

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 16th October 2023

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors P Barton, G Brown, H Shaw, D Wilson

Also in attendance 7 parishioners

37/23 Questions from Parishioners

A resident mentioned Speed Watch. General discussion followed and Councillor Barton confirmed there was no legal power, community speed watch volunteers do not have the authority to issue official speeding tickets or impose fines on drivers. They do record as much detail as possible around the car and driver, and pass the data to the police who will issue a letter to the vehicle owner and possibly arrange a visit from a constable if necessary. Councillor Wilson confirmed that 6 volunteers have put themselves forward for Speed Watch with training starting in the new year. Councillor Shaw advised speeding is regularly brought up by Parishioners and is an ongoing challenge. A resident mentioned the website Crash Map, it was discussed 4 incidents 2018/19, no major incidents in the area and over a longer period not one that was speed related

A resident brought up the ongoing issue with water around the junction with B1337 and the lane towards Ulgham Grange – ACTION: Clerk to report.

There was general discussion on drains not draining due to mud and leaves - Residents reminded that they can use FixMyStreet website to report individual issues.

38/23 Minutes

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th September.

Further to Minute 34/23 - Councillor Brown updated on pavement issue, surface condition problem has been found by Highways and now awaiting repair.

RESOLVED: - The minutes be approved

39/23 Correspondence

- (i) Donation request from UVA for Fireworks - Agreed £250
- (ii) Pennine Playground - email introduction from the company - will contact next year when safety inspection due (June 2023)

- (iii) Email from Michael McCaughey re the Veteran's Project, Coordinator for Age UK Northumberland asking if there are any veterans groups in the Ulgham area which he could engage with and support. Councillor Brown has already put names forward. Will place an advert in the next Newsletter
- (iv) Councillor Scott has correspondence regarding potential new speed camera, £3995 + VAT+ delivery. Possibility that the windfarm may be an option for the future

40/23 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - Firework Event - organisation is underway, will be starting earlier this year due end of School holidays
Dog fouling an issue, particularly on The Croft, bags in hedges - potential for new/larger bins in the village
- (ii) Meadows update - (JC in DP absence) - no further vandalism, donated gravel is running out, likely to need more possibly in the spring, now concentrating on the blackthorn. Nothing to date from Rivers Trust
- (iii) UCBS_update on The Forge - (DW) - progressing well, engagement meeting planned for 24th October
- (iv) Tennis courts - no interest from residents to join a working group to date, not big enough for a multi-purpose area, unlikely to be successful in grant for renewing surface, but more likely for coach and equipment. Plan to work on a thorough clean in the spring and review, currently felt to be dangerous, particularly slippery, due to surface and paint

41/23 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:-

It was noted the following accounts are now due for payment

- (i) Clerk – September salary - £124.73
- (ii) HMRC – PAYE payment – Clerk - £83.60
- (iii) ILCA - (Introduction to Local Council Administration) - £120

42/23 Reports from Chairman and Members

Councillor Scott reported on the Town and Parish Conference attended by Councillor Scott, Councillor Shaw and Councillor Wilson. Several issues with planning were raised both on the day and subsequent email. Disappointed that planning officer representative on the day was not aware of Localism Act and its importance to The Forge Inn.

Councillor Brown queried a blue plaque to commemorate Luke Clennell (8 April 1781 – 9 February 1840) a British wood-engraver and painter. Born in Ulgham.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate

Councillor Barton reported a question from a resident - to look into why we do not as yet have fibre to the village, also to contact Northern Power due to the power cuts over the past 2 weeks, one lasting 5 hours. ACTION: Clerk to investigate both queries.

43/23 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held on Monday 20th November at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.