

**PLEASE NOTE THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN RATIFIED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL  
DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 SITUATION – THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES ONLY**  
**ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

County Councillor D Towns was also in attendance

Also in attendance 7 parishioners

**71/19 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

The owner of the camping and caravan site referred to the buffer zone leading to the site and stated he couldn't understand why the work to reduce the speed had not been carried out. He also mentioned that the static caravan on the site had been broken into and he felt residents should be aware of this incident.

He also mentioned that the Police may be using his land to train their dogs.

The Chairman stated that it was a rare occurrence for such a crime to be committed in the area. The owner had seen a vehicle drive onto the site but could not identify the registration. He had taken further security measures in an attempt to stop further incidents.

County Councillor Towns explained the background to the situation with the buffer zone. The advice from officers had been that they could not do it at that time.

He suggested this was something that could perhaps be raised for the next round of Local Transport Plan requests. The Parish Council could submit this as one of their requests.

The owner mentioned discussions he had had with County Council officers who felt it would reduce the speed of cars through the village itself. He said that he was prepared to make a contribution to such a scheme. He mentioned a cost of around £7000.

Councillors Towns stated that the cost not only included signage but the legal costs as well to make these orders.

The owner asked about the possibility of having a 'concealed entrance' sign. Councillor Towns agreed to look into this.

A representative from the Church mentioned that she had had no success with finding a contractor to cut the Churchyard this year and asked if anyone had any companies she could try to contact.

The UVA Treasurer mentioned that the bowls would not be taking place due to Coronavirus outbreak.

The Chairman stated that he had been contacted by a resident to query why the refuse collectors did not go down to Manor Farm to collect the bins. One of the residents was finding it difficult to bring the bin to the end of the road for collection.

Councillor Towns agreed to take this up with the appropriate officer at NCC.

## **72/19 MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 February 2020.

In relation to Minute 66/19 (iii) it was reported that the Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering had been cancelled for 2020. The Parish Council agreed not to ask for their donation to be returned as it could be used for 2021.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

## **73/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(i) Update email from Northumbria Police**

The Clerk had received an email from Northumbria Police which she read out to the meeting, The email asked that residents report any thefts via 101 to ensure it was recorded. It also referred to reports of poaching in the area although some evidence was available. The Police also warned about containers being broken into and the contents stolen. The advice was to try and put alarms and security lights on them to deter thieves.

The Chairman mentioned that the Cricket Club wanted to site another container in between the pavilion and the tennis courts, and they had asked if the Parish Council had any objections to this. Councillors were agreeable to the proposal for a new container but asked if it could be alarmed and lit if possible.

### **(ii) Notification of planning decision – 19/03885/FUL – land north east of Hulwane House to Ulgham Park – construction of agricultural building to provide shelter for sheep, horses etc**

The Clerk reported that she had received notification from NCC that the above-mentioned application had been granted.

RESOLVED – That the information be received.

### **(iii) Agreement of delegated authority to the Clerk**

The Clerk reported that in view of the current situation with the Coronavirus, the Society of Local Council Clerks had provided their members with advice about various actions that should be taken. One of these related to updating their delegation arrangements to the Clerk which would enable the Council to function without the need for meetings etc.

The Council agreed the following resolution.

RESOLVED – The Council agree to extend the delegation of any decisions to the Clerk during this period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. This delegation will enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to its residents.

## **74/19 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **(i) Ulgham Village Committee**

It had been suggested that a volunteer group should be formed in the village to assist the elderly and vulnerable in the village.

Councillor Mrs Newman had received details from one resident who was willing to help.

Councillor Brown had also received offers of help from his neighbour.

It was suggested that a newsletter be sent out in the next few days making a plea for volunteers and giving Parish Councillors phone numbers plus the Chairman of the UVA for people to contact if they could assist in any way. This was agreed.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned the issue of safeguarding and said that people would not be able to go into peoples houses so this needed to be handled with care.

Councillor Towns mentioned the Isolation Northumberland Facebook page which may contain some useful information on this issue. Covid-19 support groups were being formed in various locations and seemed to recognise there would be a spike in mental health and anxiety issues.

It was also suggested that the Rendezvous should be cancelled. It was a lifeline for some people to attend but it was thought that it was best to cancel them whilst this situation was ongoing.

#### **75/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was noted that the following accounts were now due for payment:

- (a) Clerk, March salary, expenses, £210.00
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Information Commission – renewal of registration – payment of £13 taken by direct debit.

#### **76/19 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

Councillor Brown reported that he had carried out some cleaning work to the War Memorial.

It was also reported that the fence around the car park at the play area had been replaced by a local volunteer.

Members reported problems with the road out of the village down Crowden Lane which had some serious potholes. The Forge estate also had some potholes.

Councillor Towns agreed to report these.

#### **77/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There would be no meetings held until further notice due to the situation with the Coronavirus.