

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 20 February 2023

Councillor Mrs H Shaw (in the Chair)
Councillors G Brown, J Scott and Mrs D Wilson
Also in attendance 4 parishioners

63/22 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident who had requested a grit bin for Woodlands stated that the request had been refused by NCC.

The Chair mentioned that the Parish Council could acquire one and the Clerk outlined the procedure and costs involved.

The resident felt this was expensive and he was asked if he would like the Parish Council to provide some bags of salt for the estate. He did not think this was necessary at this time.

Another resident of Woodlands complained about finding it difficult to walk around an area of land that was very overgrown.

She also mentioned a problem with a car parking over the last few weeks which she explained to the Parish Council. It was making it difficult to use the pavements.

Finally, she also asked about the rain gauge at Woodlands and was advised that this was checked regularly by a resident and that it couldn't be moved.

The parking situation was important and needed to be monitored.

Another resident of Woodlands offered to have a word about the overgrown piece of land with the person concerned.

64/22 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2023.

In relation to Minute 61/22, it was reported that a senior officer at NCC had agreed to meet with Parish Councillors on the 30 March between 7 and 8.30 p.m.

The officer had asked for topics/questions to be forwarded to him in advance.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

65/22 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Resignation of Lesley Newman

The Clerk reported that Mrs Lesley Newman had written to her today tendering her resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect.

The Clerk outlined the process to be followed. She had to advise NCC of the resignation.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Newman thanking her for her work and efforts for the Parish Council and the community during her years of service.

(ii) Planning application 23/00346/FUL – The Sanctuary Wildlife Centre, Crowden Hill Farm, Ulgham – proposed erection of one holiday cottage

The Clerk had received notification of the above application which had been circulated to members. Comments had to be made by 2 March.

Councillors did not wish to object to the application, but they did have some concerns which would be sent to the Clerk to submit on behalf of the Parish Council.

(iii) Grass cutting at the Churchyard for 2023

It was reported that the grass cutting for the churchyard would be £240 per cut in 2023 which would include weedkilling around the church twice per year.

The Parish Council were asked if they would agree to meet half of the costs as they had done previously.

The sum of £1500 had been included in the budget for 2023-24 and Councillors agreed to contribute up to that amount and consider any further contributions if necessary.

(iv) Village Warden and Dog waste disposal

The Clerk had previously circulated a quote from Michael Champion who carried out the village warden grass cutting duties and emptied the dog waste bins once per fortnight.

The quote included the sum of £1100 to empty the dog waste bins with a 20% discount on that amount if it was paid in full. The grass cutting would be £110 per cut and cutting the hedges in the village would be £100 per cut. He also quoted £380 for cutting the meadow although it was noted that volunteers may be able to assist with this.

RESOLVED – It was agreed to accept the quote as outlined above and to pay the amount for dog waste collection in full to receive the 20% discount.

(v) Email received re offer to host event to show items collected through metal detecting

The Clerk had previously circulated information received from a resident of Pegswood who had offered to come along to a meeting or host an event where he and his group could show off items found through metal detecting in the vicinity.

The finds included coins from Henry the II up to Charles II and various items from the medieval period.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident and inform them that someone from the UVA would be in touch to arrange something.

66/22 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that a grant request had been made to the NCC Coronation Community Fund in the sum of £420 to host an event at the WI hall over the coronation weekend.

She reported that a UVA meeting to discuss the coronation would be held on Tuesday 7 March.

It was also reported that a first aid course was being organised for anyone who was interested in the village. There seemed to be a basic course and one where a certificate was awarded, and prices were being sought for both before a decision was made.

67/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, February 2023 salary, mileage, - £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60

68/22 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

The Chair reported that the next Wind Farm Community Benefit meeting was to be held on 25 April. It did appear that he would be elected as the new Chair of the Committee.

He also reported on the latest information that had been downloaded from the speed sign in the village. The results would be uploaded onto the website, but the average speed of traffic was low at 20.94 mph incoming and 20.92 mph outgoing towards Morpeth. It showed that 99% of vehicles were travelling at under 35mph.

69/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20 March 2023 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.