

## ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs D Wilson

Also in attendance 10 parishioners

An apology for absence was received from County Council D Towns.

#### **34/21 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

A resident asked if he would be able to ask questions after the presentation being made this evening at item 4(i).

The Chairman reported that Mr Dave Wilson would be giving a presentation regarding the shop and then he and his wife, Councillor Deb Wilson would stay behind after the meeting to deal with any questions.

A resident mentioned that a gate had been hit by a car at the west end of the village and he asked if it had been reported. The Clerk was asked to report this as well as the damage to the traffic sign.

A resident had been asked to report that the footpath leading to the meadows was very slippery. The Chairman reported that there was nothing the Parish Council could do about the path but their contractor had been asked to cut the hedge in that area and that would be carried out in the near future.

Two residents who were new to the village asked if the Parish Council knew what was happening with the public house. It was reported that it was likely that this was still going through probate, however the building had been listed as an asset of community value by NCC which lasted for five years and could be renewed when this lapsed.

Councillor Brown had been asked to report the trees on the corner of Ulgham Lane which a resident felt were obstructing the streetlight. The Clerk was asked to report this.

The Treasurer of the UVA stated that the Association would normally be applying for a grant towards the costs of the firework display however, he asked if that could be held in abeyance for now as the UVA were still in the process of changing their bank account. The normal amount paid by the Parish Council was £200 and it was agreed that that amount could be paid once the new account was operational.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for managing to get NCC to carry out the clearance of the drain at Fir Tree Cottage. Two other blocked gullies had been reported and would be followed up.

The Chairman stated that he had been informed that one or two residents had complained that 20 minutes was not enough time for public questions at the meetings. He stated that the parish council did not have to allow any time at all for public questions as this was discretionary. He stated that some parish and town councils asked for written notice of questions, 7 days in advance. The Parish Council were pleased to continue with public questions but there were no plans to extend this time.

He had also heard that one query that had been raised had been done so anonymously by contacting a resident who was not on the Parish Council. He did not believe this was

acceptable. The contact details for Parish Councillors were included in every newsletter and he expected residents to put questions to them direct if they wished to receive an answer either at the meeting or in writing.

He also understood that a query had been made about the minutes not being on the website in advance of the next meeting. He reported that they required approval by the Parish Council, and they would appear on the website after the meeting. Copies were available for the public who attended the meetings.

### **35/21 MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

In relation to minute 29/21(i) it was reported that the Council's response to the LTP for 2022-23 had been submitted to NCC.

In response to a query, the Clerk stated that she had not yet found anything relevant for a small parish council in relation to climate change. She also reported that she had asked for the street sweeper to attend the village.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

### **36/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **(i) Communication of plans for the old exchange/antique shop**

Mr Dave Wilson, the joint owner of the above premises introduced himself to those present and stated that he has lived Ulgham with his wife, Councillor Deb Wilson for 20 years, brought their children up in the village and intend to stay in the village. He wanted to get more involved in village life since his semi-retirement and had previously helped out with various things such as the speed indicator sign installation and retrieval of data amongst other things.

He and his wife had bought the property as he did not like the idea of someone from outside the village buying with less of the village interests at heart, for example a takeaway. His wife had included the ownership of the property on her declaration of interest form when she became a Councillor in May of this year.

The ideas that they had for the premises had been discussed with interested residents who lived nearby, and he had visited certain residents on several occasions. He was disappointed with some of the things he had heard were being said when he had been upfront about thoughts and ideas for the shop. He therefore wanted to dispel some of the myths that were being shared in the village.

The Holly tree had been taken down as the roots had been found to be in the foundations of the property. They were conscious of parking issues on the Croft and were investigating alternative solutions. They had checked with the Land Registry and NCC and the land at the side of the

shop was unregistered. He and his wife were not looking to take down all of the trees or to have parking spaces. There were alternatives that would be shown to those interested after the meeting.

Mr Wilson stated that he was not wishing to upset anyone but to make this venture a positive contribution to the village. He intended to keep residents informed and would arrange to attend a future meeting when necessary.

The proposal that he and his wife have for the rear of the premises was not a business but to enable an established charity to provide its services in the North East.

He explained that his wife, a trained neonatal nurse practitioner, who is also semi-retired, proposes to work with the Hearts breastmilk bank charity to support the provision of donated breastmilk to mothers of sick and pre-term babies. The aim is to also help other groups benefit from human milk when their mother's own milk is not available, such as those who are undergoing chemotherapy or with illnesses that can make breastfeeding impossible.

He was sure those present had heard of Blood Bikes where volunteers on motorbikes carried blood products for the NHS where needed in the country. They also work with other charitable organisations such as the Human Milk Foundation and transport donated breast milk to where needed in the country. The bikes would turn up on occasions to drop off and pick up supplies of breast milk. The shop would house several freezers to store the milk. This service is currently not available anywhere else in the North East, with the nearest facility in Glasgow.

Mr Wilson had the new proposed plans with him at the meeting and assured they had been viewed and discussed with Building Control. They comprise of a reception area, a small office, freezers at the back and toilet facilities. The plans also showed the boundaries of ownership. The mining and mineral rights were owned by the Joicey family and the green space was unregistered but maintained by NCC. NCC have confirmed that they do not own any land in the village.

Mr Wilson was thanked for his presentation and questions would be dealt with once the meeting had closed.

Links to the Blood bikes and Hearts milk bank were set out below:

<https://www.bloodbikes.org.uk>

<https://heartsmilkbank.org/about-us/>

**(ii) Request for donation from the Great North Air Ambulance**

A letter had been received from the above-mentioned organisation seeking a donation towards the costs of running their operation. A previous donation had been granted some time ago.

RESOLVED – A donation of £50 to the GNAA was agreed.

**(iii) Planning application 20/03851/COU – Change of use from field to construct a riding arena**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from an objector to the above plans. The plans had been the subject of discussion at a recent meeting the Castle Morpeth Local Area

Council meeting when it had been found that the land in question may be green belt and not green field as stated. The application had been deferred pending further enquiries regarding the status of the land. The author of the email was asking the Parish Council to consider the information provided.

It was stated that the Parish Council had initially objected to the application but after having sight of a statement from the applicant and a site visit with the owner, it had been agreed to withdraw the objection.

The Clerk had asked the objector to advise her when a new report was available on the planning portal.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

### **37/21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

#### **(i) Ulgham Village Committee**

The Chairman of the UVA reported on the ongoing situation regarding changing over the bank account for the UVA. This was becoming a real issue and it was hoped this could be resolved soon.

The firework display on the 5<sup>th</sup> November was planned to go ahead and preparations were underway. The UVA were seeking volunteers to make soup.

The Autumn picnic had taken place on the 9<sup>th</sup> October with some mixed weather. There were 40 people in attendance who had enjoyed the event. She expressed disappointment that more residents had not attended.

The Chairman wished to express the thanks of the UVA to Councillor Deb Wilson who had given up a lot of time to help with the newsletter. She hoped everyone would enjoy the new format. She confirmed that the contact details for the Parish Councillors were included in the publication.

### **38/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

- (a) Clerk, October 21 salary, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £92.00

### **39/21 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

The Chairman reported that the Wind Farm meeting had taken place on 12 October. He could not divulge who would be receiving grants. A limit of £20,000 has been set for each application. He reported that some applicants had submitted two applications which totalled more than £20k. The next round of bidding opened in January.

It was reported that the gate next to the Meadows was now on the ground. This needed to be discussed as soon as possible with the person who had agreed to install a stile. Two posts were needed.

**40/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.