

ULGHAM VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday 2nd February 2017

Present: Helen Dunn (HD), John Carpenter (JC), Helen Shaw (HS), George Brown (GB), Kathleen Keay (KK), Jim Scott (JS), Barbara Chandler (BC), Lesley Newman (LN), Keith Lowes (KL), Pamela Lamb (PL), Tony Warlow (TW), Colin Tait (CT)

1. **Apologies**

Eunice Cockburn (EC), Lesley Newman (LN).
Maureen Shotton (MS) was accidentally omitted from the reminder email.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

4. **Officers' reports**

Treasurer

TW reported the largest income came from the Fireworks Display in November. £14.50 was paid out for daffodil and tulip bulbs as the ones from last year had deteriorated. £102 was paid to BC for printing the village newsletter. There is £1930 in the bank. David Duffield is preparing a new bench for the Feast, as the legs on the old bench are beginning to rot; only charging for the wood. The present holder of the bench can keep it. It was agreed that £100 be given to Sue Gill in respect of insurance and replacing equipment for the Little Owls Stay and Play group in the WI Hall.

5. **Rendezvous**

HD reported a balance of £50.30, keeping costs covered. Table-tennis is appreciated by those who play. Joanna the new vicar has attended on a couple of occasions, joining in the table-tennis.

6. **Wind Turbines**

JS reported that the turbines had been vandalised over the Christmas period and had been out of action for a week. Applications for the panel were being scrutinised. JS had applied, but LN may not apply. Meetings were 6 monthly and the panel is only advisory.

7. **Ulgham War Memorial**

GB said the memorial was placed in 1924 and no maintenance work has ever been done. The PC took over ownership last year. The work entails cleaning, replacing and extending the plinth, rotating 180° as it currently faces the road and provide access from the churchyard. The sign also needs to be moved. Planning permission is required and funding requested from the War Memorials Trust up to 75% and possibly the Wind Turbines Community Fund and/or Banks. 4 estimates have been obtained from £4200 to £6500. Agreement and help in completing application forms are required. Hope to have work completed before the end of the year.

PL reported that the diocese also need to be involved and permission obtained. Another application form to be completed with a cost of £289. Any decision could take 10 days to 6 weeks.

TW suggested Councillor Sambrook be approached for funding the churchyard access to the memorial. Everyone agreed to go ahead and thanks were given to both GB and PL for their work. Mrs Mavin, clerk to the council, will be tasked with any letter writing required on the matter.

8. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Veronica Duffield sent the following message:

"I receive a report of crime figures for the area regularly from Northumbria Police. The latest figures are for November 2016 when there was one report of antisocial behaviour in the village. These reports are available to all at: police.uk.

I also receive an E-Newsletter from the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network and pass on any tips or advice through the village newsletter. This organisation is now sponsored by Co-op Insurance."

HD reported that the Neighbourhood Officer came to the Rendezvous before Christmas. She had offered to attend meeting in the village but had been constrained by shift patterns. BC reported a collision with a bollard at the end of Manor Farm the previous week.

9. **Ulgham Meadows**

JC said that the first of 3 annual cuts of the grass verge should be done soon. He is aware that dog owners are utilising the area and wardens are collecting litter. JS stated that the signage at the ford end was in a state of disrepair and suggested that funding be requested of Banks to replace it.

10. **Playing Fields Management**

JS reported that £350 had been given towards the cost of grounds maintenance by the cricket club. £644.99 remains in the bank. The entrance gate needs to be replaced and it was suggested that a steel farm gate would last longer. A hawthorn branch from PL's property is overhanging the field and could harm passers-by, including cricketers. CT had noticed some barbed wire around the tree and asked if both this and the branch could be removed. PL said she would inspect the site and report back to CT.

11. **Ulgham Village Cricket Club**

HD expressed the committee's condolences for the passing of Peter Donkin, who was a past member of the committee and had a long history with UVCC.

CT said that the grounds were being prepared and the first cut of the grass would be in mid-February. HD asked for the fixture list to put in the newsletter. KL said the AGM was held the previous Tuesday and the attendance was more than expected. League structures are changing, and decisions will be made at the end of March. TW asked about forthcoming events and KL said he had no specific details at present, but a memorial match may be played for Peter Donkin at the Spring Bank Holiday. Other events will be notified. CT said practice nets start at Ashington Leisure Centre on March 5th for 6 weeks. HD thanked UVCC for the use of the pavilion during the Fireworks Display.

12. **W.I.**

PL had no report but said the total membership is now at 27. This branch was established 93 years ago.

13. **Hanging Baskets**

HD said that Sheila Caisley was happy to provide the baskets again and requested £100 towards the cost of buying seeds and plants. Everyone agreed. HD and TW said that the bulbs had been planted on the green.

14. **Ulgham Feast 2017**

To be held on the first Saturday in July 1st. Longhirst will be holding the open gardens the same weekend. TW suggested a bric-a-brac stall and all agreed. HS has 2 tables for use. TW will make further enquiries about petting llamas; the owner has gloves and slippers made from the wool to sell. Siting of the stalls was discussed. KL asked if a hog roast would be suitable for the evening BBQ.

15. **AGM**

HD said that again not many were in attendance, but the cheese, biscuits and wine were enjoyed.

16. **Fireworks Display**

No problems were reported with parking this time. GB suggested more lighting was required at the entrances and will investigate further. The solar lights were adequate for the walkway. HD expressed concern about access to the toilets and a lot of hot soup close by. She also asked if the power circuits were overloaded. KL stated that the power supply coped well. The cleanup on the following day went well. All the cups have now been used up and a new supply will be required for the next display.

17. **Village Website**

BC reported that help had been requested to update the website, but none was forthcoming. Updates will be made when possible. Barbara Jones updates the Parish Council agenda and minutes. Veronica Duffield updates the Neighbourhood Watch pages. Messages were left on the website Contact Us page and these were passed to the relevant person.

18. **AOB**

- PL requested that the contract for the cemetery grass cutting to be renewed. It was agreed.
- HD expressed her appreciation for the new committee structure.
- The UVA Christmas meal was agreed for February 17th. HS suggested that the UVA pays for bill. HD suggested that other halves, who contribute a lot of effort to the UVA also be invited. Invitation to be extended to Eric Winton for all his years auditing the accounts and Sheila Caisley.

19. **Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 6th April 2017 7:30pm in W.I. Hall.