

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30 p.m.

G Holmes-Wood (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, G Holmes-Wood, B Scott, I Stewart-Fergusson and D Wood

Also in attendance:

J Wilson, Beamish Museum

79. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Johnson and County Councillor P Pringle.

80. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Wood declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda, Neighbourhood Plan Update as he was also a member of Pelton Parish and Ouston Parish Councils, who were partners in the development of the plan.

81. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82. Beamish Museum - Update

The Chair welcomed J Wilson, Beamish Museum to the meeting to provide an update on the actions and progress made against matters raised at a previous meeting.

The Clerk had received a letter which had been circulated to members detailing the steps the Museum intended to take in respect of several of the issues raised however it was noted that no update had been provided regarding Eden Place Car Park. J Wilson advised that S Shotton was actively pursuing this and a further update would be provided when possible.

J Wilson went on to provide the following updates:

- Letters issued to residents this week ahead of Christmas season,
- measures discussed, applied for AA signs over the Christmas season, keep visitors on A693, no access on Cartmel Terrace
- key dates,
- offer family day tickets offered to Beamish Museum.
- open dialogue, very keen if anything else get in touch.

Councillor Scott added that whilst he appreciated the offer from the Museum to residents of a family day ticket, he noted that he has would many others already possess a season ticket. He suggested that the Museum may wish to further consider something more tangible such as a gesture of providing some flower beds for the village, which may help restore relationships with residents and put the Museum in better light following recent years issues. He further commented in relation to Eden Place Car Park that this topic had been discussed for some time and he would like to see some progress in the transfer of ownership, to allow for improvement works to be carried out.

Councillor Batey further picked up on a few issues and noted specifically in relation to Eden Place, that she would be meeting with Alison Clark, Head of Culture, Sport & Tourism (DCC) the following week so would be discussing the matter with her at that time.

Members further discussed with J Wilson their hopes for improvements which could be made to help improve the street scene including planting of flower beds and improvements to the gateway to the museum on the A693 to showcase the area.

83. Public Questions / Representations

There were no public questions or representations.

84. County Councillor Report

County Councillors D Wood and A Batey provided an update on matters relating to the County and parish area including:

- Beamish Remembrance service – feedback was largely positive however no traffic road closure was possible this year as Police were unable to continue offer of enforcement for the event. This is something which the parish would need to consider budgeting for, for next years' service and support may also be available via the AAP.
- Informal requests received regarding poppies on lampposts – County Councillors would be able to offer match funding if parishes were minded to split the costs of purchasing poppies for 2024. In addition, communities would be urged to take ownership of producing and displaying poppy curtains to supplement any street furniture decoration provided by the parish and county council. It was suggested that this be further considered at a future meeting.
- Highways Project – formal application now gone in to access funding, to be further agreed by Board. A further update would be provided when available.
- BMX track – Ouston PC had public attendance at a recent meeting in this regard. It was noted that whilst there were residents complaining, local police had received no recent reports of anti-social behaviour and it appeared that the initial issues had settled down.
- Updates were also provided in respect of open cases including road marking St Pauls, which had been added to work schedule and would be started within the next 6-8 weeks', weather dependent.
- Baytree Terrace – fence line now strimmed following issues with grass cutter not being able to pass freely.

- Lumiere 2023 - some positive and negative feedback received as far as known. Main areas of negative feedback received were around queuing systems, lack of light when waiting and the quality of exhibits.
- Application for a phone mast at Beamish Kennels, it was noted that a mast already existed in the location and this would replace the unit with a larger mast to improve signal for residents in the area. Public consultation would, when made available be linked on the parish website.

Councillor Wood declared an interest in the following item, noting that in discussing and debating the following item he was acting solely in his capacity as an Urpeth Parish Councillor and in the best interests of Urpeth Parish Council.

85. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Further to discussion at the previous meeting regarding the information provided and outcome of the most recent meeting with the Planning Consultant, the Council were therefore now being asked to consider withdrawing from the Neighbourhood area.

Resolved:

That Urpeth Parish Council formally withdraw from the Neighbourhood Plan area and notify Pelton Parish Council accordingly.

86. Clerks Report and Correspondence

- (i) Feedback received in relation to first issue newsletter.

The Clerk advised that whilst there had been little feedback, that which had been received was positive, and details of which were provided.

- (ii) Meeting venue options

The Clerk advised that an optional meeting venue had become available which options for holding parish meetings at would be explored.

- (iii) Sustrans

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from Sustrans regarding upgrade works that they were intending on carrying out at High Handenhold. A requested location had been sought for the deposit of plans and both Pelton Community and Ouston Community Centres were offered as an option.

- (iv) **Website development and hosting**

Further to discussion at a previous meeting, the Clerk referred members to a report prepared by CDALC which outlined the various web providers and associated costs available to parish councils, for new or transferred web sites. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk pursue the council's preferred provider and supply further information to the council to consider at the next meeting and for inclusion in the council budget for 2024/25.

87. Finance Matters

(i) Monthly accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be agreed for payment.

Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	920.80
HMRC PAYE	209.40
Salary Adjustment	471.43
HMRC PAYE	117.85
Litterpicker (Wages)	500.20
HMRC PAYE	125.00
Litterpicker (Wages)	625.20
HugoFox Monthly Fee	11.99
CP Print – Newsletter	175.00
RBL – Poppy Wreaths	75.00
OCA – Donations	180.00
PPC – Christmas Tree	158.02

(ii) Donation Requests

Resolved: That the following donations be agreed.

Ouston Community Association – Christmas Fair £100.00
Ouston Community Association – Halloween Event £80.00

(iii) Purchase of Seat for Urpeth Grange Play Area

Resolved: That the council apply for funding via the Kings Coronation Fund supported by the three local County Councillors up to the sum of £300, towards the costs of purchasing and installation of bench seating at Urpeth Grange Play area. The remaining costs would be met from parish council reserves.

(iv) Donation Offer

The Clerk advised that an offer of a small donation had been received from a resident of Urpeth Grange, towards the costs of a bench at the play area. Members acknowledged and noted their gratitude to the resident, noting that the donation would be gratefully received should the project (which was subject to part funding) go ahead.

88. Allotments

The Clerk advised that there were no major updates to report under this item only to note that cutting back work had now been completed at West Pelton allotments.

89. Ward / Area Matters

(i) Beamish

Councillor Scott noted the following matters for update or action:

- Street signs, cutting back work and overgrown footpaths, Councillor Woods noted that these had been reported a number of times to DCC.
- Issue regarding litter bins being vandalised.

(iii) Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson flagged a few areas of interest concern mainly relating to works carried out around the Miller Homes estate, including shrub bed planting and paving / dropped kerbs. He noted that he would like to see invigorated communications with Miller Homes now that development was well progressed.

He further provided an update in respect of the area of land which had been subjected to fly-tipping and that he had been pursuing for its clearance. He further noted that he would be interested in setting some community litter pick dates for the Spring.

(iv) Urpeth Grange

Councillor Batey and Barrett noted the following matters for information or action:

- Various issues with overgrown hedges and bushes around the school and estate which would be picked up when Councillor Batey undertook a walkaround with the team in the New Year.
- BMX track – issues as previously outlined in the County Councillors report and agreement should be made on how to deal with any further issues raised at Ouston PC meetings, including the option of a representative of Urpeth PC attending.

(v) West Pelton / High Handenhold

Church wall requiring assessment for safety at West Pelton. Clerk to contact the Reverend to see whether aware of the possible issue.

90. Any other business

There were no further items of business.