**ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women’s Institute Hall on Monday 19 October 2015**

Councillor J Scott

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman and Mrs H Shaw

Also in attendance four parishioners and Councillor Alan Sambrook

35/15 **QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Mr Carpenter mentioned that one of the benches in the meadows had been vandalised. He explained where it was situated and showed a photograph. He asked if the Parish Council could fund its replacement. It was made out of a railway sleeper.

It was suggested there might be a spare sleeper from the container and Peter Donkin, Chairman of the Cricket Club agreed to check. It was thought that UK Coal may also have one. However the Parish Council agreed to fund this.

MrWarlow wanted to thank the Parish Council for their well-constructed objection to the recent application at the Stables. He also thanked Councillor Sambrook for his support on this. There was also comment made about the various letters of support for the application that seemed very much the same and it was hoped the Planning Committee took this into account when considering the application.

Comment was also made about recent decisions reported in the press that appeared to take account of the emerging core strategy that were rejected because they were in the green belt and outside of the village line.

It appeared that various council departments including highways and the public protection unit had lodged objections.

Comment was made about the board advertising two plots for sale at Branstone. The Parish Council had not received a decision notice despite submitting an objection. Councilor Sambrook had been unaware of the decision also. A copy of the decision notice had been downloaded and was made available to Councillors.

The Clerk was asked to write a letter of objection to the Planning Department at the lack of communication regarding this matter. Residents expected their Parish Council to be well informed.

The Chairman reported that an e mail had been received from Peter Donkin, Chairman of the Ulgham Village Cricket Club regarding various matters including a request for permission to extend or rebuild if necessary the pavilion, permission to build in timber beside the pavilion and a request to renew their lease which expired on 31 October 2019.

MrDonkin reported that the village cricket club had been promoted to the premier division of the Northumberland Cricket League for the first time in its history and they needed to fulfill certain conditions regarding their shower facilities and also the need to provide a separate score box by March 2016.

This would mean either extending or ultimately re-building the pavilion. Sketches showing both 4 and 5 metre extensions had been provided. The extensions would have the same finish as the existing pavilion and would reach no nearer the village than the line of the tennis court.

Mr Donkin stated that there was a potential problem in meeting these conditions. l The Club could only extend through grant funding and it was unlikely to receive funding unless their proposals fully complied with standards set by the ECB.

The Cricket Club wanted to progress as far as possible but if they could not modify then the Club Committee had already voted to accept a complete rebuild and he asked the Parish Council to take the same view.

It was unlikely that any of the above options could be achieved by March 2016 but as long as the Club could demonstrate progress towards a permanent solution for 2017 this was likely to be acceptable to the League. It was therefore proposed to create one or two new wooden structures between the existing practice net and the field fence. They would house a score box and a replacement umpire room would be provided. A single cubicle shower available to both teams would be installed in the existing umpire changing room.

In relation to the lease the Club was unlikely to receive grant funding without security of tenure of around 20 years. The Cricket Club therefore wanted to renew the present lease and they had agreed to pay all necessary costs if they could use their own solicitor. It was suggested that a document would be drafted to extend the lease by 20 or 25 years from the expiry date of 31.10.19, and replacing the present term ‘peppercorn’ rent by ‘one pound’ as advised by HMRC.

The Chairman congratulated the Club on their promotion and stated that any improvements made to the facility would be an asset to the village. However he confirmed that this would have to be considered at the November meeting in view of the various items to be discussed but he thanked MrDonkin for all of the information provided.

Councillor Sambrook mentioned the possibility of funding from the Community Chest, the details of which were available on the County Council website.

36/15 **MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 September 2015.

It was reported that the lamppost had still not been repaired (minute 27/15 referred).

Councillor Sambrook agreed to contact the relevant officer regarding the verges that had still not been cut.

The Clerk had been asked to contact the estate agents who were acting for Ulgham Hall however she had been informed that the property had been sold. This was not the case and she agreed to send the letter this month.

In relation to Minute 33/15 it was reported that the UVA had agreed to match fund any payment to the Meadows in respect of the shortfall from their grant.

This would not be as much as expected.

RESOLVED – The Minutes be approved.

37/15 **CORRESPONDENCE**

**(i) NCC Core Strategy – Pre-submission draft**

It was reported that consultation in respect of the above document had started on 14 October and would run until 25 November. The Parish Council was asked to consider making a response to the document.

Various summaries etc would be left in the Hall for residents to view.

Councillor Sambrook stated that if anyone attended the Drop In event at Morpeth there would also be an exhibition of the proposed new leisure and education facilities.

RESOLVED – The information be received and the Parish Council agreed to submit a response by the deadline date.

**(ii) Meeting of Druridge Bay Cluster meeting**

It was reported that a meeting of the above would be held on 3 November 2015 at 5.30 p.m. Councillors J Scott and Mrs Shaw would attend.

**(iii) Letter from Banks re Highthorn Planning application**

A letter had been received from Banks regarding the submission of the above application to the County Council.

It appeared that this letter had been sent out to residents.

**(iv) Community Action Northumberland AGM – 3 November**

An invitation to attend the CAN AGM had been received. This would be held on Tuesday 3 November at Whalton Village Hall at 2.00 p.m.

It was unlikely that any Councillors would be available to attend.

**(v) NCC Meeting of Rural Parish Councils**

Information had been received from NCC regarding meetings of Rural Parish Councils .

This Parish Council would be attending the meeting at Hadston on 12 November. If one to one meetings with officers were required, this was to be booked by Friday 23 October.

The Clerk was asked to request a one to one meeting with a Planning Officer.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council would be represented at the meeting to be held on 12 November and they requested a one to one meeting as outlined above.

**(vi) Meeting of new Windfarm group**

It was reported that the first meeting of the above group would be held on 18 November at Widdrington Village Hall.

38/15 **REPORT FROM JOINT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs Dunn reported on the meeting held on 24 September.

The AGM would be held on Thursday 22 October. Everyone had been asked if they wanted to stand again.

Preparations were well underway for the firework display on November 5thand the UVA requested a grant towards the cost of providing the fireworks.

A grant of £200 was approved.

RESOLVED – A grant of £200 be awarded to the UVA towards the cost of fireworks for the November 5th event.

39/15 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED – The following accounts be authorised for payment:

(a) Clerk, October salary plus expenses - £225

(b) HMRC paye payment – Clerk - £91.60

(c) Ulgham PCC – 13/14 cut of Churchyard and cutting

down wildflower meadow 50% contribution - £195.00

(d) Ulgham Village Association – grant towards cost

of fireworks for November 5th display - £200

40/15 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

The Chairman reported that the Vice Chairman and himself had attended the NCC town and parish council conference on 24 September. They had attended two workshops on neighbourhood planning and one entitled ‘raising the game’ which related to empowering the local community.

41/15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED – The next meeting would be held on Monday 16 November 2015 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.