

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 15 January 2018

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman and Mrs H Shaw

Also in attendance 3 parishioners.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Towns

58/17 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A query was raised about the dogs housed at the Stables and whether they were out all night.

The resident mentioned that they barked at strange times of the day and night.

The Chairman stated that he regularly saw someone visiting in the early morning who was presumably there to feed them. There was also someone living there.

59/17 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 December 2017.

In relation to Minute 51/17 the Chairman reported that the work to cut back the tree obscuring the street light was to be carried out on Sunday 21 January.

Further to Minute 56/17 Councillor Brown reported on the situation relating to the property on Orchard Close. The tenants had moved out and the house required significant remedial works. The Chairman reported that the Wind Farm Benefit Fund was now open for the first round of applications. He would be attending the next meeting being held in February.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

60/17 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Update re War Memorial

Councillor Brown circulated some information regarding the above that he was proposing to send out with the next edition of the village newsletter.

The Clerk reported on progress in relation to the two grant applications. Both application forms had been started and she hoped to submit the Wind Farm application in the next few days. The Leader form was proving to be a little more difficult but she would be carrying out more work on this once the Wind Farm application had been submitted.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

(ii) Pharmacy Needs Assessment

Councillors were reminded that this matter had been deferred from the last meeting. The Clerk circulated a copy of the Executive summary as the document itself was over 120 pages long.

There were some queries regarding provision and the Clerk agreed to look at the document and send on any information relating to this. It appeared that Northumberland was well served by community pharmacies.

RESOLVED – The information be received and the Clerk be requested to circulate any additional information regarding location of pharmacy services to Members.

(iii) Letter from the MP to NCC Highways dated 8 December

A copy of a letter received from the MP that had been addressed to County Highways had been circulated previously. The letter related to a lack of consultation with a resident regarding the speed reduction measures discussed over the last few months. The County Councillor for Ulgham had sent a detailed reply to the MP and the Parish Council was confident that all residents had received the consultation via the newsletter.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

(iv) NCC Planning Training

The Clerk had just received a letter from NCC regarding several planning training sessions that had been organised by NCC. Three Councillors wished to attend the session at County Hall on 30 January between 6 and 8 and the Clerk agreed to book these places on their behalf.

RESOLVED – The information be received and the appropriate bookings made.

61/17 BUDGET – 2018-19

The Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft budget for consideration by the Parish Council for the forthcoming financial year.

The precept request had to be made to NCC by 29 January.

The Clerk reported that a slight increase had been made for the village warden duties and it was generally agreed that Mr Champion had made a good job of the grass cutting etc he had carried out last year. There was a need to have some work done on the bus shelters and this would be conveyed to the village warden.

The suggestion had been made to increase the precept by just under 2% on a band D property which would result in a precept of £11,000, which represented an increase of £200 overall.

RESOLVED – The draft budget for 2018-19 be approved and the Parish Council agree to levy a precept of £11,000 on Northumberland County Council.

62/17 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The UVA had met on Thursday 11 January. Councillor Brown had provided an update on the current situation with the War Memorial project.

The Feast day had been agreed for the first Saturday in July.

The costs for providing the newsletter this year would be £216 and the Parish Council usually agreed to provide half of those funds.

A theme was requested for the sculpture competition this year on 15/16 September and it was agreed by the Parish Council that they should have a 'sport for all' theme.

The UVA were pleased to learn that there was an increase in the numbers of residents attending the Rendezvous on a Wednesday morning. This had resulted in them having slightly more funds available. The table tennis was proving popular with those attending.

It was reported that St. John's Church was intending to hold an 'Owlfest' this year and a lot of ideas had been discussed. It would be held on first May Bank holiday weekend and all children would be encouraged to take part. Amongst other activities, there would be owl hunts in the churchyard and one around the village. Contact would be made with those residents who had owls in their gardens. It had been arranged for a company to bring an owl for people to see. This would be advertised in the village newsletter and website and it was hoped something could go into the Morpeth Herald.

63/17 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

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

64/17 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Newman had reported a fallen tree in the Ford leading to Ulgham Grange. The Clerk had reported this straight away and apologised that no action had been taken. She agreed to contact NCC the following day.

It was reported that the information sign at the Meadows car park area was in a poor state and discussion took place regarding possible repairs. If it could not be replaced then an application could be made the Wind Farm Community Benefit fund. The Chairman suggested it should be examined to see if it could be repaired and if not, it should be removed.

There were no further reports from Members.

65/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 19 February 2018 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.