

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 19th July 2021

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman and Mrs D Wilson

Also in attendance 5 parishioners

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs H Shaw and County Council D Towns.

20/21 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident reported that the chevron sign at the corner of Woodlands was missing and needed to be replaced. The one at the west end of the village was also obscured. The Clerk would report these to NCC.

He also mentioned that the County Councillor was going to look at the possibility of moving the bus stop and asked if any progress had been made. The Chairman stated that he was sure this would be dealt with, but it had to go through the Highways department as well as the County Councillors small schemes projects.

The resident also mentioned that he was currently having his wood thinned out and the work would be noisy. The work would take 2 to 4 weeks and had already started. He asked if any reports of noise could be relayed to him. He stressed that he would not allow the contractor to work on a Sunday and only limited hours on a Saturday.

In relation to the caravan site covenant discussed at the last meeting, the resident reported that the agreement to lift it early had been rescinded and the covenant would be in place until September 2022.

Another resident asked about the speed sign possibly being moved due to the caravan site opening.

The Chairman reported that there was no justification for the sign to be moved. The Parish Council might support a concealed entrance sign.

A resident mentioned that he had contacted NCC about the public footpaths. He received the usual reply that this work was not on the list.

The Chairman reported that a highways inspector had been in the village inspecting works that had already been carried out. There were concerns about the reinstatement works on Main Street.

21/21 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st June 2021.

In relation to 12/21, the Chairman reported that he had treated the stone seat with some stone cleaning solution. He commented that it was designed to represent a dry-stone wall. It was not meant to look like the stone of the war memorial.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

22/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Northumberland Local Plan Examination – Proposed main modifications - consultation between 9th June – 4th August 2021.

Councillors were reminded that comments re the above had to be submitted to NCC by 5.00 p.m. on the 4th August 2021.

The Clerk had been reading through the document and had found a reference to a modification to Policy INF 5 relating to protected open space, the following had been included in the document:

Policy INF 5 – Protection of open spaces

The modification states “that inclusion of cemeteries and churchyards as protected open space does not accord with the Council’s evidence and methodology for designation of open space as set out in the review of Open Space in Northumberland Technical Paper 2018. Modifications to delete Cemeteries and Churchyards is required to ensure the Plan is positively prepared having regard to the available evidence and is consistent with national policy in regard to the protection of open space”.

This affected many cemeteries and churchyards in the County including St John’s at Ulgham. The Clerk had asked for clarification on this and would report back to the Church and to the Parish Council.

(ii) Planning application 21/02220/FUL – Pine Grange Ulgham

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had objected to the above planning application. The applicant had been in contact to question the validity of the objection. This was ongoing.

23/21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The Treasurer reported that he was finding it difficult to weed and water the flower display on the east side of the village.

He suggested replacing this with a raised bed and he asked for direction from the Parish Council.

He had approached someone from the village and a design and price had been received, details of which were circulated to the Parish Council who would be asked to give a donation towards this bed if it went ahead.

The Parish Council agreed to look at the suggestion and report back. It was also mentioned that there were alternative planters which could be purchased which looked like wood but were recycled plastic. These would also be looked at by Councillors.

24/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, July 21 salary, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) JM Champion – Grass cutting in village, cutting of meadow - £550

25/21 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Newman reported that she had received two separate complaints about the state of the roads with weeds at the side.

Councillor Mrs Wilson reported that drains were blocked, one outside of School House and the one on the corner of the Ulgham Lane junction, this side of the WI Hall. A further one outside of Linden Grove was also blocked. The Clerk agreed to report these to NCC.

She also mentioned the condition of the Parish Council notice board. It could be a task for one of the Councillors to carry out some maintenance on the board using stain and varnish.

Councillor Brown queried when some weedkilling would be carried out in the village. The Clerk agreed to contact NCC to find out.

He also made reference to work being carried out on Sunday which was thought to be unnecessary.

26/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20th September 2021 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.