

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th June 2019 in Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 7.00pm.

Councillor W Barrett (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Anderson, W Barrett, I Stewart-Fergusson and B Scott. G Miller (Minutes)

County Councillors C Carr and D Wood

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Batey. The Clerk to send get well wishes to Councillor Batey on behalf of the Parish Council.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

23. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment:

Apologies for absence received from County Councillor D Wood.

24. POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

No report had been received since the previous meeting.

25. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors C Carr and D Wood provided an overview of activity related to Durham County Council and matters relating to the parish area including:

- The LGA financial forecast for 2019/20 has identified more potential Government funding cuts, affecting the Police/Fire Service and will likely place increased pressure on specific Council services such as Social Care.
- A reduction in EU funding is also expected.
- The final draft of the Durham 2035 – Vision for County Durham consultation document is due to be circulated, comments can be fed into AAP meetings taking place across the County in June and July.
- The success of the Seaham food Festival.
- Consultation on Empty Houses rates ongoing, report to go back to full Council – this could generate additional revenue to support the MTFP.
- Additional police presence in Chester Le Street area throughout the Cricket World Cup and Police to attend Chester Fest.

- Road closure and parking restrictions for Cricket games.
- Councillor Wood offered to organise a community litter pick and arrange for equipment to be provided should the Parish Council wish to hold a litter pick event.

26. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: that the following amounts be approved for payment

HMRC PAYE 3	132.00
Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	643.40
HMRC PAYE 3	32.30
Litterpicker (Wages)	394.12
Inter-Line NE	17.41
Greenfingers – Fence Repair	1179.60

The Members requested via G Miller for the Clerk to look into options of opening a new bank account for Council reserves.

27. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

G Miller advised that The Clerk would be commencing a short period of Maternity leave however, any issues could still be directed to the Clerk, G Miller would be taking the minutes of the July meeting.

There was still no interest in the appointment of the litter picker, the Clerk would arrange for the post to be re-advertised following her return to work.

28. ALLOTMENTS

An update was provided on each of the sites as follows:

Plantation View

- Request received for replacement gate to be fitted.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain quote for the work to be undertaken.

High Handenhold

- Number of gardens have been issued with dirty garden letters and given 28 days to rectify the problem – further update to be provided at July's meeting.
- A request had been received from the tenant of the plot that had been covered with gravel asking to pay the Parish Council a security payment which would cover the cost of clearing the site should his tenancy be terminated and he was unable to clear it.

RESOLVED: in line with Paragraph 1.4 of the Allotments Agreement Policy the gravelled area should be kept to a minimum. It was agreed the Clerk to request the tenant to remove the gravel.

29. URPETH GRANGE

RESOLVED: Councillor B Scott to arrange a walk around.

30. WEST PELTON

Councillor B Anderson reported a double road sign on St Paul's Terrace.

RESOLVED: County Councillor D Wood to report.

31. BEAMISH

Councillor B Scott informed the meeting he was aware of contractors carrying out work outside the gates to Beamish Museum, beside the A693 road and by the Eden place carpark, the land has not been reinstated to its original form and has been left in an untidy condition.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to report the issue to the Northern Power Grid and request the area be reinstated by the contractors.

Beamish Museum had invited residents of Beamish for a free preview of their latest facilities which was a welcomed invite by many residents.

Councillor B Scott further advised that the bushes on the main roundabout and Eden Place carpark were over grown.

RESOLVED: County Councillor D Wood to report.

32. HIGH HANDENHOLD

Persistent problems regarding parking on the grassed area, residents have requested fencing but this would cause problems with the grass cutting. Neighbourhood Wardens are aware of the problem.

33. PELTON LANES ENDS

An area of land from the roundabout down to the parade is not included within the DCC litterpick route, following discussion it was identified that the area of land falls within the Pelton Parish boundary.

RESOLVED: Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson to inform residents to raise it with Pelton Parish.

Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson said the reduction of grass-cutting could help protect bees, discussion took place regarding the grass verges and highways visibility, the possibility of grass verge cutting being undertaken later in the year to was also discussed.

RESOLVED: Further discussion to take place with Councillor A Batey.

34. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, AS IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT DISCUSSION

Councillor B Anderson reported the bus stop at Pelton Fell beside the houses be tidied up as it may be preventing the houses being sold in its current state.

RESOLVED: County Councillor D Wood to report.