

These minutes are in draft and have not yet been agreed by the Parish Council

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 18th July 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 County Councillor D Towns

Also in attendance 7 parishioners

20/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

Residents from Manor Court were in attendance to register their objection to the planning application for the installation of the practice facility on the playing field. They had submitted objections to Northumberland County Council.

They stated that it was not shown on the plans how close the facility would be to their home. They had a garden seating area where it is thought the structure would be and if this facility was used regularly then the constant noise would be unacceptable. They said that the facility would be higher than their hedge and would impact on the outlook from their property. They also said that they were not against the application but that it should be sited elsewhere on the field. They extended an invitation to parish councillors to visit their property to see the issues for themselves.

The resident provided photographs and more detailed comments to the Chair.

Another neighbouring resident who was in attendance had also submitted an objection to the application. He also believed there was no reason why the nets could not be moved to another location on the field which would not impact on properties in Manor Court.

The Chairman reported that Councillors had had some informal discussions with the Cricket Club. He believed that the club had said that there were no other suitable locations for the facility and there was some discussion on that at the meeting. A suggestion to locate it at the other side of the pavilion was made but it was stated that this would impact on access to the septic tank which was in that location.

The Chairman stated that it would be good facility for the club, who had raised £20,000 to enable them to acquire the nets.

He believed that a representative of the Cricket club had met with one of the residents at the meeting tonight. This had happened but the resident advised the Parish Council that the Cricket Club representative had said the Parish Council wanted them in the location set out in the planning application.

The Chairman said this was incorrect and that there had not been any discussions with the Cricket Club about the location. They had discussed the frequency of use and were told that they would be used on a training night, once per week for a couple of hours.

The resident pointed out that there were several supporting comments on the NCC planning portal from people who lived outside of the area. She believed that the parish council should be supportive of the interests of their residents.

A resident who had attended the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council meeting on the 11th July thanked the Chairman for attending and raising the PC objection to the application for the road at Southcroft Stables. He was angry at what had happened at the meeting. The Planning officer had not mentioned the report by NCC Highways which was recommending refusal or withdrawal. He was unhappy with the way the meeting had been handled. The Chairman agreed with what had been said and he reported that the Parish Council had submitted a letter of complaint about what had taken place at the meeting. The decision letter had been received swiftly after the meeting and had been circulated to members.

The information had been picked up by one of the local newspapers who had published an online article.

Mr Jonas was in attendance to provide a brief update on the current situation with the Grid (V2G) pilot project. He reported that they were now halfway through the summer placement programme and the preliminary GDPR work had been completed. Surveys were ready to be distributed to residents and the wider public in Northumberland. They knew that they could install 22kw chargers in residential communities compared to 7kw which would reduce the charging time from 8 to 2 to 3 hours. They were still working on the infrastructure to maintain the batteries of the vehicles. The company were looking to do knowledge transfer partnerships with the universities of Edinburgh and Durham. This would look at energy audit usage which would involve the installation of meters. They would be seeking council support for this. This would help users to know how they could save money.

The project did not yet have 25 people. Funds were difficult to come by, but they were currently seeking funds for around £50,000.

Mr Jonas was thanked for the update provided.

21/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th June 2022.

In relation to Minute 18/22 the Chairman reported that work had been carried out today on the Crowden Hill road and work was due to start on the Forge estate in the following week. Residents had been notified.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

22/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) PLAYSAFETY- INSPECTION REPORT

A copy of the report was provided to the Chairman at the meeting.

(i) PLANNING INFORMATION

The following planning information had been received since the last meeting. All information had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

(ii) Planning applications received since last meeting:

- (a) 22/02225/FELTPOTPO application to tell 1 Sycamore and leave trunk – 21 The Croft – No comments
- (b) Installation of of 30m by 3.65m carpeted single bay 22/01923/FUL practice facility – Ulgham Play Field– No comments
- (c) 22/0216/LBC - Replacement of solar thermal collectors with black photovoltaic in-roof panels, installation of heat pump and conversion of swimming pool to garden room - The Manor House – No comments
- (d) 21/04875/FUL – land north of Southcroft Stables, Ulgham – Notice of decision from NCC. This had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

(iii) NCC VETERANS NEEDS SURVEY

A copy of information received from NCC re the above had been circulated prior to the meeting and with the agenda.

NCC had engaged an Armed Forces Engagement officer who had been tasked with carrying out research into homelessness across Armed Forces constituents and to look at recommendations to address any issues raised.

All parish and town councils were being asked to respond to the 5 questions posed in the email received. The deadline for responses was 31st August 2022.

RESOLVED – Councillor Brown agreed to contact the officer and to submit some comments by the deadline date.

23/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that the Committee had received a thank you for the Lewy Body dementia donation that had been made from the plan plant sale. A total of £556 had been sent to the organisation who were able to claim a further £139 in gift aid. This would go towards the cost of PHD research students at Newcastle University.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned the decorative seat she had referred to at the last meeting. This would celebrate 30 years of the Parish Council. The UVA were willing to put £500 towards the cost and she hoped the Parish Council would match that donation. Further funds would be sought from the Community Foundation who were willing to assist with finding a suitable grant aid body from the others that they managed. It was hoped to put the seat at the bus stop outside of the WI Hall and the existing seat would be moved to another location.

24/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, July 22 salary, expenses, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Playsafety Limited – Inspection of play area - £109.20
- (d) Ulgham PCC – half share of 8 cuts of the churchyard - £840
- (e) JM Champion – 2nd payment for emptying dog waste bins - £500 and four cuts in the village and cutting of the meadow - £550
- (f) Mr A Guy – Hedge cutting - £60

18/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Newman asked if it would be possible to put information on the website about utility works at Ulgham Grange later in the year. Residents had received a letter from the Rail company.

19/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 19th September 2022 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.