

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 25th April 2022

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

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

County Councillor Towns was also in attendance

Four parishioners were also in attendance.

77/21 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A query was raised about whether the UVA bid to the Wind Farm had been successful. The Chairman reported that the meeting was to be held the following evening.

A resident congratulated the Parish Council on the recent objection they submitted in respect of the new entrance to the Stables development.

78/21 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 March 2022.

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that another resident had asked to be part of the Meadows group. The Chairman stated that it may be possible to have a walk around the Meadows on the forthcoming bank holiday Monday depending on availability.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

79/21 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Northumbria Connected – letter from Northumbria Police

The Clerk reported that the above letter had been received on 20th April which had been circulated to Councillors. It included a message from the Assistant Chief Constable of Northumbria Police who was leading on the issue of communities in the region.

Northumbria Connected was a new tool that ensured the Police were delivering on the issues that affect all of our communities across the North East.

The letter included details of how to sign up and subscribe to the initiative which could be viewed at www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk

Councillor Mrs Wilson had tried to make contact to find out more but could not get in touch with anyone.

The information was noted.

(ii) Expression of interest for trees – email received from NCC.

The Clerk was asked to submit an expression of interest to NCC.

80/21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that discussions continued in relation to the Platinum Jubilee. It had been agreed that every household in the parish would receive a pack of red, white and blue seeds to commemorate the Jubilee. These would be distributed with the next newsletter.

On Saturday 4th June there would be a plant sale in aid of a charity and in the afternoon a Duck Race would be held.

On Sunday 5th June everyone was invited to a Jubilee picnic in the park. People can bring their own picnic but refreshments (tea/coffee etc), cake and ice cream would be available. There would be attractions and amusement stalls available and this was a free event.

Volunteers to help with baking etc were being asked to come forward.

Photographs would be taken by a local resident.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned the response from NCC about the bunting which had stated that NCC would be unable to give permission to hang this from Northern Powergrid poles although they did not mind it going on the lampposts.

It was suggested that the bunting be hung from trees and bushes along both sides of the main street through the village.

It was mentioned that it was difficult to communicate with NCC and a query was raised about staff returning to the office. Councillor Towns stated that flexible working was being offered to staff which had been on offer prior to the Pandemic.

81/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Prior to approval of the accounts, the Clerk was asked to report on the current situation with the parish council's banking providers, NatWest.

The parish council was currently subject to a business profile review however, due to mail being sent to the Clerk's address that was for a previous Councillor, this had been missed. The payments from the last meeting had not been honoured as the Bank had not received a response. Further cheques had to be issued.

Councillor Mrs Shaw and the Clerk had contacted the bank several times about this however, when the Clerk tried to complete the business profile, the parish council was designated as a church and therefore the relevant documents could not be produced. Despite several phone calls and as late as the afternoon of this meeting, the designation had not been changed. The Clerk was now looking at a new online bank account for the parish council. The Council only had until 20th May to get this changed before the account would be blocked again. Councillor Mrs Shaw felt there was some possibility of an extension.

The difficulty of producing documents that proved the organisation was a parish council was noted. Councillor Towns said that details of all parish councils were on the NCC website and

the Clerks name and address appeared on there. He said if NCC could offer any help with this he would do what he could.

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

- (a) Clerk, April 2022 salary and mileage - £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) NALC Annual Subscription - £108.40
- (d) Glasdon UK Limited – new bin - £447.27

82/21 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Wilson reported that she was trying to help a resident in relation to a bridleway on the old UK coal site. She would report back when she had more information.

There was some feedback on the presentation given by Adrian Jonas on the electric car share project which was still ongoing.

Several people had attended a meeting on 11th April and Mr Jonas was going to see if he could have a presence at the Jubilee Day event on the Sunday. There would be some flyers which would help residents understand what was being proposed.

Mr Jonas was looking to get a test project in place to make the village an example of what could be done. Ulgham would be a pilot study if enough residents got involved. Octopus were doing a similar scheme in Sussex with Tesla.

Councillor Towns stated that NCC were doing quite well with their pledge for 2030 and they may be able to lend some support to the project.

Councillor Mrs Newman stated that a number of people were asking what was happening with the Forge public house. There was nothing to report on this at present.

Councillor Mrs Shaw stated that there was a tree coming out of the Forge Estate which was on the verge against the car park wall which was dead. It was agreed this would be looked at.

83/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.