

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 20th January 2020

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor D Towns

Also in attendance 3 parishioners

55/19 PRESENTATION BY GROUND WORK NORTH EAST

Lesley Silvera from Ground Work NE was in attendance to report on their work to improve the water quality in the River Lyne. They would be presenting a report to the EA in March and if projects from the report are accepted, Ground work NE would be able to carry out some practical work in the river. The report included details of the aims of the project, data regarding the river issues and photographs.

It was reported that Steve Lowe would be interested in talking to the Parish Council about the management of the Meadows.

Parish Councillors felt they needed to have a plan of who owns the stretch of the river running through the Parish area.

It was reported that a new Meadows Management group would be convened and Steve Lowe from the Wildlife Trust would be invited to meet with them.

Ms Silvera was thanked for her presentation.

56/19 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident raised the issue of the static caravan on land near to the river at the camping and caravan site. It was reported that the NCC enforcement officer would be inspecting the site again.

It was reported that the chevrons between Woodlands and the Church had collapsed and required replacement.

The issue of continued dog fouling on the playing field and in the play area was raised.

It was reported that the Parish Council had been copied into an email that had been sent to the Police from a resident regarding speeding of a particular vehicle through the village.

A further email had been received from the Police regarding an update re speeding through the village where at least one vehicle had ended up in the ditch on the outskirts of the village.

It was also reported that there were issues with poachers at present and they were frequently leaving gates open with livestock getting out. Anyone who was aware of any issues in the area were asked to telephone 101. There had been some thefts of heating oil locally and it seemed that a vehicle towing a trailer was involved. Anyone with oil tanks were asked to lock them and install a security light above them as a deterrent.

There was also an issue with scrap vans travelling around the area and they were largely taking anything that was left out. Residents were reminded to make sure that property was securely stored and locked away.

57/19 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2019. It was noted that Councillor Mrs Newman was in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mrs L Newman in the list of those present.

58/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Library Consultation

The NCC Library service were carrying out a consultation with residents to help decide the future of the service by the County Council. This would cover both branch libraries and the mobile service across the county as a whole. Comments on the consultation were due by 18th March and details of drop-in sessions across the county area had been circulated.

Councillors expressed concern that this could lead to a reduction in service across the county.

RESOLVED – It was agreed this would be discussed at the February meeting.

59/19 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020-21

The Parish Council was asked to consider and approve the budget and precept for 2020-21. The precept request must be submitted to NCC by 27th January 2020. Various options for levels of precept and band D levels and Members were asked to consider these alongside the budget papers.

A query was raised by the Ulgham PCC representative to ask if the Parish Council knew of any contractors who could submit a quote for cutting the churchyard.

RESOLVED - The budget be approved and a precept request of £11,400 be levied on Northumberland County Council.

60/19 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The next meeting was due to be held on 23rd January 2020.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

61/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, January salary, expenses, £210.00
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60

It was agreed that the full amount for emptying the dog waste bins and cleaning the bus shelters would be paid at the beginning of the financial year in order to obtain a discount.

62/19 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Brown supplied information regarding the flying of drones and stated that the Parish Council must be observant of possible usage, particularly on the playing field.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if the Clerk could find out if the Parish Council could carry out a survey for village planning.

She also suggested that any plans for VE Day 75 should be discussed at the forthcoming UVA meeting.

63/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 17th February 2020 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.