

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday
15 April 2019**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

Also in attendance – six parishioners

Apology for absence received from County Council D Towns

80/18 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident whose property backed onto the land where the caravan sites had appeared informed the Parish Council of the investigation work he had carried out to date. He had spoken to a planning officer at NCC on 5th April and he had outlined his concerns about what was happening at the site. He was informed that this was permitted development and the owner could have 5 caravans and ten tent spaces on the site. The planning officer said he would contact planning enforcement to have a look at the site. The Enforcement officer had contacted the resident asking what was on the site, but he could not advise him of that as it was private land and he had no access to it. He had not heard anything from that officer since that initial contact. The resident had been assured that he would be copied into any emails from NCC on the subject. He had been told the owner of the land required a licence. He rang the Caravan and Camping club and was told that small sites were allowed up to five caravans and ten tent spaces and they had to be quiet after 9.00 p.m. The lady he needed to speak to was on holiday. He had been informed that the licence number provided by the Council didn't exist in their records. He had managed to speak to someone at the Caravan and Camping Club who although they didn't know much about the rules and regulations, had advised that the site was approved by them although they were not allowed to have caravans on it due to the access and exit at the site. Use was restricted to 5, 7 metre motor homes at any one time and 10 trailer tents until the Council have moved the 30mph speed restriction further back.

The Chairman reported that he and Councillor Mrs Newman had had a meeting with the Principal planning officer last week about various planning related issues. They had discussed this issue with her and she was surprised that the Parish Council had not been informed of the matter. The officer who had dealt with this case had now left the authority. She had stated that there should have been a site notice put up for 21 days before the licence/permission was issued. NCC Highways should have been consulted and as far as she was aware, this had not happened.

Councillor Mrs Newman had also spoken to the Caravan and Camping Club. She reported to them that a sat nav would likely take any users over the ford. She was unable to take her motor home through the ford and she had witnessed many such vehicles getting stuck there. She expressed concern at the size of the trailer tents allowed as some of them were very long.

Residents had real concerns about the potential for accidents with the access and exit at the site. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact NCC planning and highways and ask

if there has been any inspection of the access point. The resident was thanked for all the work he had carried out in respect of this issue.

The resident who had raised the matter stated that the land next door to this site was also up for sale and he was considering purchasing the land and placing a restrictive covenant on it to protect it from development in perpetuity. He would welcome anyone else being involved in this purchase.

Another resident asked about the appeal for the Stables land. The Chairman reported that the infrastructure improvements had been removed from the application. The resident also mentioned that it appeared to be incumbent upon residents to report any matters of concern during the building process so that they could be investigated by planning enforcement.

The Chairman reported that the tenant had moved out of the building and this meant there would be no further issues with the barking dogs.

The Chairman reported on other discussions held with the principal planning officer in respect of a recent planning decision taken under delegated authority.

A resident asked if it would be possible to get another road sign for Woodlands on the opposite side of the road to the existing signage. Signage was the responsibility of Northumberland County Council and this would be raised with them. She also asked if the Parish Council could tell her who the local MP was, and which parties were standing in the North of Tyne Mayoral elections. The resident was provided with the information regarding her MP who was Anne Marie Trevelyan, the MP for the Berwick Constituency. The Clerk stated that she thought that the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberals had all fielded candidates for the Mayoral elections as well as an Independent candidate.

81/18 **MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 March 2019.

Further to Minute 73/18 the Chairman reported that he had attended the Wind Farm meeting and at present he did not know the outcome of the various bids.

In relation to Minute 75/18, the Clerk had written to the resident regarding the seat and had not yet received a reply.

Further to 76/18 it was reported that a group from West Chevington had taken the old film club equipment.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

82/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Invitation to the CAN Spring conference to be held on 16th May 2019 at Breamish Hall at Powburn between 12 noon and 4.30 p.m.

The Parish Council had received an invitation to attend the above.

(ii) Letter from NCC re events cost recovery

The Clerk had circulated a letter received from NCC re the above. As part of the County Council's budget proposals it had been suggested that NCC implemented cost recovery arrangements when asked to provide support services such as traffic management, litter picking and refuse collection to organisations running events in the county area. These would come into force for events being held after 1 June.

This did not include charging for Remembrance Day services or Armed Forces parades. In order to mitigate the impact of this new approach, the County Council has put into place some transitional funding arrangements through the creation of an 'Event Fund'. This would be administered by the Council's Community Regeneration Team who also administer the Community Chest scheme. The sum of £35,000 would be available for this purpose for 2019-20 only and would be on a first come, first served basis. Funding of up to 75% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of £2,500 would be available. Details of how to enter and the deadlines were included in the letter that had been received from NCC.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

(iii) NALC Northumberland and Newcastle Local Councillor Census – April 2019

Information regarding the above census had been circulated to Councillors. Members were asked to complete the survey form online by the deadline date.

83/18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The next meeting was due to be in the following week.

As an update, Mrs Dunn reported that the first film shown on the new equipment had taken place on 4 April in front of a large audience. She reported that there were one or two slight issues, but she had been assured that these were easily solved.

Mrs Dunn reported that the grant application for the defibrillator had been successful.

The Treasurer of the UVA was in the process of ordering the village hanging baskets and the Parish Council were asked if they would be willing to make their usual contribution which was much appreciated. This was agreed and a payment of £200 would be provided.

84/18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was agreed that the following accounts be paid:

- (a) Clerk, April salary, expenses, mileage £220

- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) UVA – contribution towards village hanging baskets - £200

85/18 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

Councillor Brown reported that a representative from the Community Foundation had visited the War Memorial on 19th March to inspect the work that had been carried out. He reported that there were one or two issues that the contractor needed to complete.

He mentioned that the Parish Council were planning to install a handrail at the site.

Unfortunately, a resident recently had suffered a fall at the War Memorial. She had fallen down the steps and had to crawl up to the wall to stand up. Fortunately, the resident was fairly shaken but not badly hurt.

He therefore suggested that it was imperative that this work was carried out as quickly as possible. He reminded Members that the Parish Council had been told that it was necessary to obtain a Faculty before the work could be done and he felt this should be progressed as a matter of urgency to avoid any further accidents of this nature. The Parish Council agreed that this needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The Chairman mentioned the Morpeth Sports Council awards. He stated that there was an Ulgham Parish Council salver award for services to sport and he suggested that Mr Colin Tait from the Cricket Club should be nominated for all his work for the club and maintenance of the ground over many years. The deadline for nomination was 23rd April and the Clerk agreed to submit the nomination form.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned two large potholes that had appeared at the Forge estate and the Clerk agreed to report them via the NCC website. There were also two at the entrance to the Croft estate.

86/18/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20 May 2019 which would be held in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.