

## ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 16 April 2018**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman and Mrs H Shaw

Also in attendance 6 parishioners and County Councillor D Towns

#### **81/17 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Mr Carpenter asked if Adam's seat near to his property could be looked at as it was sinking into the ground at the back.

The Chairman agreed this would be examined to see if it could be fixed.

A resident raised an issue that had been brought up with the Parish Council last year. It involved a neighbour's hedging and although it had been partially cut back, the cuttings had been left and the hedge was still overgrown. She also mentioned several parked cars and potted plants which were causing an obstruction to pedestrians. She informed the Parish Council that new residents had moved into a nearby property and one was in a wheelchair and would find it difficult to negotiate her way with these obstructions.

Councillor Brown stated that he had had a word with the resident concerned about the hedges and some work had been carried out.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident asking him to cut the hedges or that the Parish Council could arrange it for him and invoice him and also ensure there was appropriate access by moving some of the cars and plants.

Mrs Lamb asked the Chairman to sign a copy of the grass cutting agreement for the churchyard. Councillor Mrs Newman asked about the possibility on the right hand turn to Ulgham Grange stating 'not suitable for HGVs'. There have been recent problems in this area with large vehicles.

Councillor Towns stated that there had to be a legal order before a sign could be erected. He suggested the Parish Council raise this as part of their LTP submission later this year.

A resident asked who was responsible for the river Lyne as there were two fallen trees in the river.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been dealing with a similar issue with a tree in the ford at Ulgham Grange. Both the County Council and the Environment Agency had been involved and neither organisation would remove it. It had to prove a flood risk for the EA to get involved.

#### **82/17 MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 March 2018.

Further to minute 73/17 the Chairman reported that Councillor Brown had dealt with the issue of the commemorative seat at the playing field.

The painting of the play equipment was in hand.  
The pothole at the entrance to the Croft had been filled.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

## 83/17 **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(i) Update re War Memorial**

Councillor Brown was pleased to report that a grant of £8000 had been agreed by the Wind Farm Community Benefits Committee. This would cover over 90% of the cost of the project. It may be possible to ask Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council if they would contribute to the remaining sum.

There were conditions attached to the application and Councillor Brown had a copy of the discharge and conditions certificate.

He had arranged a site visit with Art of Stone on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April and he asked if the Clerk to write to the company to confirm their quote.

Councillor Brown expressed his thanks to the Clerk for the work carried out on the two grant applications, in particular, the Leader application which had been difficult to complete.

Councillor Brown indicated that he had written a draft letter to the War Memorials Trust which had been circulated to Councillors for approval. They agreed that this should be sent to the Trust.

The Chairman wished to formally record the thanks of the Parish Council to Councillor Brown for the many hours of work he had put into this project. It was much appreciated.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

### **(ii) General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

The Clerk reported that she had produced some policies and a consent form in respect of the above Regulations which would be introduced on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. She asked the Council to agree the documents which had been circulated.

She was attending some training on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April and hoped that things would become clearer after that.

She was concerned at the appointment of a Data Protection Officer (DPO). It was still unclear whether this could be the Clerk and she hoped that some guidance would be given at the training session. Various companies and organisations were offering to act as DPO for parish and town councils for a fee.

In relation to local organisations, it seemed that the majority of them would be exempt under the Regulations which was reassuring.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if NCC could assist with anything relating to this legislation which was difficult to implement in view of the small amount of resource most parish councils had.

RESOLVED – The information be received and the Parish Council approve the privacy policy and consent forms as circulated.

**(iii) Response from MP re GDPR**

A copy of a letter received from the MP, Mrs Trevelyan in respect of the impact of GDPR on small organisations had been circulated.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

**(iv) Information received from NCC re the Northumberland Local Plan - spring 2018 consultation**

The Clerk reported that information had been received from NCC regarding the above. The letter invited views on preferred locations for housing and employment development and the key planning issues the Local Plan should consider. The consultation was taking the form of an online spatial survey using an interactive map. Respondents are asked to mark the most appropriate places for housing and employment development.

The consultation ended on Wednesday 2 May 2018.

RESOLVED – Councillors would submit any proposals they had by the deadline date.

**84/17 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

**(i) Ulgham Village Committee**

A meeting had been held on 12 April.

It was reported that arrangements were well in hand for the Feast.

It was hoped that the classic cars display would be available.

There would be a separate competition for dogs and one for other pets.

The sculpture competition later in the year would be 'sport' themed. The newsletter would include some information on that.

The Cricket Club were holding training sessions for young people very soon over a period of several weeks. The children involved would be given a strip and other items.

The Cricket Club were also holding a Treasure Hunt on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The UVA had been very pleased to hear about the grant for the War Memorial project.

The issue of General Data Protection Regulations had been raised under any other business at the meeting. It was agreed that the constitution would be updated.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

**85/17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

- (a) Clerk, April salary, expenses, mileage £210.00
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) J M Champion – Emptying 5 dog waste bins and cleaning of 2 bus Shelters – February 2018 to February 2019 - £1152.90 (with discount)

## **86/17 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.**

The signs from the playing field were referred to. They had been removed and unscrewed and taken away. New ones including one extra had been ordered. A letter would be included as a flyer with the newsletter explaining why the signs were there. The new signs would be erected after the newsletter had gone out.

The Clerk was asked to contact the dog warden to obtain some information about the health risks of dog faeces.

The Clerk had obtained some dog waste bags which would be left in the WI hall for use by dog owners.

Councillor Mrs Shaw raised an issue about use of the refuse tips and felt the process was now so difficult that it was unsurprising there was fly tipping.

It was only possible to get three permits a year now and ID had to be produced before entry would be allowed. The vehicle was also checked against the permit.

Councillor Mrs Shaw felt the process had changed in the past few years.

Councillor Towns agreed to look into this.

Councillor Mrs Shaw also mentioned the commemorations for the end of WW1. She had carried out some research of the 'there but not there' campaign. The campaign had produced several items for sale, one of which was a life size silhouette of a soldier in aluminium which was very effective. They were expensive but had impact. There were also Perspex silhouettes to place on church seats which were also very effective.

Councillors were interested in this and the Clerk agreed to circulate some information on what was available. Councillor Towns reported that Cramlington TC had recently acquired one of the life size silhouettes.

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Wind Farm Community Benefits. There had been 8 applications and 5 had been approved with grants totalling £39,000 being awarded. The church had also received a grant and were delighted. Some concern had been expressed at the last meeting why some of the applications were refused. The three that had been refused were referred back to them with advice how they could reapply.

The next tranche of applications opens on the 25<sup>th</sup> June/

## **87/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 21 May 2018 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.