

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30pm.

B Scott (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson and B Scott

County Councillors P Pringle and D Wood

The Council observed a one minutes silence in respect of the late Queen Elizabeth II who sadly passed on 8 September 2022.

Chair's announcement

In light of the deeply saddening death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Chair had agreed in consultation with the Clerk prior to meeting, that any non-essential items of business be deferred until October's meeting.

He thanked Members for their cooperation.

47. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Holmes.

48. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

49. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 July 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50. Public Questions / Representations

There were no questions from the public.

51. Police & Neighbourhood Warden Report

There were no major issues to report, however it was highlighted that police were to attend future Councillor surgeries, the first session was being held at Grange Villa and the 2nd was to be held at Pelton. Where possible a session would be held in the parish area or at a nearby venue. The dates for the sessions were set in consultation with the police.

52. County Councillor Report

Further to previous discussions and agreement to support a highways scheme for improvement works across the division, Councillor D Wood provided a detailed report of the County Council's infrastructure review which had been commissioned

with some proposed schemes in order to overcome the key areas of concern previously raised. At this stage Councillor Wood explained that any associated costs were indicative at this stage.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposals presented, and whilst a decision on each was not required at this stage a decision in principle to support the plan was desired. Each parish council in the division would be asked to do the same with any feedback raised taken back to DCC for further investigation, feasibility, and costing.

Resolved:

- (i) That the parish council support in principle the findings of the review and their commitment to pursue or progress plans either in part or in its entirety.
- (ii) That options to pursue a possible replication of the 20-mph zone be included at St Bennet's school along with options for speed reduction at Pelton Lane Ends near the new Miller Homes estate.

Councillor Wood then went on to provide an overview of county council activity and matters affecting the parish and division including ongoing projects and consultation as follows:

- Site meeting undertaken at High Handenhold regarding site investigation works for the possible installation of birds-mouth fencing, feedback to be reported to next meeting.
- Reference to County Council budget, overspends and financial planning in light of savings required.
- Leisure Transformation Strategy, further round of consultation to be undertaken
- Details regarding initiatives offered to help those in need over the periods of colder weather and general uncertainty faced by many households over the coming months with rising costs, including holiday hunger and healthy eating projects and Warm Hubs which will be available across the County.
- Halloween activities at Ouston Community Centre, 3-day event concluding in party for children in the area. A contribution towards the event may be sought in due course via the Association.

53. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be approved for payment for both August and September 2022.

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	742.13
HMRC PAYE 5	176.52
Litter picker (Wages)	364.80
HMRC PAYE 5	91.20
Litter picker (Wages)	456.00
Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	773.13
HMRC PAYE 6	176.52
Litter picker (Wages)	456.00
HMRC PAYE 6	114.00
Litter picker (Wages)	570.00

54. External Audit Annual Review of the Return for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Clerk advised that the external audit had now been completed and notice from Mazars had been received earlier in the day. A copy of the letter of completion was circulated at the meeting, noting that there were no areas of significant weakness identified and that no minor areas for improvement in 2022/23 had been found.

Resolved: That the audited accounts for 2021/22 be noted and received and that the council display the audited AGAR and completion notice on the council's website by the deadline of 30 September 2022.

55. Allotments

(i) Dirty Gardens

The Clerk advised that some further follow up was required on several gardens which had received letters at both West Pelton and High Handenhold allotments. A further visit should be undertaken next month to review progress and determine any additional action.

(ii) High Handenhold – Installation of gates

Councillor Barrett noted that whilst the contractor had been delayed on the installation of gates it was hoped that they would be fitted in the next few weeks.

56. Ward Matters

(i) Update on Planning Application DM/21/01633/FPA

The Clerk advised that the above application was not going to be heard by Committee at this month's Area Planning Committee (North). Subsequently, the earliest it would now be heard would be the end of October. Residents would continue to be updated when any new information was available.

(ii) Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk advised that arrangements were being made for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13 November at 1.30 p.m. including a road closure and distribution of flyers.

57. Co-option of Parish Councillor to West Pelton Ward

Resolved:

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting following the withdrawal of one candidate's interest in the casual vacancy. It was further suggested that some advertising work would be undertaken to seek potential interest in the vacant seats in Urpeth Grange and West Pelton wards.

58. Any other business

There were no further items of business.