

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 18th November 2019

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown and Mrs H Shaw

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor D Towns

Also in attendance 12 parishioners

40/19 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident had emailed the Police and the Parish Council regarding her concerns re speeding through and in the vicinity of the village. In her view, the situation was worsening particularly during early morning and later at night. In a short space of time, four cars had ended up turning over in or near the village.

The resident had submitted an FOI request to the Police asking for details of accidents in the village over the last 5 years and a response was due by mid-December.

The Parish Council had asked the Clerk to contact the Police again regarding the community speed watch initiative which had proved to be useful in other areas. Cars going over the speed limit by a certain amount received letters and in extreme cases, a visit by the Police.

The Clerk read out the response from the local Police representative. The Community PC had reiterated that she had tried to have speed cameras deployed to the village. She was going to put in a request for the static camera van. She suggested that the Parish Council contact the County Council to request the speed strips to be laid on the road so that the Police were able to use that data in any request for a speed check presence. She also mentioned that the recent accidents were partly due to weather conditions although speed had to have been a factor in these incidents.

A speed survey had been carried out in the village last year and it did not show that there was a significant speeding problem.

A resident reported that he had asked for figures for accidents and in 2017-18, and had been informed that there had been four accidents with no serious injuries and in the 7 years before that there had been 10 accidents and he had been told that speed wasn't the issue, they were down to road conditions.

Councillor Brown confirmed that there was a problem with speeding and those who lived on the main road through the village would agree with that particularly at the times mentioned above.

The resident asked if both speed indicator signs were working and it was reported that one was not operational however they had been installed quite some time ago and it was unclear whether they could be repaired. The Parish Council had to supply them if they were needed and they did not have the funds to purchase a new one this year although requests for quotes had been sought.

Councillor Mrs Shaw explained that this issue was raised very regularly with the Parish Council. She stated that an investment had been made in the recent speed restriction measures (to reduce the 40mph approach to the village to 30 etc) but the proposal for a 20mph through the village had not been popular with residents. Various other issues had been examined but

again, chicanes and speed bumps were unpopular with those who lived adjacent to the main road.

She felt the best way to slow motorists down was to have a speed camera on site and for there to be prosecutions.

There was more traffic coming through the village due to the construction of new housing beyond Ulgham.

The resident mentioned that a speed camera visiting on a Monday afternoon would not catch many offenders. She expressed concern at the potential impact if this continued. She had lost her garden wall twice through speeding motorists and this had an impact on her insurance premiums.

The Parish Council agreed to continue to try and organise a community speed watch group in the village.

On behalf of the UVA, the Treasurer of the organisations thanked the Parish Council for their contribution to the firework display on 5th November.

He also mentioned water on the road just over the bridge before reaching the Ulgham Grange junction which would be hazardous if it froze. It was explained that this was run-off from the fields and the storm drain wasn't big enough.

A resident reported that he had submitted an objection to the planning application for a chemical toilet point at the camping and caravan site. He was concerned about its proximity to the river and also the access for vehicles who came to empty it.

The co-owner of the Forge pub referred to the letter she had received from the Parish Council about registering the pub as a community asset.

She was disappointed and very angry at the timing of this action and felt it was uncaring behaviour on the part of the Parish Council particularly in view of her personal circumstances. She had explained why the pub had to close altogether which was due to her partners ill health. She felt that no one in the village had offered her any assistance with tidying up the area around the property. She did not believe it was an asset to the community as only a small number of residents had used the facility. She mentioned that many public houses were closing every week in this country. She was very concerned about what was going to happen to the property and the possible decrease in value if and when it was sold. She informed Councillors that she intended to appeal the listing.

She disputed that many people had raised the issue of the surrounding environment with the Parish Council although the Chairman confirmed it had been raised at meetings on several occasions.

41/19 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 October 2019.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

42/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Ulgham Meadows Land

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council intended to purchase the land at Ulgham Meadows. Funding had been received and passed to the Parish Council who would make their contribution and purchase the land.

The Chairman explained the background to the situation and continued negotiations with the owners. The Parish Council had felt unable to meet one of the conditions to fence off part of the land within 2 months. After further negotiation this was extended to one year and the purchase price had been reduced.

The following resolution was passed by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – In accordance with Standing Order number 14, the Parish Council agree to purchase plot 19 (land known as Ulgham Meadows) from Harworth Estates for the sum of £14,000. They also agreed that any necessary legal deeds or documentation would be signed by 2 members of the Parish Council and witnessed by the Clerk as their Proper Officer.

(ii) Emails re speeding through the village

This item had been dealt with under Minute 39/19 as set out above.

(iii) Invitation from the WI to their 95th birthday celebrations

An invitation had been sent to the Parish Council for two members to attend the above celebrations on 9th December at 7.30 p.m. The invitation had been accepted and extended to three members.

43/19 PLANNING APPLICATION – 19/04286/FUL

A planning application had been received in respect of Pine Grange, Ulgham for the remodelling and extension of the existing property including demolition of existing sunroom and creation of new loft space bedroom and open plan living space.

The plans had been circulated to Councillors and comments were required by 21 November 2019.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

44/19 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The Treasurer of the UVA reported that the fireworks display had been very successful, and he wished to thank all of those who had helped with the preparation and organisation of the event. The funds raised from the event were just less than £1650.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

45/19 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, November salary, expenses, £210.00
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Mr G Brown -reimbursement for engraved brass plaque for memorial seat - £41.20

46/19 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

The Chairman reported to those present that the Parish Council had had a meeting with NCC regarding the listing of community assets prior to the last meeting. He reported that parish councillors had felt this was the best thing to do in order to try and preserve the Forge as a community asset as the village did not currently have any facilities.

There was a query about a seat that the UVA Treasurer had been asked to repair at Manor Court. It appeared to have gone missing. It was agreed that Councillors would try and find out what had happened however it was suggested moving the seat from the square to this location.

47/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 16th December 2019 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.