

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Councillors W Barrett, A Batey, B Scott, I Stewart-Ferguson, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson (Chair)

County Councillor D Wood

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Anderson and County Councillor C Carr.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

56. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

57. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 were confirmed and a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

58. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

The Clerk circulated a copy of the previous months police report highlighting issues and priorities for the Neighbourhood Policing team in the area. I was noted that there had been some incidences of house burglaries in the area and police were requesting residents to check their own private CCTV systems and to report anything suspicious via 101 in order to aid the police with their investigations.

The Clerk also reported that there had been no update from the Neighbourhood Warden for some time regarding the use of the covert CCTV camera purchased by the council and advised that she would chase this up with a view to providing an update at the next meeting.

Councillor Batey also reported that there were ongoing issues with youths congregating in the woodland area on Urpeth Grange estate and on one occasion over 100 young people had been gathered at one time. The police were investigating the matter however residents were urged to report any further incidents.

59. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor D Wood provided an overview of activity relating to Durham County Council and matters relating to the parish and wider area including:-

- Selective Landlord Licensing – to be determined by Cabinet on 19 October 2018
- Help provided to West Pelton School to purchase football team strips

- Positive exam results across County Durham
- Consultation on new HQ concluded with a small number of letters received from the public in objection to the proposals.
- Parliamentary Boundary Review – proposals would result in the loss of four MPs from the North East region.

60. ACCOUNTS

Resolved: that the following amounts be approved for payment:

HMRC – Paye 7	127.40
Clerk (Wages & Expenses)	611.39
HMRC – Paye 7	18.60
Litter picker (Wages)	75.36
HMRC – Paye 7	2.80
Litter picker (Wages)	412.19
DCC – Grounds Maintenance	9651.22
Green ham – Refuse Sacks	42.05
Northumbrian Water Rates	377.68

61. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from Karbon Homes regarding changes to their policy on use of communal rooms. It was noted that there would not be any impact upon parish meetings going forward however there may be impact for some other community groups or private functions due to the recent changes.

The Clerk went on to advise that a Neighbourhood Funding application had been received from the AAP, for costs towards installing speed bumps on Bradley Close. It was noted that this application was slightly premature as finalised costs from the Highways department had not been received, nor had a public consultation period been undertaken. The Clerk would continue to chase the Highways Officer for updates in this regard.

62. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that she had just met with the Association Secretary for West Pelton and he had passed on a number of issues to be dealt with including; notices of dirty garden to be sent, requests for multiple plots by one tenant and a request for skip hire at Plantation View and Twizell Lane allotments.

It was further noted that the fence at High Handenhold had not yet been repaired and an alternative contractor should be sought to undertake the work.

63. DEVELOPMENT OF A PARISH PLAN

The Clerk requested that should members wish to pursue the development of a plan, then they should forward any issues within their area, which they felt required inclusion, to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting and further discussion of these ideas could be taken at that meeting, alongside budget information. The Clerk further reminded members that the budget and precept would be determined at the meeting in January.

Councillor Scott noted that he had already forwarded some suggestions to the Clerk however felt it was of great importance that something be done to address the issues at Beamish Museum with traffic control and parking prior to the winter season and events

which would be forthcoming. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the MP outlining the concerns and that Mr Evans, Director of the Museum be invited to attend a future meeting.

64. REMEMBRANCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS AND MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Clerk advised that the refurbishment of the memorial stone area would commence on Thursday 18 October and was expected to take a few days to complete. The service of remembrance was to be held at the memorial stone at Station Road, Beamish on Sunday 11 November at 1.00 p.m. and a road closure order had been approved and the special constabulary had agreed to enforce the closure.

In addition, a service was also to be held at Chester-le-Street at 11.00 a.m. and the Chair of the Parish Council was invited to lay a wreath.

Moving on, the Clerk referred to discussion at the previous meeting and the suggestion of holding a memorial service at Beamish each year in May, in recognition of those who lost their lives on 1 May 1942. The Chair added that she felt that this date should be formally recognised by the Parish Council and that Mrs D Rand be contacted to seek her views on how we could publicise it.

Resolved: that options for holding a service be explored further.

65. URPETH GRANGE

It was reported that there were some issues with overgrown hedges and trees within the estate and despite it been known where problem areas where, it was thought that a walkabout should be arranged with a view to contacting any residents where cutting back was required. Further details were also noted in respect of some overgrown trees which were obstructing a right of way and were also on a blind corner. The Clerk agreed to raise this with Highways.

Councillor Batey provided a brief update on the Persimmon site and the kick-a-bout area. It was noted that there were still some issues outstanding with regard to resurfacing and landscaping however it was positive to note that the play area was being well utilised by children.

Further to reports of anti-social behaviour at Walters Wood, Councillor Batey noted that police were performing regular patrols in this area especially over the weekend periods.

Moving on, Councillor Batey reported that Northumbrian Water had finished works on the estate and suggested that the parish council should now seek compensation for the loss of newly planted flower beds. The Clerk agreed to take this forward.

66. WEST PELTON

Councillor Batey advised that the application for four dwellings at the former Gingling Gate site had been approved by the Planning Committee following its call-in by local members.

Councillor Barrett noted that further to discussions at a previous meeting regarding the formation of a new Banner Group for West Pelton, and the success of retrieving the banners from storage, some financial support may be required for the purchase of new banner poles for both adults and children. It was noted that these were expected to cost around £900. It was agreed that a donation be discussed further at the next meeting.

67. BEAMISH

Councillor Scott provided details of various issues within the area including:-

- Flytipping incident 2 October, wasted dumped on Station Road and at Eden Place car park. In addition continued issues of flytipping at Hell Hole Woods.
- Car Park at Ala Spicery currently in very untidy condition to be reported to Neighbourhood Warden
- Cutting back at entrance of A693 required as becoming very overgrazing and may be dangerous for road user's due to limited visibility.
- Street Lighting on Station Road obscured by trees
- Repainting of yellow lines still to be done at Ala Spicery as delivery drivers are now often parking in front of premises.

Councillor Batey in relation to the street lighting issue noted that Durham County Council no longer undertook tree topping, however if the post numbers could be provided she would look into it on Councillor Scott's behalf.

68. HIGH HANDENHOLD

The Clerk advised that there were no matters which had been brought to her attention relating to this area.

69. PELTON LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson queried whether it would be possible to install a Christmas tree in the Pelton-Lane Ends area similar to that provided in Newfield. It was noted that this topic had been discussed many times before however due to the size of the parish and associated costs of installing Christmas trees within each ward area, unfortunately it was not feasible. It was however suggested that perhaps a small feature or piece of artwork could be installed recognising the mining heritage of the area. Councillor Batey suggested that it may be worth looking at the British Legion website for some ideas. It was noted that something of this scale could be obtained for a one-off cost of approximately £700.

Moving on the Clerk advised that there had been no further updates from Banks Group regarding Moss Close Farm and despite attempts to invite Lewis Stokes to attend a meeting to provide an update, he had yet to respond.

In conclusion Councillor Stewart-Ferguson advised that he submitted a formal complaint regarding the removal of street lighting and the poor service he had received from the relevant department at County Hall. Updates would be provided when available.

70. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Further to discussion at the last meeting Councillor Batey asked whether the parish council would be interested in providing a small donation to Ouston Parish Council for the war memorial which they proposed to have installed. It was noted the project would be largely funded from 106 grant monies, however a contribution would be very well received.

Resolved: That subject to the project being approved and completed, a donation of £100 be made to Ouston Parish Council in support of the war memorial project.