**ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women’s Institute Hall on Tuesday 12 September 2017**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs L Newman andMrs H Shaw

Also in attendance Councillor D Towns and 1 parishioner.

29/17 **QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Mr Warlow wished to express his and his neighbours sincere thanks to the Parish Council for all they had done in relation to the stables application that had been refused at the Local Area Council meeting yesterday. He felt it was a shame that there hadn’t been more people at the meeting tonight to endorse what he had said.

He recognised the amount of work put into the submission by the Parish Council for which he was extremely grateful.

The Chairman thanked Mr Warlow for his comments and also in turn, thanked him for speaking at the meeting.

30/17 **MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 July 2017.

In relation to Minute 22/17, the Chairman stated that the bench had been installed and he had agreed the suggested wording for a plaque.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

31/17 **CORRESPONDENCE**

**(i) Update re War Memorial**

Councillor Brown stated that a meeting had been held with the Conservation Engineer as requested by the War Memorials Trust to look at the proposals for the proposed works.

It was a good meeting and the engineer had invited those present to outline what they wanted to happen. He could see no good reason why the War Memorial could not be turned.

He agreed to supply a copy of his report to the Parish Council for comments prior to submitting this to the War Memorials Trust.

The information was noted.

**(ii) E mail correspondence re Haul Road**

Copies of correspondence sent to the Chairman by a resident in relation to the above had previously been circulated.

The resident had written to NCC to chase up progress regarding the haul road and was told that it wouldn’t happen. However she found the original plans showing it was going to be reinstated as a bridle path although this may take some time. The Parish Council had asked to be kept informed of progress on this issue.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

**(iii) Northumberland County Council – Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2018-19**

Information had been received from the County Council in relation to the above and a copy had previously been circulated to Members.

The County Council were seeking the top three highways and transport priority issues for inclusion in the LTP for 2018-19. This information was required by 30 September 2017.

The Clerk had written to the officer at NCC regarding the information included in the letter schedule which did not correspond with what had been submitted by the Parish Council.

He had replied and stated that the requests had not been updated on the Directory but they were still in their system.

The request relating to Ashington had been included in error.

It was felt that although the lighting request was unlikely to be implemented, the Parish Council would include it again and make the comment that they would be willing to pay for a two lantern light to be installed.

The proposed traffic calming scheme was to be discussed later in the meeting however, it was suggested that this should still be included even though it was hoped that funding was available for implementation in the near future.

Councillor Mrs Newman mentioned the possible inclusion of a ‘stop’ sign at the Ulgham Grange road ends.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council make their submission to NCC by 30 September and include reference to the schemes outlined above, namely light at the east end of the village, the traffic calming measures and the stop sign.

**(iv) Discussion re traffic calming measures**

Councillor Towns presented the proposals again for the traffic calming in the village and on the approaches. A 40mph limit would be imposed at Ulgham Fence Farm instead of the current 60mph which would reduce to 20mph in the village itself. A 40mph on the Ulgham Grange road would be introduced and it was not possible to get this any lower. The speed limits would be legally enforceable with appropriate signage. He indicated that officers were keen to see this scheme implemented and he was prepared to give a significant portion of his small schemes allowance if the Parish Council and residents wanted it. He felt it would mean a significant improvement to the speeding issues in the village. The introduction of 20mph areas were being encouraged both in the county and countrywide in order to improve the safety of road users and pedestrians. The current speed indicator sign could be re-programmed to 20mph.

He was unsure whether NCC would carry out any consultation on this but if not, information could be included in the UVA newsletter and a drop in event could be held at the WI hall.

He had mentioned the possibility of a contribution from the Parish Council towards the project at the last meeting.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if the two signs that showed the bad bends could be replaced or repaired as part of the scheme as the picture or text was missing from them both. Councillor Towns agreed to look into this.

RESOLVED –

(i) The Parish Council agree in principle to the traffic calming measures as outlined going ahead.

(ii) The Council agree to contribute the sum of £2000 to the project.

**(v) Annual Audit 2016-17**

The Clerk reported that the audit form had been received from the external auditors BDO who had no issues to raise with the Parish Council.

The form would be displayed prior to the 30 September.

RESOLVED – The information be received and accepted.

**(vi) Letter re withdrawal of application 17/02081/OUT – land east of Manor Farm**

**Cottages**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from NCC notifying the Parish Council that the above application had been withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

**(vii) Wind Farm community benefits**

The Chairman reported that he had been informed that some training was required for members of the Committee that was still not up and running. He had asked if there were funds available as yet but no monies had been paid into the account as yet. He had been told that it was taking some time to get the paperwork in order.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

32/17 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The next meeting would be held on 14 September.

33/17 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

1. Clerk, September salary, expenses, mileage £210.00
2. HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60

(c) BDO LLP – Audit fees - £120

(d) Playsafety Limited – inspection of play area - £100.80

34/17 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

Councillor Brown asked if there was any possibility of obtaining some funds from the County Council towards the war memorial in the event that there was a problem with the funding from the War Memorials Trust.

He also felt that it was necessary to write to Widdrington Station Parish Council to ask them to consider whether they wished to be involved in the project.

The Banks Community Fund may be a possibility as they had offered to put some money into the project.

He also mentioned that he had had a telephone call from Peter Wood formerly of UK Coal and he asked to be remembered to the Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs Shaw mentioned that the village seemed to have a proliferation of weeds and asked if the County Council only carried out weedkilling once a year. The Clerk was asked to check this out.

She also mentioned her attendance at the Local Area Council meeting on Monday and she had been pleased with the comments made by Councillor Towns regarding the South Croft Stables application and green belt.

The Chairman thanked everyone who had helped with the bunting, decoration of the village and general arrangements for the Tour of Britain on 4th September.

Councillor Towns reported that he was confident that resurfacing work would be carried out on Ulgham Lane. He had met with Mr Martin King from NCC who agreed the work was required.

The process was micro resurfacing that took about two weeks to complete but it lasted much longer than the usual surfacing method used. It was likely that this would be carried out in spring. He agreed to keep the Parish Council updated.

35/17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 16th October in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.