

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 April 2018 in the Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

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

County Councillor D Wood.

183. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Barrett and County Councillor, C Carr.

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

185. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

186. PERSIMMON HOMES – UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT URPETH GRANGE

The Clerk advised that R Cook was not in attendance and had not forwarded any update prior to the meeting.

Councillor Batey advised of some concerns which had been reported to her relating to continued problems regarding speeding vehicles. She added that it was disappointing that R Cook was not in attendance to discuss these matters and also noted that she had not yet received a confirmed start date for the installation of play equipment. She advised that she would follow this up with DCC.

187. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

The Clerk circulated a copy of the PACT report for the previous month which detailed policing activity in the parish area along with updates on priority issues.

Discussion ensued regarding the imminent change over in staffing at PCSO level and noted that it was important that issues that were currently ongoing such as speeding in Beamish Village were picked up and actioned by the new PCSO.

188. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillors A Batey and D Wood provided an overview of current matters relating to Durham County Council and the parish area, including:

- Litterpick had been undertaken on Urpeth Grange which had proved very successful. 34 bags of litter had been collected in total. It was hoped that one could be carried out in Beamish and High Handenhold in the near future.
- During the periods of inclement weather over 10,000 tonnes of salt had been used in one week and 60,000 tonnes across the period. This had resulted in a huge overspend on this budget. In addition, 2,500 salt bins had been serviced.
- Devolution Deal – decision deferred until further information sought on issues relating to transport funding.
- Teaching Assistants – it was reported that an ever-decreasing number were to be affected by a reduction in salary.
- Pot holes – the council had received a £1.5m government grant which had been topped up by DCC in order to repair pot holes across the county area. Work would be underway across all areas in the coming months.
- DCC Headquarters – Update on strategic employment site and business accommodation.

189. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

Resolved:

- (i) That the circulated monthly schedule be approved for payment and the balance of the councils' accounts be noted.
- (ii) That the litterpicking operative for the Urpeth Grange area be contracted to work an additional 2 hours per month to cover this area in light of the increased number of dwellings and development of a play park area.

190. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk advised that a letter of correspondence had been received from a resident of Beamish Village relating to congestion as a result of events being held at the Museum. It was noted that this would be discussed further under the Beamish agenda item.

191. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Clerk advised that work continuing to ensure that the council were compliant with General Data Protection Regulations which was to come into force on 25 May 2018. She noted that discussions were taking place with CDALC regarding proposals for appointments of Data Protection Officers and further updates would be provided to the council at the next meeting.

A training session was to be held for Clerks at County Hall and the Clerk agreed to attend and report back to the next meeting.

192. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that some tenants were still experiencing some drainage issues as High Handenhold allotments despite the overall success of the scheme. It was suggested that the contractor be asked to reassess the site and to provide an estimate to provide additional drainage channels into the main drain. Further details would be reported when available.

In relation to the allotments at Twizell Lane and Plantation View, there had been a number of complaints received regarding a tenant and the misuse of their garden and storage of materials. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Neighbourhood Warden for advice and action. In addition, there had been a number of complaints regarding dirty gardens and the Clerk agreed to write to each tenant in accordance with the signed tenancy agreement.

The Clerk further advised that there had been a number of compliments received regarding the pest control service and it was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to DCC to thank the team for their work.

193. WEST PELTON

Councillor B Anderson noted the following issues, some of which had been raised at the previous meeting:-

- Continued complaints of dog fouling, which had been reported to the Neighbourhood Warden for action;
- Issues of littering and cigarette ends on footpath.
- Complaints received from residents regarding the smell of dog urine at the rear of properties on Twizell Lane. It was agreed that this could be reported to the Neighbourhood Warden.
- Continued complaints of speeding and request for extension of 30mph limit. To be added to list of items to be raised with Highways Officer.
- Condition of road surfaces following bad weather and poor repairs to pot holes. However, it was noted that Councillor Batey had reported that work would be starting across the county area to repair road surfaces.
- Drainage issues Twizell Lane – Councillor Batey agreed to follow this up with the drainage engineer at DCC and ask that an assessment of the drains be undertaken.

194. URPETH GRANGE

Councillor Batey reiterated the success of the recent community litterpick exercise and suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to all those who had helped including the families of those children who had helped.

As previously discussed members acknowledged the importance of resolving highways issues prior to the opening of the play park and agreed that Bradley Close would benefit from a 20mph zone. The Clerk and Councillor Batey agreed to seek advice from the Highways Manager at the earliest opportunity.

195. BEAMISH

Councillor Scott advised that there had been some improvement in incidences of fly tipping however noted that a significant amount of waste had been dumped by the Kennels which the police were aware of. In addition, a mattress had been found to be dumped on land opposite Eden Place car park and it was suggested that although this area may be private land, it would be worth reporting to the Neighbourhood Wardens. It was also reported that there had been further incidences of flytipping on the road to Beamish Golf Club and within the Pepe's Car park area.

Councillor Scott further reported that the Clerk had set a meeting up with Richard Evans, Director of Beamish Museum, regarding the ongoing issues of congestion in the village. He noted that although the meeting had been positive and some action had been agreed by the Museum, no further communication had been received. Residents had again suffered delays and inconvenience over the weekend due to an event taking place and it was agreed the issue be followed up with the Museum.

Councillor Anderson advised that he had received plans from the landscape designer regarding improvement works and planting around the memorial stone area and details of the proposals along with costs were circulated.

Resolved:

That the proposed plans be agreed and the contractor instructed to commence work as soon as possible.

196. HIGH HANDENHOLD

It was reported that the number of speeding vehicles using Baytree Terrace was increasing and had resulted in a recent accident. It was noted that the matter should be reported to the Highways Officer.

180. PELTON-LANE ENDS

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson advised that there were no matters of concern to raise regarding Pelton-Lane Ends, however did provide an update on the Dipton open cast site and action which was being taken to attempt to stop excavation taking place. It was noted that the Parish Council had signed an online petition, however members were also encouraged to do so on an individual basis if they felt appropriate.

Regarding the ongoing issue of the proposed removal of street lighting, Councillor Stewart-Fergusson advised that he had not as yet received a response from DCC to his enquiries and he would follow this matter up.

It was further suggested that a litterpick could be undertaken in the area and photographs of rubbish collected could be displayed on parish noticeboards in addition to the news area of the website.