

ULGHAM VILLAGE ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7pm

**Attendees:** Helen Shaw(HS) Lynne Scott(LS) George Brown(GB) Helen Dunn(HD) Jim Scott(JS) Colin Tait(CT) Pam Lamb(PL) Paul Barton(PB) Dave Wilson(DW) Deb Wilson(DbW) Maureen Shotton(MS) Adrian Shotton(AS) Laura Chisholm(LC) John Bateman(JB) Jane Bateman(JB) Tony Warlow(TW)

**1. Welcome**

- HS welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- This meeting will sum up and be a discussion of the year.
- Thanked the stalwarts in the village who have supported and helped with various events.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Pauline Martin David Parkin Janet Brown

**3. Minutes of the last AGM held Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

- Attendees read through minutes and agreed that they be signed off as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

- Deb Wilson has taken over the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and is on the Contact List.
- Paula Ellwood has taken on the role of producing the village newsletter.
- HS and LS met with Leigh Ellwood to discuss the village website. The website has improved and Leigh is very open to listen to suggestions and deal with any problems.
- The WI cancelled the Broadband for the WI Hall as it was proving too costly. One of the main problems is that the WI Hall is treated as a business and so charged business rates. HS has talked to NALC and stressed that this needs to be changed.
- DW said that 4G can be accessed in the Hall so now the internet can be accessed on mobile phones.
- A new laptop and printer would have had to be purchased to access the internet, it is no longer viable to do so.
- George Brown and Helen Dunn worked together towards Helen Dunn taking over the role as Treasurer for the UVA. We thank Eric Winton for auditing the accounts. He has agreed to audit next year's accounts.

**5. Reports: Chair: Helen Shaw**

- The village looked lovely with the planters and baskets. Unfortunately, 4 baskets were stolen near the very end of the flowering season, never to be seen again. The UVA will need to purchase 4 more baskets and will also be looking at making the baskets more secure.
- The Coronation celebrations were very enjoyable and the suncatchers were much appreciated. The summer Feast went well and although both occasions were wet and windy, they were enjoyable. Thank you to all the helpers.
- Firework night was very successful, making the most money ever and running out of everything. HD has sourced emergency readymade soup in cups to use if needed in future. The field particularly in front of the pavilion was very muddy, however it is recovering. Proceeds from this event will be used to buy items for the village as well as fireworks for this year's event.
- HS thanked JS for the Christmas tree and Michael Dunn for putting up the lights.

- HS thanked the Film Club for the film showings on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January; unfortunately, only one child turned up for the children's film in the morning. There was a good turnout for the adult's films Sunshine on Leith and Billy Elliot in the afternoon.
- The UVA have obtained full funding from The Community Foundation to purchase a seat for the village. The seat has been ordered and it is to celebrate us as a village and how we support each other. It is also to remember the residents who in the past helped build our community. We hope to place the seat on The Day of Reflection on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.

#### **Rendezvous**

- HD reported that after Covid the number of people attending Rendezvous had decreased. However, during the last few months numbers have increased and costs are covered.

#### **Treasurer: Helen Dunn**

- All attendees had a copy of the Income and Expenditure account for 2023.
- HD reported that there was a significant increase in income from the Fireworks Display.
- JS indicated that the fireworks will cost a bit more this year.
- The account was signed off by Eric Winton who has agreed to be auditor for 2024.

### **6. Nominations For Officers**

- HS said that notification asking for nominations for officers should have been published in the newsletter.
- HS said that if anyone wishes to become an officer on the UVA it would be good if they worked alongside the present officers.
- The meeting proposed that Helen Shaw, Lynne Scott and Helen Dunn continue in their present roles.

### **7. Representatives from St John's Church, WI, Cricket Club, Meadows to be ratified. Reports from groups.**

- David Parkin had emailed his report to the Secretary and said that he was happy to continue as representative for the Meadows but equally he would step aside if needed. The representatives from the groups were ratified:  
St John's Church - Pamela Lamb, WI - Pauline Martin,  
Cricket Club - Colin Tait, Meadows - David Parkin,  
Parish Council - Jim Scott, Paul Barton, Deb Wilson  
Little Owls - Sue Gill
- HS said that the Contact List will be updated then sent out to all households. Contact details for David Parkin to be added and Deb Wilson's contact updated as Parish Council Clerk.

#### **Reports**

##### **St John's Church**

- PL reported that John Park's last service was in November before his retirement.
- PL said that Julie Lacy is an associate priest for Widdrington and was covering services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in a month.
- Julie Lacy had asked why was she not the priest for Ulgham when she is priest for Widdrington. This has set the wheels in motion for her to be Priest in Charge at Ulgham together with Holy Trinity, Widdrington and Cresswell. This will take time to process. PL reported that Julie Lacy is doing a lot of work and Ulgham, Holy Trinity and Cresswell are happy.

##### **WI**

- In her absence LS read the report from Pauline Martin.
- There is a Valentine Dance on 10th February tickets from Pauline £15 inc. pie and peas supper

- Coffee Morning on 24th February 10.30 till 12noon  
The W.I. would like to say Thank You to the village for its support and so, plan to host a coffee morning which is free and NO RAFFLES so do come along for a chat and enjoy cake and a cuppa.

#### **Cricket**

- CT reported that the club's AGM is on 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- The fixtures have been set.
- The field recovered from Firework Night but at the moment is very wet and hasn't been able to be cut which normally would have been done by now.
- Cricket practice will be on a Thursday evening. The use of the nets will be discussed at the AGM.
- The club really need new members, there are a lot of clubs in the same position. In response to LC question about what age children could join the club CT said that over 13s could play in friendly games on Sundays.
- HS thanked the cricket club for opening the bar on Fridays.

#### **Meadows**

- In his absence LS read the report from David Parkin.
- With the help of the Rivers Trust, we are making slow but steady progress. Between now and the nesting season I intend we pursue Blackthorn reduction and then in the spring continue path improvements provided we can lay our hands on some more gravel.
- I am still pursuing the options on more tree planting but have nothing to report thus far.
- We have made what I hope will be a helpful link to one of Northumbria Wildlife Trust's projects which should be a source of good advice if nothing else.
- JS said he would like to compliment David Parkin and his team for all of their hard work and the improvements they have made in the Meadows.
- JS also reported that he had been able to put the lid, which he found stuck under a branch on the ford, back on the bin at the lay by.
- GB said he would like to thank John Bateman for taking over the job of looking after the War Memorial and its surrounds,

### **8. Invite The Forge at Ulgham steering group to be an associate of UVA.**

- The Community Benefit Society Limited was invited to be an associate of the UVA. Dave Wilson as Chair of the CBS will be the representative.
- DW reported that the share sale, which closed 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, raised £105,000 with approximately 250 shareholders. However, there were people who were wanting to purchase shares after the closing date and the CBS committee agreed to extend the deadline to align with the outcome of the Community Ownership Fund application.
- The amount raised now means that they can now apply for a grant from the Community Ownership Fund, which has to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January members of the committee were able to view inside the The Forge pub and will be looking to submit a formal offer by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 24.

### **9. Safeguarding**

- Helen Shaw will be refreshing her safeguarding training. Deb Wilson has done her training. Denise Elliott has First Aid qualification for Firework Night.

- With regards to other people having First Aid training HS said that Tracy Wilson, the Locality Officer for Communities Together has said that the British Red Cross offer free training. This will be researched.
- The Safeguarding policy will be reviewed and a copy given to all associates.
- Safeguarding contacts are Deb Wilson and Helen Shaw.
- Any concerns about anyone in our community can use One Call 01670 536400. In an emergency ring 999.
- Communities Together work with people who may need help with finance, low mood, well being etc. They have a help number 01670 620015
- Neighbourhood Watch contact is Deb Wilson.
- DbW said that any incident or suspicious activity should be reported and logged.

#### **10. Events this coming year.**

- The Duck Race will happen on the bank holiday weekend in May. It was decided that it would be on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt probably over the Easter weekend.
- The baskets and tubs will be planted in May/June.
- The Feast will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. LC suggested a craft table for the children.
- There will be a meeting in September to discuss Firework Night. A resident has asked to meet with the organisers of the firework display and they will be invited to the meeting. A risk assessment for the firework display is done each year and needs to be submitted in September.
- The container needs to be sorted and help will be needed.
- PB reported that the tennis court surface is in reasonable condition and so cannot really apply for funding. The court will need cleaning with a pressure washer. PB asked if he would be able to access water from the cricket club which CT agreed to.
- HS said that she has learnt there will be A National Day of Reflection on 3<sup>rd</sup> March . She hoped that the new seat will be in situ by that date. LS said that she would contact the manufacturers to find out when the new seat will be delivered.
- HS said that the Boules court was used at the Feast she wondered if there could be a weekly or fortnightly Boules night during the summer, May, June and July. It could happen on a Thursday evening. It could be advertised in the newsletter.
- A new tent is needed for the Feast, either a dome or canopy tent.
- A new bench seat could be purchased as an annual prize for the Boules winner at The Feast, to replace the seat made by David Duffield.
- HS said that the UVA could perhaps purchase a folding pool table to be used during Rendezvous but that would depend upon being able to be stored in the WI hall. PB said that a folding pool table would not be practical as it would not be big enough to play the game correctly.

Concerns about the power cut happening in part of the village the night before the meeting had been raised prior to the AGM.

HS said she would inform George Brown when a power cut occurs at The Croft and The Forge end of the village.

Perhaps a list of people who may need help could be compiled, however we need to be mindful that some people may not need or want our help.

People can register on the Priority Service Register with Northern Powergrid. DbW suggested that people could come to Rendezvous where someone could register them. HS said there needs to be more discussion.

**11. Date of the next meeting.**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May