

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 21 January 2019

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

Also, in attendance 4 parishioners

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Towns.

57/18 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

The Parish Council was invited to send a representative to attend the WI on Saturday 26 January at 9.30 a.m. to see defibrillators provided by the Stephen Carey Foundation. The WI was interested in acquiring a defibrillator for the village that could be sited outside of the hall. The Chairman reported that the Community Wind Farm fund could be a possible source of funding. He also knew someone who installed defibrillators. The Chairman was unable to attend but either Councillor Mrs Shaw or Councillor Brown would be there.

A resident asked about the application for the Stables. The Clerk reported that she had written to NCC as requested in Minute 51/18 however, approval had been given for four dwellings on the site. She provided a copy of the decision notice for Councillors and to the resident concerned

58/18 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2018.

Further to Minute 51/18, the Chairman corrected the third sentence which should read "he had not managed to speak to the landowner re the hedge being cut back near to the ford".

He had now spoken to the local farmer who had agreed to do the work and invoice the Parish Council if necessary.

He indicated that the tree at the entrance to Ulgham Lane had been substantially cut back.

In relation to Minute 55/18, it was reported that the remedial stone works near to the War Memorial had been carried out. The other items mentioned were ongoing. The frame in front of the War Memorial had been painted.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

59/18 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Email from resident regarding overgrown area at the playing field

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a resident asking if the Parish Council would be prepared to cut an area adjacent to her property and do this work a couple of times

per year. She also asked for permission to have a tree surgeon cut back a large Sycamore tree that was cutting out sunlight from her garden.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council agreed to both requests made by the resident and the Clerk be asked to advise her of the decision.

(ii) Northumberland Local Plan

The Clerk reported that she had received notification of a further consultation on the Publication Draft of the Northumberland Local Plan. This would take place between 30 January and 13 March 2019. This was the final plan prior to independent examination and comments were required on the soundness of the plan.

NCC were holding several drop-in sessions in February and March and the nearest one in Morpeth would be held on Monday 25th February at Morpeth Town Hall between 2 and 7 pm.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

(iii) Community Wind Farm – next funding round

The Chairman reported that the next round of bids for grants from the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund had opened. Information on how to apply had been placed on the Parish Council page of the Ulgham Village website Applications closed on Monday 4 February.

It was hoped that an application could be submitted for some work to be carried out at the playing field. Councillor Mrs Newman had met with one contractor to explain the work that was required. The Chairman was also waiting for a quote from a company he had contacted.

Those present were asked to contact any organisation they knew of who required funding and ask them to submit their application as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

(iv) Email from Councillor D Towns

Councillor Towns was unable to attend the meeting however, he had circulated an email to Councillors regarding their concerns about the approval for the Stables application and he had also spoken to the Chairman at length on this subject.

The Parish Council were seeking clarification that the permission to build 4 houses on the site wouldn't affect the remainder of the land which would remain as green belt/green field. There were concerns that any future applications could be classed as infill. Councillor Towns suggested in his email that the Northumberland Local Plan should now carry weight in planning terms and so whilst this application had been approved, other applicants may find it much more difficult to justify building in the green belt, especially on non-brownfield sites.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should write direct to the Planning Services manager and seek her assurances that this decision will not lead to infill development on this site. The Clerk was asked to request a meeting with the officer to discuss their concerns. Councillor Towns should also be invited to attend a meeting.

It was noted that Councillor Towns had offered to meet with the Parish Council to discuss their concerns in more detail if they wished to do so.

RESOLVED – The Clerk write to the Planning Services manager as stated above.

60/18 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019-20

A copy of a draft budget for 2019-20 had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. The budget proposed a slight 2% increase on the precept to £11,200 from £11,000 in the current year.

Members suggested that the sums for mileage and photocopying and printing were increased to £350 from £320 and £300 respectively.

The precept request had to be submitted to NCC by the 25th January.

RESOLVED – The budget be approved with the amendments listed above and a precept request of £11,200 be levied on Northumberland County Council.

61/18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The Chairman had provided an update for the meeting.

It was reported that the film equipment had been ordered and an installation date was awaited.

The new screen was holding things up.

The new safeguarding policy would be examined at the next meeting to be held on 24th January.

A new training pack produced by Councillor Mrs Shaw would also be discussed.

62/18 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

It was agreed that the following accounts be paid:

- (a) Clerk, January salary, expenses, mileage £210
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60

63/18 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned that two emails had been received querying why there had been no WRP meetings. It had been decided not to hold any meetings unless there was something the Parish Councils wanted to raise.

Councillor Mrs Shaw also raised the for-sale signs at the top of the hill opposite the Forge. All of the properties had now sold, and she felt the companies should take them away.

The Clerk agreed to contact the estate agents if the details could be passed to her and she would ask them to collect the signs.

Councillor Brown reported that the trees at the top of Ulgham Lane had been cut back. Councillor Brown had reminded the operative about the trees at the Croft.

He also asked the Parish Council if he could include an item in the newsletter regarding the War Memorial. This was agreed.

Councillor Brown also mentioned the algae on the plinth of the War Memorial. He had contacted Art of Stone who had advised that it should just be cleaned with clean water and a soft brush. He was going to put a reminder in his article that the War Memorial was the responsibility of the Parish Council and that they would take any action required.

64/18/ DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 18 February 2019 which would be held in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.