**ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women’s Institute Hall on Monday 18 December 2017**

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown and Mrs H Shaw

Also in attendance Councillor D Towns and 5 parishioners.

51/17 **QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Mr Lavery wished to raise the issue of speeding through the village.

He stated that in this year alone there had been three serious accidents to which the police had been called out and he had had several vehicles in his hedge. This summer there had been a whole sequence of farm vehicles sometime as late as 11.00 p.m. going through the village.

Mr Lavery had been in touch with the police and the MP and he had received a letter back from Mrs Trevelyan.

The MP had indicated that NCC were arranging for a speed survey to be carried out. He had received a letter about reducing speed to 20mph and also about traffic calming measures. He stated that he wished to raise this with the Parish Council again.

The Chairman indicated that a survey had been carried out and one of the items under consideration was the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the village. There was a poor response to the consultation and there were 6 people who were vehemently opposed to the proposal. There were 6 positive responses and the remainder were neutral.

The Parish Council had largely been in favour of this proposal but it was felt that due to the opposition it could not proceed.

There was a further proposal that had been drawn up by NCC to retain the 30mph speed limit through the village but to reduce the approaches to 40mph.

Councillor Brown reported that a complaint had been received from a resident about foliage obscuring a street light on Main Street. It was felt it was too high to reach without ladders and there was quite a bit of cutting back to do. It was suggested that Mr Champion, the current village warden would be asked to carry out this work in the new year and this would be at minimal cost to the homeowner whose foliage this was.

Councillor Brown offered to ring the homeowner and alert them to this issue.

Mr Warlow mentioned the re-surfacing works being carried out on Ulgham Lane and asked it they would carry out work at the entrance to the Croft Estate. Councillor Towns explained that he had asked the Highways Manager at NCC, Mr Martin King to arrange this work and he was not sure that it included the entrance as requested. He would look into this and report back but it may be that this work is scheduled for next year.

52/17 **MINUTES**

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2017.

In relation to Minute 45/17(iii) it was reported that additional comments had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the appeal for South Croft Stables.

It was also reported that the Parish Council had some concerns about the application mentioned in Minute 46/17 and an objection had been submitted.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

53/17 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Update re War Memorial**

Councillor Brown reported that on behalf of the Parish Council he had written to the War Memorials Trust (WMT) expressing disappointment at the route they had chosen to take in relation to the proposals for the War Memorial. He had not received a reply and he had rung them to speak to the Director who was unavailable but who had replied to his letter.

He would report back on the contents once this was received.

He reported that he had given a presentation to the Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council last Monday on the proposal and they had been very supportive and offered to help with research of relatives from those mentioned on the memorial as suggested by the WMT.

Councillor Brown had also attended a meeting of the LEADER Group on 13th December to discuss the Expression of Interest that had been submitted by the Parish Council to see if they would approve funding for the project. This had involved an interview with 12 members and they had agreed to progress the application to the next stage.

The forms had been sent to the Clerk and appeared to be rather complex and would require some time to complete. The Leader officer at NCC had agreed to meet with the Clerk and Councillor Brown in the New Year to assist.

The Chairman reported that he had received very positive feedback from members of Widdrington Station and Stobswood Parish Council about the presentation made by Councillor Brown and he thanked him for his work on this subject.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

(ii) **Information re revised reduction of speed proposals through the village**

Councillor Towns had circulated revised proposals for the reduction of speeding through the village and this had been submitted to Councillors.

Councillor Towns explained that he and NCC officers had been surprised at the lack of strong support for the 20mph scheme but they had worked on this revised scheme which meant the 30mph limit through the village would be retained but that the approach stretches to the village would be reduced to 40mph. Importantly, the 30mph limit would be extended to beyond the Ulgham Grange junction to just past the bridge. There would be new signage and markings on the road and the old markings etc would be burned off and the cats eyes re-positioned to reflect the new speed limit on the approach roads.

The scheme would have to be funded partially from this years budget and also from 2018-19 funding and so would not take place until the new financial year.

He asked if the Parish Council were willing to confirm their commitment to this scheme and to reiterate their pledge to make a contribution towards it. NCC did not believe that a further consultation on this scheme was necessary but would write to all residents again informing them of what was happening.

The scheme would cost in the region of £20,000 and the Parish Council were asked to allocate £2000 towards this scheme. It may be that a little more funding from the Parish Council would be needed but this was not known at the moment.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council agreed to confirm their support for this revised scheme and to make a contribution of £2000 towards it.

**(iii) Pharmacy Needs Assessment**

The Clerk had circulated a letter regarding a consultation on the Pharmacy Needs Assessment for Northumberland. Comments were required by 31 January 2018.

RESOLVED – That this matter be deferred to the January meeting.

**(iv) Letter of thanks from Community Action Northumberland (CAN)**

The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from CAN in respect of the grant agreed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED – The information be noted.

**(v) Information re Street Lighting Modernisation project**

An email had been received from the Street Lighting section at NCC regarding the aboe.

A new sub-contractor had been appointed and the remaining works were to be completed.

A document had been circulated relating to the re-commencement of the project and the timescale however, this could not be opened by the Clerk.

She would report back with the date but it was likely to be in the Spring of 2018 for Ulgham.\\

RESOLVED – The information be received.

**(vi) Correspondence with Mr Lavery re application 17/04026/REM**

The Chairman referred to recent correspondence from Mr Lavery in relation to his application. This had been circulated to the rest of the Parish Council and a reply had been sent to Mr Lavery.

RESOLVED – The information be received.

54/17 **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

The next meeting would be held in January.

The Treasurer of the UVA reported that a contribution had been received from the coffee seller present on the evening.

55/17 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

1. Clerk, December salary, expenses, mileage £220.00
2. HMRC – paye payment, Clerk - £91.60

(c) Ulgham PCC – cutting of churchyard and meadow half share - £140

(d) Widdrington Village PCC – payment for wreath - £17.00

56/17 **REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

The Chairman reported that he had obtained a Christmas tree for the village that had been erected.

Councillor Brown updated members about the issue of a property on Orchard Close which was now in hand.

The Chairman reported on the first meeting of the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund held on 12 December. The meeting had examined the Memorandum of Understanding and the application and criteria processes. Much of this information was still confidential until next year so he could only report on the general detail.

There would be 13 members, 7 of which would be Parish Councillors.

There will be £135,000 a year goes into the fund and a one off payment of £50,000 had been made. The sum of £15,000 for the first five years would be ring fenced towards apprenticeships.

There would be a maximum of £10,000 per bid and these must be made 12 weeks prior to the meetings for applications to be assessed. Any decision on funding will be made by the Community Foundation.

It was expected that the first round of funding would be in January 2018 with a possible meeting being held on 22 March and the following one in September.

Those within a 3k radius of the project would get priority for funding and after that those within 5k would be considered. This may be an issue for Ulgham as the line goes through the village.

The application form seemed to be straight forward and was only 10 pages long.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked why the Community Foundation would be making the decisions. The Chairman stated that they currently run 5 Wind Farm Community Benefit funds and there have been no disputes. It would also help with the issue of parochialism.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

57/17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 15 January 2018 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.