

## **ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

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

An apology for absence was received from the Clerk.

Four parishioners were also in attendance.

#### **55/21 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Prior to questions being taken it was announced that the representative from Sanders had stated that she could not attend this meeting as she needed further clarification on a number of points from the County Council. It was hoped she could attend the next meeting in February.

A resident had reported suspicious acts of poisoning. One dog had possibly been poisoned with fruit that had been treated with a substance. This had happened at Ulgham Park and near to the substation.

A large quantity of rubbish had been dumped on Ulgham Lane and this had been reported to NCC as fly tipping. The Chairman suggested looking at the cost of cameras along this lane.

There had been two planning objections made to the Southcroft Stables development.

#### **56/21 MINUTES**

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

In relation to Minute 49/21, it was stated that the situation with the Cricket Club would be dealt with under correspondence.

Further to Minute 51/21, it was reported that the UVA AGM would now be held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

In relation to Minute 53/21, the footpath had been cleared on the north and south side.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

#### **57/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **(i) Correspondence from a resident re the proposed location for the Cricket Club Practice nets**

The Clerk had received an email from a resident who expressed some concerns at the proposal to have the nets so close to their property. The Cricket Club had spoken to the four properties involved and three had no objection. They had agreed to one formal practice session a week.

**(ii) Letter from NCC Chair of the NCC Storm Arwen Review Task and Finish Group**

A copy of the above letter and Scoping report had been received from NCC on the day of the meeting. It had been circulated to Councillors for consideration.

RESOLVED – Any comments would be sent to NCC.

**(iii) Climate Change Q&A event – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Parish Council had received an invitation to the above event to be held on Zoom on 19<sup>th</sup> January from 5.00 p.m.

Parish Councillors were unable to attend the event.

**58/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022-23**

Notification had been received from NCC that precept requests had to be made to them by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

A draft budget together with two options for the precept had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

In relation to Ulgham the tax base figures had gone down from 173.08 this year to 172.59 in 2022-23.

This meant that if the precept was left the same as the one for 2021-22 (£11,400), due to the change in the tax base figure, this would mean an increase on the Band D figure of 0.28% or .49p per annum. The Band D figure would be £66.05 per annum in 2022-23 up from £65.87 in the current financial year.

A further option 2 would be to leave the Band D figure the same for this year (£65.87) which would mean a reduction in the precept to £11,368.

After some consideration, the Council decided to go with the first option and leave the precept the same for 2022-23.

There was some discussion on the costs for the work to empty dog bins and clean the bus shelters. A breakdown of costs had been received and it was agreed to remove the cleaning of bus shelters from the work schedule which would save £300 per annum. It was understood that the cleaning would be carried out by others on a voluntary basis.

There may be grants available from NCC for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED –The budget be approved and a precept request of £11,400 be levied on Northumberland County Council for 2022-23.

**59/21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

**(i) Ulgham Village Committee**

There was nothing to report until after the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

## 60/21 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

- (a) Clerk, January 2 salary - £137.56
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) JM Champion – Cutting hedge and clearing of paths - £200
- (d) NCC – additional grass cutting in 2021-22 - £189.28

## 61/21 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

Councillor Brown questioned why there was a budget figure for the war memorial. It was thought that a small amount was being included to build up a fund for cleaning etc.

Councillor Mrs Wilson stated that more information should be received regarding the library service including information about new mobile vans.

A reading of the speed indicator sign had been taken and the speed data would be available on the website.

## 62/21 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 21<sup>ST</sup> February 2022 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.