

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 20th June 2022

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown and Mrs H Shaw

County Councillor D Towns was also in attendance

Also in attendance 4 parishioners

12/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident referred to a report by NCC Highways in relation to the land north of Southcroft Stables application, he thought it was a well-argued report. The Chairman said that he would look at it on the planning portal.

Another resident said he thought the village looked fantastic with the hanging baskets and the new planters. He was however concerned at the condition of the former public house. The Chairman stated that there was nothing that could be done at the moment although it was an asset of community value.

The resident stated that he had provided the wrong information at the last meeting regarding the Pegasus crossing at Seaton Delaval. The speed limit had been reduced on the approach to the crossing.

The Chairman stated that he had looked into this following the last meeting and he had been informed that there had to be streetlights and the speed reduced to 30mph for a Pegasus crossing. They also cost around £250,000 to install. He felt it was unlikely to happen on the haul road due to the costs involved. The Chairman said he would prefer it was left open for a bridleway.

The Chairman had been asked to report an incident of fly tipping at Ulgham Grange ford by Councillor Newman. There was some discussion about the use of cameras and signage etc and the legalities involved with GDPR. It was felt that some signage should be erected.

Councillor Shaw mentioned the Widdrington Regeneration Partnership. A meeting was going to be arranged to discuss the remaining funds. They had been advised that if the organisation was wound up, any monies remaining had to be spent on something collectively for all of the parishes involved.

13/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on .16th May 2022.

In relation to Minute 5/22 the Chairman reported that he had examined the tree which was a Yew and it may have to be left as the trees were poisonous.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

14/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Local Transport Plan 2023-24 (LTP) – Information from Northumberland County Council

A copy of the information received from NCC in relation to the LTP for 2023-24 had been circulated. Members were informed that the deadline had been brought forward to the 29th July.

It was reported that the priority submitted by the Parish Council for 2022-23 had been included in the LTP programme, subject to a road safety audit. This related to a request for the bus stop situated at the church being moved around the corner to opposite Meadowvale Cottage at the east end of the village.

A list of requests received by NCC Highways from public in relation to Ulgham parish was also circulated for information.

One of the suggestions related to the extension of the footpath at Rowan Tree Cottage and it was agreed that this should be included as the first priority.

It was suggested that a cycleway to Longhirst should also be submitted as it met much of the criteria although it was recognised it may not be accepted due to the costs involved.

RESOLVED – The two items listed above be included as priority 1 and 2 from the Parish Council for the LTP for 2023-24.

15/22 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021-22

A copy of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2021-22 had been circulated to Councillors together with a report prepared by the Clerk to the Council. Councillors were asked to consider and agree the various sections of the AGAR and to approve the draft annual accounts for 2021-22.

As the Council's income and expenditure was below the limit of £25,000, the Parish Council were asked to decide whether they wished to approve and submit the Certificate of Exemption for 2021-22.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Parish Council approved the report of the internal auditor as set out within the AGAR.
- (ii) The Parish Council approved the Annual Governance Statement as set out within the AGAR.
- (iii) The Parish Council approved the draft final accounts for 2021-22.
- (iv) The Parish Council approved the accounting statement and explanation of variances as circulated.

- (v) The Parish Council confirmed and approved the Certificate of Exemption and agreed that this be submitted to the external Auditors, PKF Littlejohn.
- (vi) The Parish Council agreed the suggested dates for the exercise of public rights which were from 28th June until 8th August 2022

16/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Shaw reported that it had been a successful Jubilee weekend for the village, there had been a lot of activities and the village had looked lovely.

The sum of £550 had been raised from the plant sale and the Duck race had had 34 entries.

The afternoon picnic had been well attended with music and entertainment taking place.

The hanging baskets were looking very good, and she wished to thank those people responsible for the planting and watering of them.

The next event for the Village Committee was the fireworks event.

A few members of the UVA had been discussing the remembrance metal seat purchased when the War Memorial work was completed. They had looked at other designs for a seat to be located in the middle of the village next to the bus stop outside of the WI hall. They had found a new design which included owls and hedgehogs and they were going to look into purchasing one. They felt this would commemorate the village coming through the Pandemic and also the fact the Parish Council was 30 years old this year. Funds were to be examined and Peter Barratt from the Community Foundation was going to look at the other funds that they managed to see if there were other suitable sources of grants available to fund some of the costs.

17/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, June 22 salary, expenses, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60

18/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned the poor condition of parts of the Crowden Hill road. She also mentioned that signage was still down in the village following Storm Arwen. This would be reported again.

Councillor Mrs Shaw also mentioned parking on the pavement. She understood that there would soon be new legislation which would give principal councils the powers to deal with this issue rather than the Police.

Councillor Towns stated that he understood there was a discretionary element to this and that councils would not be forced to take on this matter. If there was an obstruction issue, the Police would still be involved.

Mr Dave Wilson was asked to give a brief update on the Ulgham village Vehicle to Grid (V2G) rural pilot. He had attended a remote meeting earlier in the day. It was hoped that 25 cars and chargers would be funded. Mr Jonas had spoken to several people at the Jubilee picnic and

there were currently 7 residents who had expressed an interest. He had good support from the County Council. He has a couple of people from Dundee and Edinburgh Universities who were willing to produce studies into the project.

A number of volunteer placements would be starting work soon for the new company called 'Moxie Energy.' These were mainly university students and school leavers.

Northern Powergrid would be starting to monitor the substation at the Croft to work out what may happen when 25 car chargers start using it.

Mr Wilson was thanked for the update.

19/22 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 18th July 2022 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.