

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 21 November 2022

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs H Shaw and Mrs D Wilson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Brown and Mrs L Newman and also County Councillor D Towns
Also in attendance 2 parishioners

41/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident had been made aware that the Parish Council's complaint to the Ombudsman regarding a planning decision made at NCC could not be dealt with as they did not deal with complaints from one authority about another.

The Parish Council were concerned that they had not been advised of this when their stage 2 complaint had been refused.

The Parish Council would be researching other ways of submitting a complaint.

42/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th October 2022.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

43/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Town, Parish and Community Council Conference

The Clerk had received details of the above events being held in January. The dates and venues were Monday 16 January at St James Church Centre, Alnwick, Monday 23 January at County Hall, Morpeth and Tuesday 24 January at the Mart, Hexham.

Bookings had to be made by 7 January and presently, only two from each council were able to attend. Further places may be available at a later date.

Booking forms were handed out to Councillors and it was likely that two Councillors would attend.

(ii) Leaflets from NCC re help available for residents during the current energy and cost of living crises

The Clerk had received three leaflets relating to the above. She had provided some copies for distribution to residents.

44/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported the firework display had been a successful event.

The first firework was in celebration of John Carpenter. She wished to thank everyone involved in the event including the Cricket Club who allowed the community the use of their premises.

The UVA would be contributing towards the 'sweets for Santa' event.

It was likely that the UVA AGM would be held on 25 January 2023. Any nominations for officers of the UVA should be sent to the secretary of the UVA, Lynne Scott, by 15 January 2023.

45/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, November 22 salary, mileage, first aid sign - £159.16
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £92.00
- (c) JM Champion – village warden duties including grass cutting and hedge cutting - £700
- (d) Ulgham PCC – payment for wreath for Remembrance Sunday - £20.00

46/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Scott and Mrs Wilson had attended a Northern Power grid meeting regarding Storm Arwen held in Rothbury on 8 November. Councillor Mrs Wilson reported that Northern Power grid have been working toward winter 'preparedness' since Storm Arwen last year.

They said they were learning from issues that arose following the storm last year around communication and they have:

1. Improved the website - now upgraded to the 'cloud' allows more concurrent users (30,000)
2. Increased call handlers from 100 to 450

They do still however need individuals to report issues affecting their households

Following repairs after Storm Arwen, they have monitored the 'fault' history in Ulgham - none since August 2022 recorded.

Going forward

1. There is helicopter surveillance of the lines in preparation for winter
1. 3 'trips' in a 3-month time period triggered an automatic review

They acknowledged that Ulgham was served by 2 feeders, it would be too expensive to combine, but feel this is actually a benefit in relation to resilience should one line be 'down'

Finally, there is upcoming investment

A scheme has been authorised for refurbishment of our lines - due to take place 2023-4. Further information on this will be forwarded in due course.

Councillor Shaw reported that the WI were in discussions with CAN regarding resilience for the WI hall. They would be assessed for solar panels but did not yet meet the criteria and an assessment had to be carried out. It may be possible to get a survey carried out with a grant from Northern Power grid?

Councillor Mrs Shaw gave a brief report regarding her attendance at the recent community resilience event she had attended.

The organisers had asked for more information from attendees regarding whether communities needed for example, an emergency plan, training in safeguarding, health and safety, adverse weather planning as well as fire safety.

She felt that some training on safeguarding and health and safety was necessary.

47/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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