

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 March 2018 in the Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

### **Present:**

Councillor B Anderson (Chairman), Councillors A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, B Scott, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson.  
County Councillor D Wood.

### **167. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor C Carr and Mr D Battensby (Durham County Council).

### **168. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 were conformed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **169. PERSIMMON HOMES – UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT URPETH GRANGE**

The Clerk advised that R Cook was not in attendance and had not forwarded any update prior to the meeting.

Councillor Batey advised of some concerns which had been reported to her relating to the removal of the perimeter fence and state of land. It was reported that planting and landscaping was yet to be completed on the perimeter and when complete should provide a tidy and pleasant outlook. She further noted that speeding vehicles continued to be an issue and the matter should be discussed further with R Cook and Durham County Council in order to mitigate this going forward.

It was further acknowledged by Members that no update had been provided regarding the proposed play area and it was suggested that this be followed up with R Cook so that residents could be notified as soon as possible as to when the site would be opened.

### **170. HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

The Clerk advised that disappointingly the Traffic Asset Engineer who had intended on being present at the meeting had submitted his apologies. She advised that she would further follow this up with the Highways Authority as it was of significant importance that discussions took place with Highways regarding various issues across the parish area.

### **171. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT**

The Clerk circulated a copy of the PACT report for the previous month and noted that correspondence had been received from the PCVC's office, reiterating the position on attendance at parish meetings.

It was noted that in addition to the issues raised in the report there had been further criminal activity in the area involving the theft of a transit van at West Pelton. Regarding the ongoing issue of car crime, it was reported that the police were actively engaging with residents surrounding car safety and had performed some door to door where cars had been found to be left unlocked on driveways.

## **172. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

County Councillors A Batey and D Wood provided an overview of current matters relating to Durham County Council and the parish area, including:

- Council Tax Billing
- Inclement weather and action taken by gritting and refuse teams in the area under extremely difficult conditions
- Appointment to committees of the council being undertaken ahead of the AGM
- Use of positive social media in the parish and wider area.

## **173. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**Resolved:** That the circulated monthly schedule be approved for payment and the balance of the councils' accounts be noted.

## **174. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised that there were no further items to bring to the attention of the council under this item.

## **175. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

The Clerk advised that work was well underway to ensure that the council were compliant with General Data Protection Regulations which was to come into force on 25 May 2018. She noted that discussions were taking place with CDALC regarding proposals for appointments of Data Protection Officers and further updates would be provided to the council at the next meeting.

The Clerk further noted that given the amount of work to be undertaken in preparation for the changes, some additional hours may have to be claimed. However, a budget had been set aside to deal with associated costs of the work and changes to be made and would cover any unforeseen expenses.

## **176. WEST PELTON**

Councillor B Anderson noted the following issues, some of which had been raised at the previous meeting:-

- Continued complaints of dog fouling, which had been reported to the Neighbourhood Warden for action;

- Continued complaints of speeding up Grange Villa to A693 and the volume of traffic using Twizell Lane which had become single lane because of parked cars.
- Condition of road surfaces following bad weather and poor repairs to pot holes.
- Reports of disturbance caused from livery vehicles from farm at unsociable hours

Members at this point also discussed Planning Application DM/18/00032/PNC relating to change of use from an agricultural building to three dwellings at Eden Hill Farm. Following lengthy debate, it was agreed that the parish council should maintain a neutral position on the application.

#### **177. URPETH GRANGE**

It was reported that there had been some incidences of nuisance door knocking and increased reports of dog fouling.

Councillor Batey reported ongoing problems regarding the erection of a wall at the opening of Bradley Close and action had been taken by DCC regarding the parking of vehicles on the grass verge to the side of the same property.

Further discussion took place regarding an issue relating to the removal of trees at a property at St Benet's Way and it was suggested that the Clerk write a letter of support to DCC regarding their removal.

#### **178. BEAMISH**

Councillor Scott noted an improvement in incidences of fly tipping and asked that his thanks be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Wardens team for their quick response to reports of rubbish being dumped.

He further advised that there had been no communication from Ron Hogg, PCVC regarding the deployment of speed cameras and asked whether an update could be sought.

Discussion then ensued regarding the ongoing issues of congestion and parking in the village when large events were taking place at the museum. It was agreed that contact should be made with the museum to seek resolution prior to the coming Easter holidays. The Clerk agreed to take this matter forward and liaise with Councillor Scott directly.

As a final point Councillor Scott asked whether consideration could be given to relocating the noticeboard which was currently on the side of the bus shelter on Station Road. Councillor Batey suggested that a land search be undertaken to determine what, if any, plots were available in the vicinity.

#### **179. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

It was noted that the roads had been particularly bad during the spell of bad weather however thanks should be given to the gritting teams for their response.

#### **180. PELTON-LANE ENDS**

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson advised that there were no matters of concern to raise regarding Pelton-Lane Ends. However, did ask that Members consider whether they wished

to support the objections made regarding the proposed open cast site at Dipton. It was noted that it had been confirmed that vehicles would be using the A693 to and from the site and with such it was felt that the parish council had an active interest in the matter. Concerns were further noted that this may further cause issues given the proposed street lighting energy reduction plans for this stretch of road.

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson agreed to circulate further information to the Clerk and Chairman.

**Councillor B Anderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following items of business and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.**

#### **181. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

Resolved: That under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

#### **182. ALLOTMENTS**

**Resolved:** That a rent increase be considered across all three sites for the financial year 2019/20, subject to further information being obtained regarding a historical decision taken by the council.