

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 20th September 2021

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors G Brown and Mrs H Shaw

Also in attendance 11 parishioners

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs L Newman, Mrs D Wilson and County Council D Towns.

27/21 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

The Chairman reported that Councillor Mrs Wilson was unable to attend the meeting due to testing positive for Covid-19. Therefore, item 4(iv) on the agenda would be deferred to the October meeting.

A resident asked the Parish Council if they could advise her what was going to happen to the green space in the middle of the village next to the shop. She was concerned as she felt it was necessary to maintain green spaces wherever possible.

The Chairman reported that it appeared the land was unregistered and there had to be a boundary to claim the land.

A resident stated that he was trying to find out who owned the land next to the shop from the Estates Officer at NCC. He had not received a reply. He asked if the County Council had any claim on this land and the area of land behind the bus shelter.

A comment was made by a resident that the trees belonged to the County Council and the Holly tree had been cut down.

The Chairman stated that he had cut down the tree as it was a safety issue and was on land that belonged to the shop owner. There were no TPOs on the trees. The Chairman had spoken to the Tree Officer at NCC the previous week.

If a tree overhangs people's property, they are able to cut them back and give the cuttings back to the owner.

A further request was made by another resident to ensure the green space in question was retained as there were concerns locally about what the plans were for this area.

Some further claim was made about the owners of the shop contacting the Land Registry in relation to the path.

Concerns were also raised regarding potential increased traffic.

The Chairman stated that all of the issues raised would need to be discussed at the next meeting.

The resident who had reported in July about his wood being thinned out stated that the work had been completed however there may be some residual work carried out in October which may result in some noise. He apologised to anyone who had been disturbed by the work.

28/21 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th July 2021.

In relation to Minute 25/21 it was reported that the work to the gullies had still not been carried out. The Clerk stated that she had reported this the day after the last meeting and would report it again.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

29/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2022-23 – Letter and documentation from NCC

Information in relation to the above had been circulated to Councillors. Submissions were requested by 8th October 2021.

Of the two priorities submitted for the 2021-22 LTP, one item had been included and that was in respect of an unsuitable for HGV sign at either end of the Grange Road.

It was suggested that moving the bus stop from opposite the Church around the corner to opposite Meadowvale cottage and adjacent to the streetlight would improve the safety for users together with a dropped kerb for the footpath. Councillors agreed that this item should be submitted as their priority.

RESOLVED – The above item be submitted to NCC as priorities for the LTP for 2022-23.

(ii) Email from NCC re Climate Change

An email had been received from NCC regarding a consultation on Climate Change. Parish and town Councils were being asked three questions about whether they had declared a climate emergency; do they have plans to do this and if not, what support did they require and would parish and town councils like the support of NCC to help with climate change plans.

There was some debate on this item as the Parish Council felt that their role would be to encourage residents to support climate change in various ways.

The Clerk was asked to find out if there was any information available about what small parish councils could do to support climate change. This was agreed.

(iii) NCC Consultation on Planning validation checklist

Councillors had been informed of the above consultation circulated by NCC. Comments were required by 8th October 2021.

The Clerk was asked to provide a hard copy for Councillors to consider and decide if they wished to respond to the document.

(iv) Vacant posts on Morpeth Sports Council

The Clerk reported that she had received an email this evening from the retiring secretary of the above organisation. The Sports Council was seeking new volunteer committee members to fill the vacant posts of secretary and treasurer.

The Clerk was asked to find out the deadline for submissions and report back.

30/21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The Chairman reported that the UVA had recently met.

It had been agreed to hold the November 5th firework event, this would be confirmed nearer the time and subject to any changes in the situation with Covid-19.

Comments had been received about the newsletter stating that the print was too small and there were no pictures included in the publication. It was agreed at the meeting to produce the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis to include reports of local interest. The first issue would be produced in November/December. The UVA would be interested to receive comments once it went out to residents.

The UVA were looking for some new containers for some flower arrangements to coincide with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested that there were more areas in the village that could accommodate the planters.

Work was ongoing to change the UVA bank account and it was hoped this would be completed soon.

The Treasurer of the UVA asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to meet the cost of replacing the grit on the boules pitch. It was 31.5 feet by 10 feet by 2 inches in depth. A price would be sought for the materials.

It was hoped to hold an Autumn picnic on 9th October.

31/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, September 21 salary, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Wicksteed Ltd – Payment for two replacement swing seats plus carriage (replaced needed due to inappropriate use) - £325.50
- (d) JM Champion – Grass cutting in village, village warden duties - £500

32/21 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if it would be possible to ask if the street cleaner could be deployed to the village to pick up the large amounts of straw dropped by farm vehicles.

The Chairman stated that the Wind Farm committee would be meeting in October.

33/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 18th October 2021 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.