

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 September 2018 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson (Chair)

County Councillor C Carr

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Anderson, W Barrett and B Scott.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

The Clerk circulated a copy of the previous months PACT report which contained information relating to police activity and policing priorities for the area. Councillor Batey noted that there had been increased incidents of car crime and residents were urged to review any home CCTV and report any suspicious behaviour to the police.

41. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor C Carr provided an overview of activity related to Durham County Council and matters relating to the parish area including:-

- Parliamentary Boundary Review
- Continuing cuts to government funding and savings to be achieved by DCC.
- New HQ and redevelopment of Aykley Heads as a strategic employment site
- Changes to Selective Landlord Licensing to be considered by Cabinet in October 2018

42. ACCOUNTS

Resolved: that the following amounts be approved for payment for months August and September 2018

HMRC Paye 5	127.40
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	599.24
HMRC Paye 5	93.80

Litterpicker (Wages)	376.00
HMRC Paye 5	22.40
Litterpicker (Wages)	384.76
HMRC	238.15
HMRC Paye 6	127.60
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	647.72
HMRC Paye 5	75.00
Litterpicker (Wages)	300.84
Litterpicker (Wages)	508.95
Mazars (Audit Fee)	360.00
Inter-Line (NE) Ltd (Print Cartridges)	23.33

43. EXTERNAL AUDITOR ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Resolved: That following the External Auditors (Mazars LLP) Annual Review the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 that it should be approved and noted that there were no matters which had come to the attention of the external auditor nor the requirement for a separate, issues arising report to be issued.

44. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Royal Mail which provided advice to residents on how to spot scam mail and what do to should any be received.

45. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk provided a summary of current issues ongoing at each allotment site and noted further action which was to be taken in respect of a recent complaint.

Councillor Batey noted that the Fire Cadets were also looking for projects to assist with in the community and it was suggested that they may be able to lend a hand tidying up the gardens of either vacant plots or where for whatever reason a tenant may be struggling to currently maintain.

46. DEVELOPMENT OF PARISH PLAN

The Clerk advised that as a number of Councillors were unable to attend the meeting it was agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

47. URPETH GRANGE

Councillor Batey noted that there were a number of issues within the estate with regards to weeding, overgrown shrubs and vegetation, however DCC had agreed to cut back some of the areas mentioned. She further noted that play-area at the development at Bradley Close was causing some issues with regard to cleaning and emptying of bins. She noted that residents had been asked to pay a maintenance fee to the developer however until the contract for cleaning had been passed onto a management company the parish litterpicker had been collecting waste from the bins.

Furthermore, the kick-about area had now been seeded, however it was disappointing that it would not be usable until next year. In addition, all remaining highway works would be undertaken in the next 4 weeks.

Discussion then ensued regarding the play park maintenance and it was felt that the council had been misled by Persimmon in this regard. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Persimmon Homes along with a copy to the Planning Case Officer outlining the concerns.

Further updates were reported in respect of:

- Askrigg Close, planning enforcement issue ongoing
- Northumbrian Water – continuing issues around estate including the loss of flower beds and general unsightliness of the area. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to Northumbrian Water to seek compensation for the loss of the summer flower beds.
- Power cuts – issue with sub-station at Carlton Close. Clerk to request an explanation for the shortages from supplier.
- Overgrown hedge at Penhill causing obstruction to footpath

48. WEST PELTON

The Clerk advised that Councillor Anderson was unable to attend the meeting however the following issues in the West Pelton area were noted:-

- Gas work maintenance ongoing following gas leak. Barriers had now been removed from the bus stops areas.

49. BEAMISH

The Clerk advised that Councillor Scott was unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded the following:

- Request for removal of Shrub Beds to be replaced by at least six flower beds throughout the length of the village. Compared with other villages in Urpeth Parish there was considered to be a lack floral displays particularly in the Summer.
- The side of the road leading from the A693 towards Ala Spicery is overgrown and dangerous for pedestrians and vehicles. Cutting and tidying up is required.
- Request for update on repainting of double yellow lines outside Ala Spicery to prevent illegal parking in the area.
- Some of the street lights on Station Road are ineffective and the surrounding trees need either cutting down or thinned out

The Clerk further advised that Councillor Scott had forwarded a suggested list of items for inclusion in the parish plan, however this was to be discussed at the next meeting.

In addition, the Clerk provided an update on the improvement works to be undertaken at the memorial stone and the quote which had been received.

Resolved: That the quote be received be accepted and the contractor be instructed to commence work as soon as possible, to ensure its completion in advance of the memorial service in November.

The Chair further noted that she would like to explore further options for holding a memorial service on 1 May each year to commemorate the lives lost on 1 May 1842. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting.

50. HIGH HANDENHOLD

The Clerk advised that she had not been made aware of any issues in the area nor were any matters raised by Councillors.

51. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson provided an update regarding his ongoing communication and subsequent complaint to DCC regarding the removal of street lighting.

The Clerk advised that L Stokes, Banks Group had been invited to attend the meeting tonight and although unavailable, had agreed to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the Moss Close Farm development. The Clerk went on to advise that L Stokes had provided a brief update, noting that as of July various technical aspects were still being assessed, although it was hoped that these matters would be resolved within a few weeks.

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson also asked whether the council could give consideration to placing a Christmas tree in the Pelton Lane Ends area. The Clerk advised that the matter had been discussed previously and although there was a significant cost associated, she suggested that it be raised under the Parish Plan item at the next meeting.

52. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Batey suggested that the council may wish to consider making a donation in respect of the work to be carried out to place a war memorial at Ouston. It was agreed that this should be considered under the accounts item at the next meeting.