

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

Also in attendance County Councillor D Towns

Also in attendance 9 parishioners

33/19 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

Mrs Lamb asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to meet half of the cost of the hedge cutting at the Cemetery. This had happened last year and members agreed to meet half of the cost.

A resident from the Forge Estate wished to thank the Parish Council for their help and support over the issue of her hedge that she had been asked to cut back by NCC following a complaint made direct to them. She stated that there was still a clearance of 40 inches to the kerb. She explained that this was the wrong time of year to cut the hedge and she always ensured it was cut back each Spring. The County Council understood the situation but have indicated that it will have to be cut back if another complaint is received.

The Chairman explained that if the matter had been raised with the Parish Council, they would have dealt with it immediately but as the complaint was lodged directly with NCC, it had been taken out of the Parish Council's hands. The Parish Council had sympathy with the situation but there was nothing further they could do. It was suggested that the resident may wish to consider netting the hedge which would demonstrate that some action had been taken.

Councillor Towns explained that if NCC received complaints they had to act on them in accordance with highways legislation. He had had discussions with the Highways manager on the topic and had been in touch with the resident whose hedge it was. They would rather that a solution was found that was a compromise from all involved, however this was not always possible.

The resident felt upset that she had no right of appeal to the decision. Councillors Towns stated that he felt sure that highways would send another letter out prior to any work being done.

A resident asked if a petition would be of any help to the situation but it was stated that this was unlikely to be of assistance as this was an issue backed up by legislation.

A resident asked for any update on the public footpaths situation and he was advised this would be reported later in the meeting.

A resident asked for an update regarding the Meadows land. The Treasurer of the UVA stated that the application had been submitted to the Wind Farm Committee by the UVA and not the

Parish Council. This was in the process of being dealt with and various issues such as insurance etc were in hand.

34/19 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 September 2019.

In relation to Minute 27/19, it was reported that a litter bin had been installed at the tennis courts.

Further to Minute 31/19, it was reported that the parish notice board had been repaired.

It was pointed out that under Minute 31/19, it should read 'Archdeacon' rather than 'Bishop' and the Clerk agreed to make the appropriate amendment to the minutes.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved subject to the amendment outlined above being made.

35/19 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Ulgham Meadows Land

The update had been covered in Minute 33/19.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

(ii) Request for donation from Community Action Northumberland (CAN)

A letter had been received from CAN seeking donations from town and parish councils towards the cost of providing services to communities in the county. A donation of £50 had been made in 2018-19.

RESOLVED – A donation of £50 be agreed.

(iii) Land at Stobswood, Widdrington Station – new woodland creation proposals and EIA Screening

Documents relating to the above had been received by the Clerk. These had been circulated by email and a hard copy had been made available. Any comments were required by 29th October 2019.

The Chairman reported that the proposals did not affect the Parish however, he had noted some comments made in relation to the haul road contained within the scoping report. This referred to reinstatement in September 2019.

RESOLVED – The information be received and comments, if any be sent off by the deadline date.

36/19 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The Chairman of the UVA reported that the AGM had taken place and there was nothing to report. A summary of the last year had been presented.

She reported that arrangements were in hand for the fireworks display to be held on 5th November.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

37/19 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

- (a) Clerk, October salary, expenses, £208.00
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £92.00
- (c) Ulgham PCC – cutting of churchyard 5 cuts from June- August at £120 per cut agreed 50% contribution - £300
- (d) JM Champion K9 Cleanup – village grass cutting and cutting of Meadow - £450
- (e) Donation to CAN - £50

38/19 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended the town and parish council conference at County Hall on Thursday 3rd October.

They had discussed various issues with officers from a variety of departments including planning and highways.

They had also met with a public footpaths officer although not the officer who dealt with this area. They confirmed that there may be funds available to assist with cutting costs if the Parish Council could organise this next year. They are also keen to promote volunteer assistance to carry out this work although appropriate training was required.

The problem with the farmer at a local farm had been raised with the officer and he had confirmed that a letter had been sent to the individual and a meeting would be held with him.

NALC had also had a stall at the event, and they had confirmed that they had various templates available for use by parish and town councils relating to safeguarding, risk assessments etc.

The issue of weeds had also been discussed with the Neighbourhood services team and they had confirmed that the weather conditions this year had lead to a proliferation of weeds which NCC was dealing with as part of their weed control programme.

There had been a talk on waste, and it was hoped that glass collection would be re-introduced in the county in the future.

Councillor Brown made a comment about the difficulty in making contact with officers at NCC. Councillor Towns mentioned the Directory that had been handed out at the parish and town council conference. He asked to be informed if there were difficulties in contacting a particular officer or department and he would assist with the number to call.

Councillor Mrs Newman mentioned that she had spoken to the EA who were working at the Ford testing the water quality which was found to be quite poor.

39/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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