

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.00pm.

Councillor B Scott (Chair)

Present:

Councillors A Batey, W Barrett, I Stewart-Fergusson

County Councillor P Pringle

16. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Holmes and County Councillor D Wood.

17. Declarations of interest

None

18. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19. Public Questions / Representations

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

It was agreed that further discussion should be had with Miller Homes regarding attendance at future meetings.

20. Police & Neighbourhood Warden Report

It was noted that no feedback had yet been received from the PCCs office however the Clerk would endeavour to chase this ahead of the next meeting. It was also suggested that it would be worth contacting the local policing team to seek further feedback.

21. County Councillor Report

Councillors A Batey and P Pringle provided an overview of current issues relating to the County and Pelton Division area as follows: -

- Go North East – service provision and issues affecting the division and parish. Press release issued that day outlining their response to consultation and how the services would be altered going forward. It was also suggested that the Clerk write to Go North East to request for revised timetables to be placed in bus shelters across the parish area and wider division.

- Leisure Transformation Strategy launched – series of drop-in sessions to be held. Details of the consultation could be found at www.durham.gov.uk/leisuretransformation.
- Information on Karbon Homes reduced grass cutting schedule and noted that this may generate some complaints from residents of the affected areas.
- Summer flower bed planting yet to be commenced including those additional beds requested at Beamish and Pelton Lane Ends, however this should be imminent.
- Grounds maintenance contract – query still outstanding on the contract however aware that the service is reviewing their policy for charging. Update to be provided when more information obtained.

22. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following amounts be approved for payment

Clerk (Wages and Expenses)	1016.22
HMRC PAYE 12	264.33
Litter picker (Wages)	491.00
HMRC PAYE 12	114.00
Litter picker (Wages)	570.00

23. Internal Audit, Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounts 2021/22

The Clerk presented a detailed report and which sought approval of the Council Annual Return for Urpeth Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2022, including its Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements.

The Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor had reviewed the accounts and practices during May 2022 and had found the Internal Controls within the Parish Council to be satisfactory for the size of the Council and that the documents and procedures viewed to be in good order.

The Clerk advised that the return would be forwarded to Mazars for external audit with their report and any findings to be presented at the meeting in September.

Resolved: That the council

- Note the Internal Audit Report
- Note the year end position with regards to balances and earmarked reserves
- That Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 be approved.
- That Section 2 – Accounting Statements of Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March be approved.
- That the Chair and Clerk sign Urpeth Parish Councils Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

24. Allotments

It was noted that following the distribution of all letters the Allotments Committee should arrange to undertake an inspection over the summer recess period and before the next meeting in September.

25. Beamish

(i) Update on Planning Application DM/21/01633/FPA

The Clerk advised that there had been no update on when this application was to be heard although it was expected that it would go to County Planning Committee before the August recess. A meeting with residents would be held ahead of the planning committee to determine arrangements for representations to be made at the committee meeting.

(ii) Other ward matters

The Chair reported the following issues for either information or action within the village:

- Perspex bus shelter now cleaned.
- Road sweeper been out and cleared loose road chippings following resurfacing works.
- Damage to wall near cut into woods – query regarding ownership and responsibility.
- Fencing in poor state of repair near entrance to Museum requires replacing or repair.
- Issue regarding double yellow lines and traffic management in the Village. Councillor Batey noted that the council had received two objections to the proposals and with such would now be required to be determined by the Highways Committee.

26. Urpeth Grange

(i) Update on play area – there had been no updates since April, however some discussions had taken place regarding options for holding an event in the summer for the residents of Urpeth Grange to mark its official handover to DCC.

(ii) Other ward matters

Additional matters or issues for action at Urpeth Grange were as follows:

- Damaged street signs in various locations requiring addressing by DCC
- Jubilee Event held at Ouston Community Centre was a great success, well received by residents and well attended by Urpeth Grange residents. An invitation had been extended by the Board for a

representative from the parish to attend future meetings, given the close relationship with Urpeth Grange and its residents.

27. Pelton Lane Ends

Councillor Stewart-Fergusson provided an update regarding the issues of fly tipping which had been pursuing with Councillor Wilkes updates would be provided when further information became available.

- Issue regarding litter picking routes and aligning them with Pelton Parish to ensure all areas were covered. It was explained that the operatives in post were asked to clear the most visible and main hot spot areas within their allocated hours per week, however it was difficult to put on paper their route because this was not set in stone. The staff were employed on a more casual basis which afforded us the ability to be take them off other duties to respond to other matters.
- Aged Miners fence had been repaired following damage during the storms at the beginning of the year.

28. High Handenhold

Ongoing issue regarding parking on the grass opposite Baytree Terrace and it was suggested that a request be made to Councillor Wood for an update on this at the next meeting.

29. West Pelton

The Chair noted that the litter picker who covered this area had suggested that an additional litter bin on the shop side of the road would be really well placed as the existing bin is often overflowing. It was noted that a bin had recently been installed on the opposite side at the bus stop and it was unlikely that a further bin would be granted. Councillor Batey agreed to investigate this.

Request for Co-option received and the interested person was to be invited to the next meeting with a view to being co-opted to the West Pelton Ward.

30. Any other business

There were no further items of business.