

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 18 April 2016

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs L Newman

County Councillor Alan Sambrook was also in attendance.

2 residents were also in attendance.

78/15 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

There were no questions from those present at the meeting.

Councillor Brown reported that he had contacted NCC about the problem with the drains.

79/15 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 March 2016.

Further to minute 73/15 the Chairman reported on additional comments that had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of highways.

As far as he was aware two other residents had sent in supplementary information regarding the proposal.

Further to minute 76/15 it was reported that some of the tree works at Orchard Close had been carried out but there was more to do.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

80/15 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Letter from Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureau

A copy of a letter received from the above organisation had been circulated to all Councillors.

The letter stated that from the 1st of April, the DAWN Advice CAB in Morpeth became part of the Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau. This was the last in a series of mergers which had combined six CAB services operating within the county into one legal entity.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

(ii) Letter from Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

A copy of a letter received from Mrs Trevelyan had been circulated to the Parish Council. The letter related to the commemoration of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016.

The letter mentioned the availability of grants to survey and conserve local war memorials to ensure they were a continued 'fitting tribute to the fallen'.

Mrs Trevelyan also asked if the Parish Council could advise her of any WW1 casualties who received the Victoria Cross or other battle honours that were listed on the local war memorial.

Councillor Brown stated that he would take this information and discuss it with Mrs Brown however it was envisaged it would be quite a task to find out this information.

RESOLVED – The information be noted at this time pending receipt of additional information received from Mrs Janet Brown.

(iii) LOVE Northumberland Awards

The Clerk had received information from NCC regarding the above awards. Nominations were invited for projects that were enriching the lives of residents of the county. A group or individual could be nominated by a community who felt the nominee had made an exceptional contribution through volunteering. The closing date for applications was 25 May 2016.

Winning entries would receive a £250 prize and runner up £100 to be spent on something that would benefit the project or work they were doing.

A poster would be displayed in the village notice board and copies were left in the WI Hall.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

(iv) NALC E News – Planning Petition

The Chairman referred to a nationwide petition that had been started by Minster in Thanet Parish Council. This petition was seeking a change in the planning system. The aim was to allow local councils to be able to lodge an appeal against planning consents which had been granted in the face of local opposition.

The Chairman urged Councillors to sign the petition which could be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489>.

81/15 REPORTS FROM JOINT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

The UVA had met on Thursday 14 April.

The Cricket Club had presented a report on the work being done to the pavilion. They hoped that the village would get behind them and attend some of the social events that they had coming up.

The Feast had been discussed and it was reported that there had a couple of enquiries from people interested in coming along to sell items such as jewellery. A fancy dress competition was being held for children with a royal theme. It was reported that the WI would be holding a royal afternoon tea on Saturday 21 May and this would be publicised in the newsletter. This was to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Concern was expressed regarding the Meadows. The work has relied on volunteers and there was no one available to do any work at present. Requests for assistance had not proved very helpful.

It was suggested that an environmental audit of the Meadows should be carried out but it was recognised that there would probably be a cost associated with that and it was difficult to know who to approach.

The Chairman suggested asking K9 Cleanup to do two cuts of the Meadow per annum instead of just one. This may help the situation.

In terms of grant funding it was reported that the community chest was available again and details of this would be made available to the Parish Council.

It was suggested that a company called Ground works had an office in Pegswood and they may be able to assist with the environmental audit. The Clerk would look into this.

In response to a query it appeared that the Cricket Club had decided to repair the tractor rather than purchase a different model.

82/15 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED – The following accounts be authorised for payment:

- (a) Clerk to the Council – April salary plus mileage/postage costs
- £220
- (b) HMRC – PAYE – Clerk to the Council - £91.60
- (c) K9 Cleanup – annual payment to empty dog waste bins and clean bus shelters (discount received) - £1068 (discount of £267 received)
- (d) Mr J Bateman – village warden duties - £81.00

83/15 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

Councillor Brown reported that a motor-home had been parked in the car park very early this morning but had now gone. It was likely that it was someone visiting in the village.

There was a meeting in the village on 19 April about the drains. Councillor Sambrook, an NCC officer, Councillor Brown and Mrs Chandler would be attending.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if the Parish Council was going to try and replace the wooden seats.

The WI wanted to put a plaque on the seat in the playing field if that was acceptable to the Parish Council.

The damaged wooden seat at the Tennis Court required replacement and there was already a seat available to install.

The WI asked if the Parish Council would replace the wooden seat opposite the stone one near to the Forge. This was agreed.

The Clerk would obtain a price to acquire another recycled plastic seat. She pointed out that there would be delivery costs on top of the cost of the seat.

The Chairman indicated that he had attended the second part of the planning training on 14 April. This mainly related to planning enforcement. He reported that at present there were only two officers for the whole of Northumberland and it had been agreed to employ another four officers to strengthen this role.

Councillor Sambrook indicated that he had sent information to the Clerk regarding the availability of community chest funding.

84/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – The next meeting would be held on Monday 16 May 2016 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.