

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 September 2017 in the Communal Room, Edenfield, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor B Anderson (Chairman), Councillors A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson and B Scott

County Councillors C Carr and D Wood

67. PERSIMMON HOMES – Update on Urpeth Grange development

Richard Cook, Persimmon Homes advised that 18 of the 47 units remained to be sold, with 11 properties now occupied. The planning conditions had now been discharged on the play area and work on that would commence as soon as it was possible to do so.

Councillor Batey in referring to traffic issues asked whether any traffic calming at the entrance of the site would be put in place as she was of the understanding that this had been a condition of the application. R Cook advised that he was unaware of anything official in this regard but would look into further.

County Councillor Carr queried arrangements for starting bin collections once properties were occupied and asked that this be carefully managed. He had been made aware of a property whose bin had been missed as it was the only occupied dwelling in a cul-de-sac.

68. BANKS GROUP – Update on Moss Close Farm development

Jessica Holt, Banks Group advised that site investigation works had commenced the previous week and some trial trenching for archaeology would be undertaken on site this coming week. She further advised that the team were proposing to have full marketing information available by the end of this year for sale in 2018.

Concerns were raised by members regarding the portacabin and cars which were parked on the A693 obstructing visibility whilst undertaking the site investigation works. It was noted that the planning conditions imposed stated that access to the site should be taken from the farmers track and not directly off the A693. J Holt advised that she was unable to provide advice on this however would follow this up and report back to the Clerk after the meeting.

Further discussion took place regarding drainage from the development. J Holt confirmed that although the drain would be taken through the graveyard, it was currently an unoccupied area of the cemetery and would be a completely new drain installation. Councillor Batey asked whether any consultation had been undertaken with the Church as the Reverend was not aware of the proposals.

Discussion and debate ensued regarding the promise of local jobs to the area and the proposed marketing strategy. It was noted that it was hoped that Banks would engage with the chosen builder next year, who would at that point submit a full planning application.

The Chairman thanked J Holt for her attendance and it was noted that either herself or colleagues would maintain contact via the clerk providing any updates where necessary.

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Barrett, F Wilkinson and M Wilkinson.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

71. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72. POLICE REPORT

The Clerk advised that a full response had now been received from the PCVC, regarding police attendance at meetings and details were provided. Councillor Batey noted that she had been party to discussions with the police regarding future reporting to parish councils and it was noted that PACT reports, combining neighbourhood warden data would be provided to future meetings.

Resolved: That the Clerk respond to the PCVC and extend an invite to him to attend a future meeting.

72. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillors A Batey, C Carr and D Wood provided updates on matters relating to the County Council and Pelton Division including:

- MTFP savings achieved by Durham County Council since 2011.
- Teaching Assistants – Report to be considered by Council on 20 September 2017.
- Full programme of council meetings now underway following August recess.

ACCOUNTS

73. Monthly Finance Report

Resolved: That the circulated schedules for August and September be approved for payment and the balance of the councils accounts be noted.

The Clerk advised that with members agreement she would instruct a firm to undertake a professional clean of the war memorial prior to the Remembrance Day service. This was agreed and authority given to the Clerk to proceed with works based upon receipt of a suitable quote.

74. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND CONCLUSION OF AUDIT FOR 2016/17

The Clerk reported on the current status of the external audit and advised that subject to the amendment of the Annual Return form as instructed by BDO LLP, there were no outstanding issues or concerns raised by the auditor.

The Annual Return would be made publicly available from 30 September 2017.

Resolved: That the council notes the report and displays the notice of conclusion of audit by 30 September 2017.

75. CORRESPONDENCE & CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received relating to the removal of a number of street lighting columns in the parish and wider area. Following discussions with Durham County Council and requests for further risk assessment data, information was received to advise that following a review by the Safety Auditor, the proposals to remove lights on the C85 North of Urpeth would now not take place.

Councillor Batey reiterated the Clerks comments and further advised that she had expressed her disappointment that County Councillors and the Clerks of respective parish councils had not been consulted. She also reported that she had requested of the Senior Projects Manager details of all street lighting removal proposals in the Pelton division.

ALLOTMENTS

76. Allotments Committee – Review of Terms of Reference and Procedures

Further to discussion at the previous meeting and following receipt of a complaint relating to allotment fires, the Clerk reminded members that a revised set of Terms of Reference for the allotment committee would be considered at the next meeting. Nominations for membership should also be considered at that time.

Resolved: That the Clerk review the Terms of Reference for the Committee including its policies and procedures for reporting to the council, including procedures for dealing with appeals by tenants.

77. Plantation View – Skip Hire

The Clerk advised that a skip would be on site for the use of allotment holders on Saturday 23 September.

WEST PELTON

78. Request for Traffic Calming at Crossroads

Councillor B Anderson advised that he was aware that residents were keen to see traffic calming measures imposed at the crossroads. This was further to his concerns regarding speeding traffic on the A693 which had previously been discussed and noted. Councillor Batey advised that a full traffic survey would need to be undertaken by DCC Highway Officers. It was however something that she supported and would continue to press for with colleagues at County Hall.

79. Road Surface Repairs

Councillor Anderson advised that recent road repairs were already showing signs of damage and it was clear that the patching work undertaken was not fit for purpose. Councillor Batey noted that she was also aware of some pot hole work undertaken which had not been completed to a high standard.

80. Drainage Issues – Twizell Lane

Councillor Anderson reported that blocked drains outside 66 Twizell Lane had overflowed and required attention to prevent the issue from reoccurring.

URPETH GRANGE

90. Flower Beds

Councillor Batey advised that the Council would be starting to remove flowers from beds soon and it was noted that anyone wanting to reuse the plants could approach the operatives. She thought that this may appeal to some allotment holders who had spare capacity on their garden.

91. BMX Track

Councillor Batey advised that discussion with groundworks at Durham County Council were ongoing and further details would be reported back to a future meeting.

92. Flytipping and Prosecutions

Councillor Batey advised that the covert camera had been deployed in the area and had obtained some good results. It was hoped that from evidence collected that prosecutions could be made. Details of which would be published following such.

BEAMISH

93. Flytipping

It was reported that there had been one known incident of flytipping.

Problems continued to persist with rubbish at the car park adjacent to Ala Spicery and the Clerk advised that she would write to the owner suggesting that a suitable way to manage the situation may be through entering a formal service level agreement with DCC who would regularly clean the site.

Councillor Scott suggested that a litterbin was required next to the bus stop by the Shepherd and Shepherdess. Councillor Batey agreed to look into this matter.

94. Speeding and Diverted Traffic

Councillor Scott noted continued problems with speeding through the village and suggested that an extension of the 30mph signs may help. Councillor Anderson also reported correspondence with regard to health and safety at Cranberry Bog. Details were reported to members for information.

HIGH HANDENHOLD

95. Speeding Traffic

Councillor Anderson reported issues with speeding traffic on Birklands Lane heading towards Urpeth Grange.

PELTON LANE ENDS

96. Development at Moss Close Farm

In relation to ongoing proposals for the development of this area of land, Councillor Stewart-Fergusson added that he would like to receive further information on the issue of the creation of 50 local jobs and would continue to monitor progress on site. Further to discussion it was asked whether the council could obtain written confirmation from Pelton Surgery as to whether it could accommodate the additional patients from the new development. The Clerk agreed that she would speak to the Planning Case Officer to determine whether this had been obtained during the consultation period.

97. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Batey advised that Pelton Church were soon to be celebrating their 175th birthday and with such would be holding open days on 30 September and 7 October 2017 between 10.00 am and 4.00 p.m all were welcome to attend.