

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 26th September 2022

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs D Wilson
In attendance County Councillor D Towns
Also in attendance 3 parishioners

27/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

The Chairman wished to thank everyone who had been involved with the work carried out in the village etc in memory of HM the Queen. It was much appreciated.

A resident from Ulgham Grange was in attendance regarding inappropriate traffic using the grange road. The Chairman had advised her that the Parish Council had asked for 'unsuitable for HGV traffic' signs several years ago as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) submission. He believed they had been agreed but had not been installed.

The resident said that there was a school minibus using the road which was unsuitable. The resident had emailed the company and explained that the vehicle was too big for the road, and they had agreed to speak to the driver. However, the vehicle was still using the road.

The resident was grateful for the speedy repairs to the cable at the ford and Councillor Brown who had contacted Highways was thanked for doing this.

It was also reported that whoever was doing the hedge cutting in that area had knocked down all the signs for the passing places. There were concerns that the road usage was going to get worse with the new houses being built behind the doctors surgery.

The resident stated that some red squirrel signs had been erected along the road.

28/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2022.

In relation to Minute 20/22, it was reported that in relation to the application for the practice facility for the Cricket club, the planning officer had asked for an environmental impact statement. The timescale for the grant from the Community Foundation would be extended. With regard to Minute 22/22 (iii) Councillor Brown reported that the county officer was going to get back to him about the Veterans Needs survey but had not yet been in touch. He did not believe that this impacted on the village.

In relation to the safety report for the play area, the Chair reported that there were a few items which required attention.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

29/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Complaint re planning decision re application 21/04875/FUL, new vehicular access to four permitted dwellings, land north of South Croft stables- Stage 2 complaint

It was reported that the Parish Council had submitted a complaint to NCC regarding the way in which the above application had been handled at the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council meeting held on 11th July. Several issues had been outlined in their complaint.

The complaint had progressed to stage 2 however, a lengthy letter had been received from NCC outlining why they would not uphold the complaint and suggesting that if the Parish Council were still dissatisfied, they could go to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Councillor Towns said that he could not comment on the application or the complaint but advised Councillors that once the decision notice had been issued, it could not be rescinded. The Parish Council could go for a judicial review, but the expense involved would make this prohibitive.

He did say that if the Parish Council wished to challenge the minutes of that meeting, he could raise their concerns at the next meeting on their behalf.

There was a long debate on this item, and it was eventually agreed that the Parish Council would progress this to the Local Government Ombudsman. This would have to include a clear statement about why the Parish Council felt that the response received was insufficient and did not address some of the key issues raised.

RESOLVED – A submission be sent to the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to this issue.

30/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that a meeting was being held on the 27th September with the secretary of the UVA to discuss what needed to be done before Christmas and in particular a date for the AGM.

The main activity for the UVA would be the firework display.

Councillor Mrs Shaw wished to thank everyone who had been involved with the summer planting project.

31/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, September 22 salary, expenses, mileage, condolence book - £170.65
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60

32/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Wilson reported that she had received comments about overhanging hedges making walking on the footpaths difficult. She said that she would include an article in the next newsletter.

Councillor Mrs Shaw queried when the condolence books had to be left with NCC. The Clerk checked and said this was 26th September. She would ask if it was still possible to drop them off after that date and would report back.

Councillor Mrs Shaw had registered to attend the NCC Community Resilience event to be held at Newbiggin Community hub on Thursday 29th September.

33/22 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 17th October 2022 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.