

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2018 in the Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor B Anderson (Chairman), Councillors J W Barrett, I Stewart-Fergusson, B Scott, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson

137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Batey and County Councillor C Carr.

138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

139. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 were conformed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

140. PERSIMMON HOMES – UPDATE ON URPETH GRANGE DEVELOPMENT

R Cook, Persimmon Homes was in attendance to provide an update on the above development. It was reported that to date, 32 dwellings were now occupied, 5 had been reserved and there were 10 units including the show home left to sell. As a result of the success of sales it was now anticipated that the site would be completed by quarter 3 and 3 months in advance of the original timescales.

It was further noted that work could soon commence on the play area and would hopefully be completed in time for the summer school holiday period. It was a condition of the application that the play site must be completed prior to the last dwelling being occupied.

County Councillor D Wood added his thanks to the Site Manager who had swiftly resolved an issue regarding parked works vehicles prior to the Christmas break.

Further discussion took place regarding some concerns expressed relating to speeding traffic entering and exiting the development. R Cook advised that no traffic calming schemes had been approved as part of the 106 works and would be an issue which the council should take up with Highways Authority.

Councillor Barrett asked whether footpath links were provided through the site. R Cook advised that the site would be linked with footpaths throughout.

141. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

The Chair welcomed P Rutherford, Neighbourhood Warden to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an overview of the work of the team in the parish area and to demonstrate how the covert CCTV camera purchased by the parish council, would be deployed.

P Rutherford advised that covert cameras had been recently been deployed in the area and had captured some flytipping offences which may result in prosecution of the individuals. He further acknowledged that there were known issues in Beamish and Twizell Lane and those areas were being closely monitored. In addition issues were reported regarding abandoned

vehicles area the Urpeth Grange estate and ongoing monitoring of the situation was taking place.

In addition, issues were reported regarding door knocking and people entering residents' homes if the door was unlocked. It was noted that any issues of this nature should be reported to the police.

Councillor Scott raised a query regarding the uncleanliness of Pepe's car park and whether anything could be done as it was private land. P Rutherford advised that it was within their powers to instruct the owner to tidy up the area and would take this matter forward for further investigation.

Further discussion took place regarding dog fouling and whether the cameras could be utilised to catch dog owners who were allowing their pets to foul in public areas. In response P Rutherford advised that the cameras were not suitable for this purpose for various reasons.

In conclusion P Rutherford advised that he would maintain contact with the council via the Clerk and provide regular updates on the use of the covert camera and any successful prosecutions.

The Clerk then circulated the monthly PACT report for information. It was noted that R Hogg, Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner would be attending the next meeting to discuss specific police issues.

142. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor D Wood advised that unfortunately A Batey was unable to attend the meeting but gave the following report via telephone:

Councillor Batey referred to the recent issue of missed bin collections. 3000 out of a total of 6800 homes had been affected and there had been some major issues regarding communications and the message which had been relayed to residents. Teams however had worked hard to catch up and extra staff were deployed to collect waste left in bags from beside wheeled bins. A meeting was subsequently held with the Head of Direct Services to discuss lessons learnt and emergency planning. It was noted that should the issue ever reoccur, communications would ensure that the website was updated immediately and local members were informed accordingly.

County Councillor D Wood provided further updates in relation to matters relating to the County Council and the parish area including:

- Garden Waste Collections – letters and emails now being sent to residents for the upcoming collections
- Relocation of County Hall and County Records Office

The Clerk further referred to the letter circulated regarding the proposed removal of Street Lighting on the A693 at Beamish. It was agreed that a letter of objection be submitted to the County Council in consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Scott by the deadline of 7 February 2018.

143. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

Resolved: That the circulated schedules for December 2017 and January 2018 be approved for payment.

144. COUNCIL BUDGET 2018/19 AND PRECEPT 2018/19

The Clerk circulated a detailed report outlining the proposed budget, estimates and required precept for 2018/19.

Following a vote being taken it was

Resolved:

- (i) That the budget for 2018/19 be agreed
- (ii) That the council requests a precept of £35,000 for 2018/19, equating to a 2.51% increase.
- (iii) That there be no increases to allotment rents
- (iv) That the council agree proposed projects and for completion in 2018/19.

145. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

There were no items of business to raise under this item.

146. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that a revised draft of the Terms of Reference for the Allotments Committee would be circulated to members in due course.

There were no further issues to report.

147. WEST PELTON

Councillor Anderson raised the following issues from the West Pelton area including:

- Brash from cut back willow trees alongside field drain behind Plantation View requires clearing away
- Continued complaints of dog fouling on the footpath at Plantation View
- Continued complaints of speeding cars through village
- Tree near roadside immediately behind the Church wall was still overhanging and dangerous

148. URPETH GRANGE

Middleham Close – Flytipping

It was reported that there were a number of ongoing flytipping issues within Middleham Close. It was agreed that the issues should be reported to the Neighbourhood Warden and that members arrange a walkabout of the estate in the coming months.

Other concerns relating to flytipping included issues of dumped grass cuttings and the potential for further garden waste to be dumped following the notice which had been sent regarding the increase in waste collection charges for 2018/19.

149. BEAMISH

Traffic, Congestion and Speeding Vehicles

Councillor Scott noted ongoing issues with speeding in the village. He commented that he had had no contact with the PCSO since June last year and no updates had been provided as to what the police were doing about the situation.

He further noted ongoing problems with congestion around Beamish Museum. Contact had been made with the Museum however they did not accept that there was a traffic issue nor that it was impacting on the wider area. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Museum outlining the councils concerns and that the matter should be discussed with the PCVC R Hogg at the next meeting.

In addition, Councillor Anderson noted that there had been no updates on the speed limit issue which had been raised at a previous meeting nor the traffic signs which had nothing displayed on them. It was noted that these issues should be raised at the next meeting when a Highways Officer would be in attendance.

Memorial Stone

Councillor Anderson advised that he had sought the assistance of a local landscape gardener to put forward some proposals for the upgrade of the area surrounding the memorial stone. Further details would be reported in due course.

150. HIGH HANDENHOLD

It was reported that there had been some issues with litter on Baytree Terrace along to Urpeth Lane. It was agreed that it be reported to the Neighbourhood Warden for action.

151. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson advised that there were no further issues to report, other than ongoing issues with lack of street lighting around the Moss Close Farm area.