

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

Councillor W Barrett (Chair)

Present:

Councillor W Barrett (Chair), A Batey, I Stewart-Fergusson, I Mullaney, and W Scott

233. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

234. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A Batey declared an interest in Item 7 relating to Neighbourhood funding and Edenfield Play area and Urpeth Grange BMX Pump Track.

235. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT MOSS CLOSE FARM

The Clerk advised that a representative from Miller Homes was not in attendance this evening. It was agreed that contact should be made with Miller Homes to seek assurances that a representative would be present at future meetings.

236. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

237. POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

There were no issues to raise under this item and a Police report had not been received this month.

238. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor D Wood provided an update on County Council matters and those relating to the parish area including:

- COVID-19 – 1 year on since start of pandemic and the number of infections in County Durham was starting to reduce; however, numbers were still high in some parts of the county and this was being monitored closely. Related hospital admissions was now falling which was easing strain on local services.
- Schools across County Durham had now been reopened and testing was going well.
- Durham County Council offering free parking from 2pm in all owned council on and off-street parking locations.
- Town and Villages project had secured an additional £5 million worth of investment which would be distributed via the AAP's.
- Durham County Council Council Tax had now been agreed with £7 million of council tax support for lowest income families

- Climate Change – early statistics show that the council had seen a 16% reduction in carbon emissions from staff working from home.
- Road safety – number of recent accidents on A693
- Eden Place Car Park – no changes to current arrangements until after forthcoming lockdown review.
- Increased cases of dog fouling – residents were encouraged to report via DCC 'Do it Online'

Councillor Wood then went on to provide an update in relation to West Pelton Play Park and Urpeth Grange BMX Pump Track and provided an update on the funding proposals of those projects which had been discussed in part at a previous meeting.

Each of the projects would be supported by secured 106 monies and Neighbourhood Budget contributions and it was therefore requested that the council agree to the following contributions:

£4,000 BMX Pump Track
£3,500 West Pelton Play Park

The Clerk advised that funding had already been allocated to each of the projects (£4,000 BMX Pump Track and £2,000 West Pelton Play Area, however an additional £1.5k was sought to fund the improvements at West Pelton, which could be funded from reserves set aside for parish wide initiatives.

Resolved:

That the council agree to the funding of projects as detailed and in the amounts as follows:

£4,000 BMX Pump Track
£3,500 West Pelton Play Park
£7,500 TOTAL

239. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: that the following amounts be approved for payment.

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	766.89
HMRC PAYE 8	175.00
Litter picker (Wages)	322.12
Zurich Insurance Renewal	946.04
Biffa Waste Services	517.30

240. CLERKS REPORT

i) Advertisement and Appointment of x 2 Litterpicker / Shrub bed maintenance operative

The Clerk reported that the job adverts for 2no. Litter picker / Shrub bed maintenance operatives had now been advertised with a closing date of 7 April 2021.

ii) 2021 Parish Elections

The Clerk advised that members should ensure that nominations forms are submitted to DCC by the closing date of 8 April 2021.

241. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that there had been some reported incidents of anti-social behavior at High Handenhold allotments and a request had been received via the Association Secretary for options for securing the site to be explored.

242. URPETH GRANGE

The following issues were reported for information and/or action:-

- Walden Close – Footpaths requiring attention due to tree roots

The Clerk advised that she had received a request from a resident, for consideration to be given to installing a public footpath between the entrance of Bellerby Drive to the roundabout connecting Ouston with Lamesley. Members advised they were well aware of the issues in that area and had as a result, been investigated some years prior. Unfortunately following an assessment by Highways at that time the route was not considered suitable for a footpath due to a number of factors. The Clerk agreed to review that information and report back to the resident in due course.

243. PELTON LANE ENDS

There were no further issues to raise under this item.

244. WEST PELTON

There were no issues to report under this item in Councillor Anderson's absence.

245. BEAMISH

Councillor Scott raised the following issues for information / action:

- Petition submitted by residents to DCC regarding traffic noise on Station Road
- Impact of closure of Eden Place car park still causing disruption to residents and impacting upon state of grass verges.
- Cutting back work now completed by DCC
- Yellow lines outside Ill Cancellio still sought – Councillor Wood to follow up
- Request to add areas of flower beds within village to be explored.
- Issues with elastic bands dropped by Royal Mail when delivering post – the Clerk agreed to write to the Royal Mail.

246. HIGH HANDENHOLD

Councillor Mullaney asked whether it would be possible to request a dog bin in the area as she was aware that bags were being thrown over the wall into water board land. There also appeared to be an increase in waste at this location.

She did however note that DCC had recently completed the filling of potholes and trees had also been cut back which had improved visibility and footpath access.

247. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no further items of business to consider.