

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 March 2023 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30 p.m.

B Scott (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, G Holmes, I Stewart-Fergusson and D Wood

Also in Attendance:

County Councillor P Pringle

123. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

124. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D Wood declared an interest in Item 10 on the agenda, as a letter had been directed to the Clerk from his working office which he had prior knowledge of.

125. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

126. Public Questions / Representations

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been submitted in advance.

127. Policing and Neighbourhood Warden Updates

There were no issues raised under this item however the Clerk did indicate that she was attempting to arrange for the Neighbourhood Warden to attend a future meeting.

128. County Councillor Report

Councillor Wood provided an update on the following issues that he had reported to DCC in his capacity as County Councillor:

- Eden Place – Agreed that DW, AB and PP would discuss further. Note that keen to get things money and hopefully secure 106 funding.
- Litter reported along the A693 which had been followed up with a clean-up from Hill Top.
- Damaged sign on Beamish roundabout had been allocated to a Traffic Assets Officer, however damaged signs still there.

- Old car park opposite Eden Place being used by DCC as compound and attracting littering, enquiries had showed that the land was leased to Beamish Museum.
- Cherry Trees – Request made via DCC for every single tree to be inspected as some roots were really dangerous (asked for breakdown per street)
- Parking around Rosemount West Pelton, site visit had been requested with DCC Highways.
- Dropped kerb at subway West Pelton – noted that there were dropped kerbs in this location just not on the corner itself.
- Pavement on south side of Twizell Lane, following reports of dog fouling this had now been removed.
- Community Speedwatch undertaken in Beamish on 13 February, with a total of 54 vehicles being checked, 61% travelling under 30mph, 28% travelling between 31 and 34 mph and 11% were over 35 mph. As this was below the threshold for referral for action, it was noted that another check would be undertaken.
- Birds mouth fencing at High Handenhold – DCC hoping to be started in the next few weeks.

129. Correspondence & Clerks Report

- (i) To consider and agree the Clerks revised contract of employment.

The Clerk advised that further to a decision taken at the January meeting to amend the Clerks working hours from April 2023, the contract had now been amended.

Resolved:

That the revised contract of employment be noted and approved with effect from April 2023.

- (ii) Request for donation to support community events

The Clerk advised that a request had been received from Ouston Community Association for a donation towards both the Kings Coronation and 50th Anniversary of the Centre.

Resolved:

That a donation of £200 in total for the two events be awarded.

- (iii) Flower bed maintenance

The Clerk advised that a breakdown of costs associated with the Service Level Agreement had now been provided by DCC, which was circulated to members. Following some queries raised regarding the size of the flower beds it was suggested that DCC be asked to attend on site to review. Councillor Batey and Councillor Barrett agreed to meet with the Clean and Green team if possible at the end of April.

It was further noted that the outstanding flower bed request made for Beamish and Pelton Lane Ends had still not be implemented by DCC and this too should be followed up at the site meeting.

130. Neighbourhood Plan - Update

The Clerk advised that DCC were launching a consultation on the proposed Neighbourhood area as the first stage of development in a Neighbourhood Plan for Pelton, Urpeth and Ouston. The consultation links had now been uploaded to the parish website, with the consultation going live on Friday this week, until 5 May 2023.

131. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be approved for payment:

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	927.72
HMRC Paye 12	184.80
Litter picker (Wages)	304.00
HMRC Paye 12	76.00
Litterpicker (Wages)	380.00
Wave Utilities – Water Rates	63.87
DCC – Legal Fees	900.00

132. Allotments

The Clerk provide an update on a number of issues at High Handenhold, including a complaint received regarding the newly installed gates and ease of access. In addition, it was noted that a large volume of dirt had been delivered on the footpath and later transferred in to two gardens. The footpath whilst having been swept was still dirty and a request would be made to the tenants responsible to have the area swilled.

In relation to West Pelton concerns had been raised regarding the size of overhanging trees at Beamish Residential Home of which the Clerk had reported to them directly.

Members were also advised of a number of smaller issues on site that the Association had reported and details were also provided of a complaint which had been received via the MPs office relating to a shed on site and issues with vermin.

133. Beamish

Councillor B Scott raised the following issues for action and or update:

- Littering situation still poor, highways were also in a bad state.
- Baytree Terrace – down to Beamish Burn is a mess, however noted that a road closure would be required given due to it being a classed as unsafe road (no footpaths). (DW agreed to report)
- Double yellow lines – Ill Cancelllo
- Garage – mud churned onto road from verges
- Police – chasing quad bikes in woods, using the burn, picked up cans etc.

134. Urpeth Grange

Councillors Batey and Barrett reported upon the following issues for action and or update:

- Cherry Trees around estate causing uprooting of pavements.
- Fly tipping incidents continue up lane into farmer's field.
- Trees cut back by DCC, some complaints received regarding the way some had been left
- Trees at Penhill extremely tall – doing in stages more than one house doing, some cuttings left behind in pile. Neighbourhood Warden was aware of the situation.
- Potholes at Penhill requiring maintenance – busy through traffic out of North view and school cars coming out of there further adding to condition. (DW agreed to report)
- BMX Track – hoping for work to start soon once ground solid enough to take on heavy vehicles.
- North View sign is down (DW agreed to report)

135. Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson reported the following issues for action and or information:

- Fly tipping issues still not resolved and whilst he felt that a skip at the location would resolve the issue it was noted that the issues as previously discussed came down to a land ownership issue, and to provide a skip for clearance would be subsidising the land owner which would be inappropriate.
- Update on County wide fly tipping incidents provided by Councillor Wood. 2845 incidents reported across county – 95 (3%) were from within the Pelton Division which was encouraging given the rurality of the area.
- Communications issue – bring forward something consider all aspects in the round. Website, Newsletters and Social Media. The Clerk was to look at this in the coming months.

136. High Handenhold

There were no items reported under this item.

137. West Pelton

It was reported that discussions were ongoing regarding the resurrection of the Residents Association and potential volunteers were sought.

138. Co-option of Parish Councillor

Item deferred.

139. Any other business

There were no further items of business.