

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 17th October 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 3 parishioners

34/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident commented on the last minutes when the County Councillor had said he couldn't get involved with the application discussed however, at a recent Local Area Council meeting he had talked about a local application. The understanding of the Parish Council was that County Councillors commented on an application, they could not vote.

A resident mentioned the issue of vehicles parking on the roadside in Longhirst which he felt was dangerous. The Parish Council could not do anything about this issue.

The resident also asked if something could be included in the newsletter regarding the proper use of rat poison. He was concerned that other animals including domestic pets could be affected by this if it was not used properly.

The Chairman said that bait stations should be used. He also mentioned that the newer rat poisons did not transmit from the body, they were an anti-coagulant.

It was suggested that something could be included in the newsletter urging anyone using poisons to be aware of the legal requirements.

35/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26th September 2022.

In relation to Minute 28/22 the Chairman reported that the Cricket Club had obtained planning permission for the practice nets.

Councillor Brown reported that the officer had NCC had still not contacted him about the veteran needs survey. He did not feel it was relevant to the village.

Further to Minute 29/22 it was reported that contact had been made with the Local Government Ombudsman regarding the complaint. This was ongoing.

Further to Minute 32/22, Councillor Mrs Wilson reported that the hedges leading to the WI hall had been cut back.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

36/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Request from UVA for grant towards cost of fireworks

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the Secretary of the UVA seeking a grant from the Parish Council towards the cost of the firework display.

Councillor Mrs Newman asked whether the use of silent fireworks had been considered due to the impact on animals and wildlife.

It was stated that this had been raised on the village Facebook page. As a point of information, the Chairman indicated that he had discussed this with the fireworks supplier who had said there was no such thing as a silent firework. They had to be 95 Db to get them up in the air.

RESOLVED – A grant of £250 be given to the UVA towards the cost of the fireworks display.

Note - Councillor J Scott declared an interest in the above issue and did not take part in the discussion or voting other than providing a point of information.

(ii) Email from representative of Northumberland Rivers Trust (NRT)

The Clerk had previously circulated an email received from the above on 13th October.

The NRT were in the process of developing a bid to the heritage lottery fund for works along local rivers with young people and local communities. The project aimed to improve the quality of local rivers but also to show young people and local communities how time spent in nature could benefit wellbeing as well as both physical and mental health. The work would be carried out along the Rivers Lyne, Wansbeck, Blyth and Pont as well as the Seaton Burn. Details of the activities involved included improvements to paths, planting trees, clearing litter, removing Himalayan Balsam as well as building and installing bird boxes.

The author of the correspondence was asking Clerks to forward the email onto any local youth groups, community groups or individuals who would be interested in participating in the project. It had already been decided that an email would be sent from the Meadows group in support of the application.

RESOLVED – That an email be sent from the Meadows Group in support of the application.

37/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that on the meeting that was held on 27th October. There was some discussion about activities that had taken place during the year which had been successful. There was also discussion about the newsletter and the deadline for submitting information to Councillor Mrs Wilson by the 20th of the month so she could get it to the printer. The UVA would be providing sweets for Santa Claus to give out from a grotto in the WI hall. She reminded people that there was a first aid refresher course which included the use of the defibrillator on the 27th October. It was anticipated that the AGM would be held in January on a Wednesday, depending on the hall availability.

Councillor Mrs Shaw stated that she had attended the NCC session relating to community resilience she outlined the type of discussions that had been held which included the warm jobs initiative. She had been promised copies of the slides, but they had not arrived yet. The Clerk stated she had received copies and would print them off for Councillor Mrs Shaw. The Clerk also mentioned the availability of grants from Northern Power grid for community resilience purposes. The MPs for Berwick and Hexham were co-ordinating meetings for interested parties to attend. The Clerk had sent out details to Parish Councillors. The meetings were being held on Friday 4 November at 6pm at Belford Primary school and Tuesday 8 November at 6pm at Rothbury Jubilee Hall. The Clerk would try and find out more about the application process and forward this onto the Parish Council.

38/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, October 22 salary, mileage - £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Ulgham PCC – payment for 50% of the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard – Cuts 9 to 14 - £630
- (d) Mrs H Dunn – reimbursement for flower display for HM Queen Elizabeth - £50
- (e) UVA – grant towards cost of firework display - £250

39/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

There were no reports.

40/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 21 November 2022 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.