

# ULGHAM VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

## Committee Meeting

### Minutes

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Present: Helen Dunn (HD), George Brown (GB), Pamela Lamb (PL), Jim Scott (JS), Barbara Chandler (BC), Tony Warlow (TW), Colin Tait (CT).

Note: PC is for Parish Council

1) **Apologies**

Keith Lowes (KL), Kathleen Keay (KK), Lesley Newman (LN), Pauline Martin (PM), Maureen Shotton (MS). No show John Carpenter (JC), Helen Shaw (HS).

2) **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3) **Matters arising from the minutes**

None.

4) **Officers' reports**

**Chair**

HD asked the committee about their views on what the UVA was about in terms of the relationship with the village; whether others felt as she did that it was not about fundraising but providing occasions when the village could come together and enjoy social events such as the feast and bonfire night. Members of the committee backed this up and reiterated that the prime concern was not fundraising. JS, PL and TW all agreed that funds needed to be raised to cover costs. The UVA as a community group could apply for grants. The Fireworks Display was the main fundraiser and covered the costs of the fireworks. All agreed that wide-area advertising of events was not required, but residents from local villages were welcome to attend.

A discussion was held on the changes to the constitution and the structure of the committee. The changes to the committee had worked well, but HD thought that a single representative from each of the groups would suffice. The PC required 2 representatives for making decisions; 1 for the WI and Church as the representatives are part of both groups; 1 for the UVCC; 1 for Ulgham Meadows. HD reported that KK and MS have resigned from the committee. It was agreed that section 5, Termination of Membership, no longer applies as the new constitution opens membership to all village residents with no subscription charges, although these can be applied as necessary in future. As the constitution requires 2 weeks notice of any changes and announcement of the AGM, it was suggested that it should be put into the August edition of the village newsletter every year. It will also mention that any person wishing to take any of the Officer positions must have their name put forward before the AGM.

**Treasurer**

TW had copies of the annual accounts distributed. He proposed that any future committee Christmas meals should not be funded by the UVA, which was agreed. The item 'Stationery' includes IT/website costs. Donations were made to Little Owls for insurance costs and to KEVI Steel Band for the Feast performance. The balance at the bank is £2532.69.

**Secretary**

Invoices for the website hosting and domain name renewals had been paid. There were items which were raised in the appropriate matters.

5) **Village Association Matters**

a) **Rendezvous**

HD said the group is going strong and some newer residents have joined in the exchange of news and views over tea/coffee and biscuits, over the noise of table-tennis games.

b) **Neighbourhood Watch**

BC read out the report provided by Veronica Duffield. Crimes reported remain low for Ulgham. A theft from a garage was reported early in the year and garden furniture more recently. VD continues to post warnings from Action Fraud of various scams on the village website.

c) **Hanging Baskets**

HD said the baskets are ready to be taken down. JS will be able to do this in early October.

d) **Ulgham Feast 2018**

The day went well although there was competition from a televised football match at 3pm featuring the England Team. The KEVI Steel Band greatly enjoy providing the entertainment, as do the crowds hearing them. A £100 donation was made to cover the costs of replacing worn out drums and transportation.

e) **Fireworks Display 2018**

Last year's display provided a record income. JS will arrange fireworks from the same supplier. Volunteers will be needed for making the vegetable soup. HD will purchase more cups. BC said that Henry Hall had requested a site for his Coffee Van after a successful evening at last year's Fireworks Display. A charge of £40 was agreed.

f) **Garden Sculpture 2018**

The last one was held on 15/16<sup>th</sup> September with any theme celebrating the year 2018. Only 10 entries were submitted, including the Dales School. Tea/coffee at the church and the raffle raised some funds. 60 people submitted voting forms. Sue Gill with centenary of the first performance of Holst's Planet Suite won the first prize of gift tokens. The WI won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of chocolates for the centenary of the ending of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Jean Dawes won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of a potted Peace Lily for her entry 50 year Anniversary of the End of Steam Train Travel in the UK.

g) **AGM**

This will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. HD will get the supplies for after the meeting. GB offered apologies as he will not be able to attend.

h) **Village Website**

BC reported that changes to ReCaptcha had caused its removal from the contacts page and this had caused many spam messages to be posted. The Contact Us messages can now only be posted by registered users. Updating the website is very difficult due to other commitments. JS said that some help from locals may soon be available.

6) **Parish Council Matters**

a) **Wind Turbines**

HD said that the Film Club had applied for a grant from the committee and been asked about a 'safeguarding' policy. She had enquired of a government website and was assured that no such policy was required.

JS reported that the last meeting of the panel had taken place the previous Tuesday. 11 grant applications were entered, of which 2 were rejected and one awarded 50%. Next applications are in January. Information about the fund is put into the village newsletter. It should be more widely advertised.

b) **Ulgham War Memorial**

GB reported that the last meeting with the council planning committee produced the 'discharge of conditions' certificate, signing off the structural plans. Work commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> September when the memorial was dismantled by crane. New foundations with strengthening metal grid were placed at a depth of 15". The first level plinth is in place. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> level plinth is in place and set, the memorial will be installed and then cleaned. Work should be completed mid-October. A short unveiling ceremony will take place prior to the official re-dedication ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. The council Planning Department, the church and Widdrington Station have all been informed.

c) **Ulgham Meadows**

JC was unavailable to report. JS said that the final cut of the year of the verges and paths has been done. Signs were being renewed. BC said a message on the website had complained about graffiti on one of the boards. JS said that this will be dealt with.

d) **Playing Fields Management**

JS reported new signs had been installed. The child play equipment had been painted, with paint supplied by KL. TW said the football posts needed painting also. BC said that the couple at 3 Manor Court, which backs onto the ground behind the tennis court were having trouble with overgrowing weeds and shrubs. JS said that it will be looked into.

7) **Representative Matters**

a) **Ulgham Village Cricket Club**

CT said the All Stars Cricket promotion for 5-8-year-olds had 13 participants from Ellington, Tritlington and other local villages primarily thru schools. The club will take part again next year. The Treasure

Hunt and Quiz Night were quite successful, but there was no BBQ on the Feast Day evening. The garage plans have been postponed. CT has been nominated for a national award and has got thru to the last 11. The grass was too wet to be cut and the machines need to be serviced. 3 teams played most weeks and the Owls were very successful. 14 new members were signed up, but still looking for more. A trial opening of the pavilion on a Friday night did not have many visitors, but if a request is made then they would try again. HD thanked CT for use of the pavilion during the Fireworks Display.

b) **W.I.**

PL said the WI provided catering for the Feast Day and the Warkworth Show which were successful in raising funds. The funds raised at the Garden Sculpture weekend were for the church. Marty Craggs will provide entertainment for the Pie & Pea Supper on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November. The poppy display from the Garden Sculpture weekend will be on show for Remembrance Sunday.

c) **St. John's News**

PL said that the church was being re-pointed. The interior was completed within a week, but the exterior requires scaffolding and is taking a little longer. The cost is covered by a grant from the wind-turbine community fund. Ladies from the church provided catering for the Garden Sculpture weekend. The bishop of Berwick will be re-dedicating the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The Pop-Up Café held in Widdrington Station community centre has restarted after a summer break. The Community Garden in Widdrington Station has made a slow start, but people are invited to contribute every Saturday afternoon. The talk 'Our place in the Universe' by Prof Chris Done was a huge success with much interest.

8) **AOB**

- a) GB requested £50 towards the cost of a large Union Jack for the War Memorial unveiling ceremony, which was agreed. He said that the Parish Clerk has a Northumbrian flag which will be displayed also.
- b) JS said that a memorial seat with a carved War Horse is due to be delivered in October and will be fastened down to prevent theft.

9) **Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 7:30pm in W.I. Hall.