litterpicker (Wages)	£300.84
HMRC Paye 2	£22.40
Litterpicker (Wages)	£384.76
CDALC Subscription	£505.74

14. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Clerk advised that work had been ongoing to ensure that the Parish Council were compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations which would come into force on 25 May 2018.

She advised that a full information audit had been undertaken including a review of the council's retention guidelines. In addition a General Privacy Statement had been prepared which would be placed on the website and also sent to any person who contacted the council by letter or email outlining how the council would use any personal information collected.

As part of the above, the Clerk had also undertaken a review of the Data Protection Policy to reflect the new changes.

Copies of each would be uploaded to the website and sent to each member for their information.

Resolved:

That the update be noted and it be agreed that the documents be placed on the council's website in advance of the 25th May 2018.

15. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk provided an update on a number of issues and noted that two tenants had been given notice of termination of their tenancy.

She further noted that some complaints had been received from tenants at High Handenhold, who were still experiencing issues with drainage despite the overall success of the works which had recently been completed. The Clerk suggested that the contractor be

contacted and asked to provide a quote for the additional works which may be required. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

16. WEST PELTON

Councillor Anderson provided an update on recent issues which he had reported including:

- Request for the extension of 20mph zone
- Request for salt bin initially rejected however now under review
- Request for directional signs at T-junction on A693

He further advised that the drains had now been cleared at Twizell Lane and some road repairs had been undertaken.

17. URPETH GRANGE

Councillor Batey, in referring to previous discussions regarding speeding vehicles on Bradley Close advised that she had sought advice from a Highways Officer at Durham County Council regarding what, if any, speed calming measures could be put in place. She advised that they had suggested that speed humps could be installed at a cost of approximately £8,000, however there was no funding within the County's highways budget to finance this. Further discussions were ongoing, however she and fellow divisional county councillors had agreed that should the costs not be able to be met from the highways budget, that they would each contribute a sum of money towards the project, but would also look for a contribution from the parish council.

Councillor Anderson added that although he acknowledged the issues at Bradley Close, speeding was an issue across the parish area and questioned whether the parish council could financially support a scheme at Urpeth Grange and not in other areas such as Beamish for example.

Further discussion took place regarding the issue of road classifications and the differences between some of the other areas mentioned and that of within a densely populated estate, close to a children's play area and public house.

Following lengthy debate on the subject it was suggested that any decision should be deferred until the outcome of discussions with Durham County Council were known and actual costs provided.

Moving on, Councillor Batey provided an update on the reinstatement of a BMX track and advised that costings would be reported to a future meeting. She further provided an update on recent incidents of anti-social behaviour and ongoing police investigations.

Further updates were provided in respect of planning enforcement related issues at Carlton Close and Bradley Close.

18. BEAMISH

Councillor Scott advised that ongoing traffic, congestion and parking issues were occurring in the village as a direct result of events held at the museum. It was suggested that a further meeting should be held with the Director of the museum or that he should be invited to attend a future meeting and furthermore invite comments from the Safety Advisory Group.

Further updates were provided in respect of fly tipping at Eden Place car park and issues of mountain bikes causing nuisance to pedestrians in Pockerley Hill Woods. In addition, he noted that DCC maintained shrub beds in the area were looking untidy. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with DCC.

Councillor Scott further noted residents' requests for the parish noticeboard to be relocated to a more prominent location, however noted that there were limitations at where it could be located due to land ownership issues.

Further maintenance issues were noted in respect of hedge trimming on the junction of A690 and that the yellow lines needed to be repainted outside Ala Spicery. Councillor Batey agreed to raise these matters directly with DCC.

19. HIGH HANDENHOLD

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

20. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson provided an update on correspondence he had received regarding the open-cast site at Dipton and thanked the parish council for also registering their concerns.

He further noted that the street lighting issue was ongoing and he had written a further letter to DCC outlining his concerns and seeking further clarification on the proposals. The response when received would be provided to the meeting for consideration.

Further to discussions at the previous meeting regarding the community litter pick, he noted an improvement in the Newfield area.