

URPETH PARISH COUNCIL

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

B Scott (Chair)

Present:

Councillors B Barrett, A Batey, G Holmes, D Wood

L Gladders (Clerk) was in attendance via a remote connection due to illness.

106. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I Stewart-Fergusson and County Councillor P Pringle.

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107. Declarations of interest

Councillor D Wood declared an interest in Item 109(i) as a member of Durham County Council who had agreed to contribute towards the costs of the project.

108. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

109. Public Questions / Representations

The Chair welcomed Mr T Smith who was in attendance to observe the meeting with a view to a potential future co-option.

Councillor D Wood declared an interest in the following item, however whilst able to still contribute to discussion and provide an update following resident consultation, he took no part in the voting thereon.

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The Clerk advised that residents of Baytree Terrace had now been consulted on proposals to install a low-level fence at the location and responses received had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that whilst one of the responses provided less positive feedback, the issues raised were within the remit of the County Council, in particular highways, of which there were alternative routes to address.

Following a vote being taken it was

Resolved:

- (i) That the consultation responses be noted.
- (ii) That the Council agree to contribute towards the cost of the installation of a low-level bird's mouth fence and DCC be instructed to commence works.

110. Policing and Neighbourhood Warden Update

Councillor Batey noted she had received a few reports via the wardens, mainly regarding a major fly tipping incident, at a location backing on to Urpeth Park Farm.

The Chair also noted that the local wardens were inundated currently with fly tipping incidents.

The use of covert CCTV was also discussed and it was suggested that the wardens be contacted with a view to providing an update on what use the cameras were currently getting in the parish area and any action taken as a result.

111. County Councillor Report

Councillor D Wood provided an update and overview of County Council activity relating to the division and wider area, including:

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112. Correspondence and Clerks Report

- (i) King Charles III Coronation – May 2023

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The Clerk agreed that she would make some enquiries ahead of the next meeting regarding associated costs.

- (ii) Section 106 – Funding available and to consider projects

The Clerk advised that there were still 106 monies available to apply for within the Division, whilst noting that there were several large projects which were hoping to be taken forward by the two other parishes in the area.

Further to discussion, Councillor Batey suggested that the preliminary enquiries which had been made regarding Eden Place Car Park needed to be revisited as a matter of urgency in order to have a chance of securing funding for improvement works at this area. Beamish Museum were supportive of the project and would help where possible to deliver it in a timely manner.

The Clerk agreed to work with Councillor Batey to revisit this project with a view to providing some more detailed plans at a future meeting.

113. Neighbourhood Plan – Progress Update

The Clerk and Councillor Wood provided an update on progress regarding the development of the plan and next steps. Further details would be provided when available.

As a related planning issue, Councillor Wood noted that a Liaison Group was to be established for the Karbon Homes site and an offer for 1-2 seats on the group had been made.

114. Monthly Accounts

Resolved: That the following monthly payments be agreed

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Litter picker (Wages)	425.60
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Bugler – Remembrance Service	20.00
Skip at Twizell Lane	297.24

(i) Wave Water Utilities – Unverified Credit

The Clerk further provided an update regarding the unverified credit which the council had been notified of on the allotment water account at High Handenhold. She advised that following contact with Wave Utilities on a number of occasions they had advised that this was a billing error following the replacement of a meter on the site in 2019. The unverified credit which was shown on the account therefore was to be adjusted and a new bill issued. Once this had been received an update would be provided on the position.

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116. Beamish

Councillor Scott reported upon the following areas for information or action relating to Beamish were as follows:

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117. Urpeth Grange

The following issues were reported by both Councillor Baytree and Councillor Barrett for action or information:

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118. Pelton Lane Ends

There were no items raised under this agenda item.

119. High Handenhold

It was reported that dog fouling in this area continued to be an issue and it was suggested that members of the public should be encouraged to report any known incidences via the DCC website.

120. West Pelton

It was brought to the attention of the council that there were some issues with parking around Rosemount and it was suggested that site visit be requested from Highways to review.

A further query was raised regarding a dropped kerb to enable access / egress from the subway at West Pelton. Councillor Wood agreed to look into this and report back to a future meeting.

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