

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom.

### **Councillor W Barrett (Chair)**

#### **Present:**

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

#### **167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors C Carr and D Wood.

#### **168. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **169. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **170. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT AT MOSS CLOSE FARM**

The Clerk advised that Mr E Burton, Miller Homes had been invited to attend the meeting however unfortunately he was not in attendance to provide an update.

It was reported however, that the meeting held with Banks and Miller Homes had been positive and it was hoped that a clear line of communication would continue throughout the development phase.

#### **171. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **172. POLICE & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT**

Further to the usual police report which had been circulated. Councillor Batey reminded members of the additional safety measures that residents should take now that darker nights were approaching, including ensuring that car doors were locked at night as this was a known area of crime for opportunists. Residents should also remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police on the non-emergency telephone number.

It was noted that it had been some time since a report had been received from the Neighbourhood Wardens on the use of the covert CCTV camera. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with the Neighbourhood Protection Manager.

#### **173. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

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

- Council Tax – Information relating to DCC intended course of action in relation to a property on the Chief Advisor to the PM's private family estate.
- Coronavirus – Infection rates across the county continuing to give cause for concern and the impact of those students who returned to Durham University slightly later than intake in other areas was now being seen. Although there were some early indications that new infections were plateauing this would be under constant review.
- Poppy Curtains – Councillor Batey would again be creating poppy curtains for display around the division.

#### **174. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED:** that the following amounts be approved for payment.

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	882.16
HMRC PAYE 8	174.80
Litter picker (Wages)	524.40
HMRC PAYE 8	42.40
Litterpicker (Wages)	418.60
HMRC PAYE 8	104.60
Wave Water Rates H Hold	161.61

The Clerk further advised that the External Auditor's report was expected in the coming month and dependent upon the date this was received, a further meeting may need to be called to agree any suggested actions to ensure that this was agreed before the deadline of 30 November 2020.

#### **175. CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised she would pick up any issues that required attention in the following items.

#### **176. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk advised that there were no current issues to report.

#### **177. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE**

The Clerk advised that in light of recent information received from central government and the uncertainty of local restrictions, that unfortunately this years remembrance service would be cancelled. It was therefore suggested that the Chairman along with Durham County Councillors and a representative from Kevan Jones MPs office lay a wreath at the usual time of 1.00 p.m. on Sunday 8 November 2020.

The Clerk advised that she would place a notice on the council's website advising of the recent changes and to also discourage members of the public from gathering at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Members of the public would instead be encouraged to pay their respects either from home or when passing the memorial.

## **178. URPETH GRANGE**

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

- Issues with water stop cocks at Middleham Close – to be raised with Northumbrian Water as may be a wider estate issue.
- Request for removal of shrubs that had not been tidied or maintained by DCC and were causing issues with visibility.
- Ongoing concerns regarding homeowner parking large tractor vehicle at home property. DCC were aware of the issue and parking restrictions may be imposed.
- Urpeth Grange Play Area – following the public meeting the previous evening, members discussed the proposed course of action, noting that a petition would be submitted to DCC. In addition, Councillor Batey and the Clerk would seek to arrange a meeting when possible with the relevant Head of Service to discuss options as the parish councils position further. An update would be provided as soon as possible. The Clerk further advised that the public meeting had been well received and residents had passed on their thanks to the parish council for facilitating the conversation with Gateway Property Management and offering our support to them.

## **179. WEST PELTON**

Councillor Anderson reported that the sinkhole which had been reported at the previous meeting was still undergoing repairs following some further issues. There were no further issues to report at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding proposals to clean and tidy Lord Lawson's grave. It was noted that the family were happy for the parish council to take this on. The Chairman agreed to take this forward with the help of Councillor Anderson and the Clerk.

## **180. BEAMISH**

Councillor Scott firstly asked that his thanks to D Blackburn be recorded for all the work he had recently undertaken in the village tidying shrub beds and clearing footpaths.

As raised at a previous meeting, Councillor Scott noted that overhanging branches from trees were getting worse, and it was becoming increasingly difficult for buses to negotiate them without having to cross onto the other side of the road which obviously caused a danger to other road users. He stressed the importance of this task being completed before bird nesting began, as this would prevent the work from being undertaken for some time.

In addition, he commented that given ongoing issues with speeding through the village he queried whether a chicane road layout would be feasible and asked whether this could be raised with DCC Highways.

Moving on to discuss Eden Place car park and picnic area, he noted that the site was becoming increasingly popular especially at weekends and due to the lack of parking, cars were being parked at the Shepherd and Shepherdess and along the road

adjacent to Methold Houses. In response Councillor Batey noted that she would make some enquiries as to whether any unused car parking in the area could be reinstated.

The Clerk advised that planning application DM/20/02928/FPA had been resubmitted by the applicant and asked that should any member have any comments or objections, that they should be forwarded as soon as possible to allow for a response to be submitted.

#### **181. HIGH HANDENHOLD**

Councillor Mullaney reported that there were no new issues to report, however still hoped that a new sign could be obtained to replace the worn and unwelcoming one currently in place.

Furthermore, she offered her help, if it would be of use to Councillor Batey and the preparations for the Remembrance Day poppy curtains.

#### **182. PELTON LANE ENDS**

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson added whether there was any scope to form a liaison group with residents and Miller Homes. In response the Clerk advised that at the recent meeting Councillor Batey had specifically requested that Miller Homes attend meetings of the council on a monthly basis and there had been a willingness and a commitment on their part to do so. It was unfortunate that no one was in attendance this evening, however the Clerk agreed to chase this up following the meeting.

It was noted that members of the public were welcome to attend and any queries or concerns raised by residents could be directed to the Clerk and forwarded to Miller Homes for comment and reporting at a future meeting.

#### **183. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

20 October at 7.00 p.m. (meeting to be held via Zoom).