

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 June 2020 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00pm.

### **Councillor W Barrett (Chair)**

#### **Present:**

Councillor W Barrett (Chair), A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, I Mullaney  
County Councillor D Wood.

#### **126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Anderson, B Scott, W Trimble and County Councillor C Carr.

#### **127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **128. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

##### **(i) Mrs C Turnbull, Ms K Tiffen and Mr B Blake – Play Area and open space at Urpeth Grange**

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from residents of Ripley Close and Pickering Walk, which sought help and support from the parish council in relation to an ongoing legal matter, regarding the play park and kick-about area at the Persimmon development. Residents were now being faced with an annual maintenance fee payable to a private management company which had not been made clear to them upon purchasing their properties.

The Clerk advised that she had engaged with CDALC regarding the issue and their advice at this stage was:

- Matter is currently a legal issue and this should be seen through to completion.
- That the parish council make a formal request for DCC to adopt and take ownership of the site with the support of local divisional county councillors and Kevan Jones MP.
- Should these options fail, then the parish council would need to consider whether themselves adopting the area would be feasible. This would include undertaking a parish wide consultation exercise, a review of the council's budget, likely increase in council tax precept and consideration of yearly costs which would be required to maintain and save for future repairs and/or replacement.

In addition, the Clerk advised that she had made contact with Barrie Alderson from DCC who was responsible for play provision. He had indicated that Persimmon would need to agree to cover costs of the transfer of land and any monies held before DCC would consider taking it on.

Councillor Batey suggested that it would be beneficial to start engaging with Persimmon Homes now to see whether they would be willing to transfer the land and release any of the monies currently held, to DCC. The Clerk agreed that she would take the matter forward and maintain contact with the residents who were in attendance to provide updates where possible. The Clerk further suggested that a special meeting could be held to discuss the matter in more depth once further information had been obtained.

## **129. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment.

Minute number 124 second sentence to read, 'In addition it was asked whether it would be possible to request that the bus shelter be regularly cleaned, as it often smelt unpleasant.' The Clerk further advised that she had also issued an apology to the landlady of the public house.

## **130. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Wood provided an update on County Council matters and those relating to the parish area including:

- Work undertaken and funding provide to assist local schools with the production and manufacture PPE visors using 3D printing equipment.
- Stay Apart, Stay Safe, Stay Full – project aiming to provide hot meals to vulnerable residents across the parish area commenced on 26 May and would run for 12 weeks. Thanks to Urpeth Parish Council for their donation of £500 to help with associated costs.
- Holiday Hunger and extended youth programme to be run during school holidays.
- Neighbourhood Wardens – issues with dog fouling at West Pelton, should anyone be aware of other hotspot areas to notify Councillor Woods.

## **131. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment.

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	903.50
HMRC PAYE 3	19.60
Litter picker (Wages)	433.84
Ouston Community Association - Donation	500.00
Durham County Council – Grounds Maintenance	9942.92
Wave – Water Rates Allotments	0.83

## **132. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised that she had received a number of items of correspondence in relation to the Allotments at High Handenhold, one being a request to house show pigeons and the other in relation to animal welfare. She advised that she would provide further information when available.

### 133. PARISH WARD MATTERS

The following matters were reported for information and or action:

- i) **Beamish – Eden Place Car Park**  
Further to discussion at previous meetings, the Clerk advised that she had now received confirmation that DCC owned the Picnic area and car park and Beamish Museum owned the woodland beyond that area. She therefore noted that the Clean & Green Team at DCC would be notified of the ongoing issues there and that a request be made to further tidy and cleanse the area.
- ii) **High Handenhold – Parking on grassed area opposite Baytree Terrace**  
The Clerk advised that parking on this area of land continued to be a problem and therefore members should therefore consider whether fencing the area off would be the best option at this stage. County Councillor D Wood advised that he was still happy to commit funds from his budget to meet the parish council half way if members were agreeable.  
**Resolved:** That DCC be instructed to erect the fence in line with the previous quotation. It was noted however that the timing of this would depend upon when DCC councillors were able to once again allocate their funding to non COVID-19 related projects.
- iii) **Pelton Lane Ends – Street Lighting Complaint**  
The Clerk advised that Councillor Stewart-Fergusson had submitted a follow up complaint directly to the Corporate Director responsible for the street lighting service, to request further information and review of his complaint, in light of the unsatisfactory response received. Updates would be provided when possible.
- iv) **Urpeth Grange**  
The Clerk had made an enquiry regarding the wildflower bed which had been removed from the corner of Baytree Terrace/St Benets Way. DCC had advised that it was removed due to it being overgrown with perennial weed, however it was expected to be replaced with an alternative planting scheme.

Councillor Batey further reported that there was ongoing issues with a tractor parking in the lay-by at Redmires which had been reported.

### 134. APPOINTMENT OF LITTER PICKER / SHRUB BED MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

The Clerk advised that advice from CDALC remained that face to face meetings should not take place, however if candidates were willing and able, interviews could be arranged via Zoom online for the following week.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk schedule the interviews to be held as soon as practicable and that a panel of 3 members be selected.

### 135. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

21 July at 7.00 p.m. (meeting to be held via Zoom).