

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday 15th May 2023

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors G Brown, Mrs H Shaw and Mrs D Wilson

An apology was received from Councillor D Towns

Also in attendance 7 parishioners

1/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman circulated copies of his annual report.

2/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2023-24

Nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council for 2023-24 were invited.

RESOLVED – Councillor Jim Scott be re-appointed as Chairman for the coming year.

Councillor Scott thanked his fellow Councillors for their continued support.

3/23 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023-24

Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for 2023-24 were invited.

RESOLVED – Councillor Mrs Deb Wilson be appointed as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Councillor Mrs Wilson also thanked her fellow colleagues for their continued support.

4/23 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

A resident asked if it would be possible to have a mirror sited on one of the telegraph poles outside of his house due to visibility issues. It was suggested that permission from NCC highways may be required, and Councillor Mrs Wilson agreed to investigate and report back. A resident asked if it would be possible to ask NCC to get one of the drains cleaned out in the village which was full of soil.

A resident asked who was responsible for carrying out weedkilling in the village. She was concerned at the impact on animals and wildlife. The spraying was carried out indiscriminately. The Chair replied that this was carried out by the County Council and the Parish Council had no control over this.

A complaint about the speed of cars through the village was raised which the resident felt was getting worse.

The Chair replied that the speed indicator sign in the village also collected data re speed and number of vehicles. The latest downloaded data did not suggest there was a huge problem with speeding in Ulgham. There was some discussion about a possible Speedwatch group initiative in the village which would have to be organised through the Police. A resident who was at the meeting had been involved in such a scheme at a previous village he had lived in. He would be pleased to get involved. This would be raised with the Police.

A resident raised the issue of an annual motorbike rally which came through the village. He asked if it would be possible to contract the organisers to ask if the vehicles could come through as a group rather than the piecemeal approach that usually happened which was noisy and disruptive.

This would be investigated.

A resident asked if there was any progress regarding the Forge pub.

A resident who knew the owner said that the property was being emptied at present.

Councillor Mrs Wilson mentioned that her husband was in contact with the Plunkett Foundation, and he had been advised to carry out some information gathering re interest and potential usage

5/23 MINUTES

Members were asked to approve the notes of the Parish Council meeting held on .24th April 2023

In relation to Minute 80/22 a report on the Coronation weekend would be given later in the meeting.

RESOLVED – The minutes be approved.

6/23 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED - The following appointments to outside bodies were agreed:

- (i) Sisters Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund Committee – Councillor J Scott
- (ii) Ulgham Village Committee – All Councillors were members of this Committee.
- (iii) Druridge Bay Regeneration Partnership – Councillors Mrs H Shaw. It was noted that this had not met for some time. There were some limited funds left in the Partnership account.
- (iv) Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) – County Committee – Councillor Mrs D Wilson.

7/23 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Zurich Insurance – annual renewal of insurance

The Clerk reported that the annual renewal of insurance had been received from Zurich at a cost of £584.34 for 2023-24.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich at a cost of £584.34

8/23 CO-OPTION TO FILL CURRENT VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk was asked to outline the process to be followed to fill the current vacancy on the Parish Council.

The Clerk stated that there was no prescribed way to carry out the co-option however good practice suggested that the vacancy should be advertised locally for a period of three weeks. Interested parties should contact the Clerk with a brief CV and reasons why they wanted to join the Council. Councillors should then interview the candidates at a specified time or just before the next PC meeting. If a selection was made, the successful candidate could join the meeting as they had signed an acceptance of office form.

The Clerk had produced a notice which gave a deadline of 5 June for applications. This would be displayed on the notice board.

RESOLVED – It was agreed to display the notice locally for a period of three weeks ending on 5 June.

9/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) Ulgham Village Committee

Councillor Mrs Shaw reported that the weekend of the Coronation had been very successful. Around 24 residents had attended the viewing of the Coronation in the WI hall with 22 attending the screening of the concert on the Sunday evening.

The Duck race had been very well attended with 44 ducks in the river with a clear winner. The afternoon tea had also proved to be popular.

The next event was the Ulgham Feast which was to be held on the first Saturday in July.

The next meeting of the UVA was on the 6 June at 7pm.

10/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

- (a) Clerk, May 23 salary, expenses, mileage £154.66
- (b) HMRC – PAYE payment, Clerk - £91.60
- (c) Zurich Insurance annual renewal - £584.34

11/23 REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

The Chairman reported that he had been appointed Chair of the Wind Farm Committee and gave a brief report on the discussions. Six bids totalling £71,000 had been approved with one application being deferred due to a lack of information. The next meeting would be held in October.

Councillor Mrs Shaw asked if consideration could be given to the purchase of a commemorative seat which would go beside the bus stop. A bid could be submitted to the wind farm and the UVA and Parish Council could help with the costs.

The Chair suggested introducing a grant application form for future applications for funding. He suggested applications should only be agreed if they were on the agenda.

Councillor Mrs Shaw did not believe it should be such a formal process and that the Parish Council should be able to support local organisations. She agreed that applications should be on the agenda.

12/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 19th June 2023 in the WI Hall, Ulgham at 7.00 p.m.