

## **URPETH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Urpeth Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Edenfield Communal Room, West Pelton at 6.30 p.m.

### **Councillor B Scott (Vice Chair) in the Chair**

#### **Present:**

Councillors B Barrett, K Norwood, G Holmes-Wood, B Scott, I Stewart-Fergusson, C Todd, P Pringle, and D Wood.

#### **89. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Fox and R Johnson.

#### **90. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were noted from Councillors D Wood, P Pringle, and C Todd in relation to Item 8 on the agenda due to their dual role as Pelton Parish Councillors, who were partners in the proposed project.

#### **91. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising were noted as follows:

- i) Damage to fencing and parking issues: Members noted that further to the last meeting the fence remained broken and was still awaiting repair.
- ii) Beamish Museum visit: That a letter of thanks be sent to Beamish Museum in recognition of the time and effort put into the visit.
- iii) Litter A693: Members noted that litter picking had taken place, with 76 bags collected from Perkinsville Roundabout upwards. It was agreed that further litter picking could be arranged on another day further along the route.

#### **92. Public Questions / Representations**

The Chair welcomed two members of the public to the meeting, the first who was in attendance to raise concerns regarding traffic calming, parking issues following the change of use of a corner shop/barbers, visibility of the community beat officer, and ongoing parking problems at the corner at West Pelton. Members advised that incidents should be reported via 101 to ensure they were recorded. Issues relating to seating, parking enforcement, and potential use of Karbon land for a bench were also discussed.

A second resident asked how they could become involved in litter picking and was advised of upcoming opportunities. Following a further query regarding the land behind Trinity Green, it was noted that this would eventually become a cemetery and would remain open and as natural as possible until development of the site progressed.

### **93. Litter Picking**

Councillor Todd reported that the Big Spring Clean would take place this year between 2 March and 4 May 2026. It was agreed to organise a local litter-picking group to coordinate with Chester-le-Street Litter Heroes. The Council further agreed to issue an appeal for volunteers, link with existing organisations such as local schools, and place promotional material on the parish council website.

A further update regarding dates and locations would be circulated in due course.

### **94. County Councillor Report**

The Clerk advised that no County Councillor Report had been received for the period and

### **95. Clerk's Report / Correspondence**

#### **i) Feedback from Notices**

The Clerk advised that following the display on new notices in all noticeboards, only one response had been received, which had expressed concern regarding the potential withdrawal of the board. An explanation had been provided to the resident, and no further communication had been received.

#### **ii) Councillor gov.uk email addresses**

The Clerk advised that all members had now been provided with a gov.uk email account.

### **96. Finance Matters**

#### **i) Monthly Accounts.**

**Resolved:** That the following amounts be approved for payment

Clerk	1028.57
HMRC Pay 10	254.18
Street Cleansing Operative	392.52
Street Cleansing Operative	390.72
DCC Pest Control	2618.56
DCC Grounds Maintenance	8571.29

### **97. Defibrillators**

The Clerk advised that further to the information circulated regarding the proposals to adopt the phone box at Pelton Lane Ends, to house a defibrillator, Pelton parish Council would be discussing the matter at their meeting scheduled for the following

evening and at this stage were seeking agreement in principal to support the joint project. It was noted that costings were not yet available however the matter would be revisited following the Pelton Parish Council meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the council agree in principle to entering into a joint scheme to install a defibrillator at Pelton Lane Ends.

**98. Allotments**

Councillor Barrett having undertaken a site inspection at High Handenhold noted issues regarding scrap removal and damage to gates and chains.

**99. Britain in Bloom**

Councillor Todd provided an update on this years Britain in Bloom entry and members agreed to advertise the initiative at the allotments. Councillor Todd would provide the Clerk with copies of the posters to display on site.

**100. Ward / Area Matters**

i) A693 (Pelton Lane) Road Closure

The Clerk noted that on behalf of the council she had contacted the Highways department to report concerns over the prolonged two-lane closure at the above location and highlighted the impact upon residents due to bus cancellations. She further advised that where consent was provided by residents any complaints received would be shared with County Councillors for their attention.

ii) Eden Place Car Park

A meeting with the Museum, Urpeth Parish Council and County Councillors which had been hoped to be held earlier in the month, was unfortunately unable to proceed due to the inability to confirm a suitable date with all attendees. An update would be provided as soon as possible.

iii) Other ward matters

Bus shelter damage, tree cutting back and the poor condition of the West Pelton crossroads road surface were also discussed.