

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall

Monday 15th January 2023

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors P Barton, G Brown, H Shaw, D Wilson

Also in attendance 2 parishioners

Apologies from Cllr David Towns and resident Malcolm Lycett

59/23 Questions from Parishioners

A resident repeated concerns regarding the recent bus stop installation and its cost benefit, they compared this to the refusal of the request for the extension of footpath to the west side of the village. The email from NCC Highways Richard McKenzie dated 30th November was referenced.

An ongoing issue of gates to a public footpath being chain locked was raised. Blocking access to a public footpath located at the rail crossing in Ulgham Grange which provides access to Widdrington Station: ACTION Deb Wilson

An update received, advising that to date, no work has been carried out on the uneven footpath on Orchard Close.

Parishioner raised the issue of the damaged wall by the churchyard gate, needing repair or dismantling, a discussion followed on whether to have it removed, situation will be reviewed by Church

60/23 Minutes

Members were asked to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th December 2023.

52/23 (i) Potholes now filled

(ii) Jim and Deb completed and returned the Open Space Assessment

RESOLVED: the minutes be approved

61/23 Planning

(i) email from Judith Murphy stating the correct procedure was followed using the complaints route and then Ombudsman route with nothing else they can do to assist.

62/23 Ford structure / Fish pass

Issue from residents raised through Councillor Shaw regarding the fish pass, concerned it is holding water longer than necessary and with the increased water recently making the Ford impassible, with water staying longer and making deliveries difficult.

An email from David Parkin confirmed Northumberland Rivers Trust did the work

ACTION Deb Wilson to bring to the attention of Highways and Environmental

63/23 Correspondence

(i) email Simon Harper - Community Interest Company, offering bespoke package for loneliness in the Morpeth Borough, offered Rendezvous and PC Meeting for further information. Simon declined and chose to forward leaflets and business cards which have been passed to Cllr Shaw to share at Rendezvous

(ii) Alcom - Government moved the Ulgham fibre project into procurement - vouchers previously issued run out after 12 months

(iii) Northern power grid - response re query on continued multiple power cuts in Ulgham. Acknowledgement of a number of unforeseen faults by a number of unrelated issues, for example bird strikes, a cracked insulated on the overhead line, vandalism, trees coming onto contact with the network. They are looking into bird diverters to minimise the possibility of bird strikes

(iv) dog bins - communication with Paul Lowes at NCC regarding reviewing the bin services in Ulgham to include collection of dog waste - proposals are:

1. the two bins on the lane by the park be reduced to one, and that one moved to the entrance of the park for easier collection - agreed
2. the bin to the West of the village be moved towards the entrance to the lane heading to Ulgham Park and will accommodate the small dog bin at the top of the lane - agreed
3. a larger bin to be installed at the end of Manor Farm - this is likely to be a cost to the Parish Council of around £420 - agreed
4. Consideration of moving the Manor Farm dog bin - no as very well used in its current position
5. Consideration of a larger bin at the bus stop - felt to be only busy on litter collecting days, not to be replaced at this time
6. Consider wheelie bins for ease of collection - preference of the Parish Council would be to source bins similar to the ones previously purchased, to blend into the environment opposed to wheelie bins.

ACTION Deb Wilson to liaise with NCC and arrange a site visit as the next stage

64/23 Budget and Precept 2024-25

The Parish Council met prior to the meeting to consider the budget and precept for the coming year. A draft budget and three options for the precept had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

After some consideration, the Council agreed the budget for 2024-25 and subsequently the precept Option 3 was agreed which means an 8p increase in Band D figures for the year 2024-25. The Band D figure will increase from £67.36 to £67.44

65/23 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

To receive any report or items from the above Committee.

- (i) UVA - remind that the AGM takes place next week Tuesday 23rd refreshment and reports
- (ii) Meadows - nothing to report
- (iii) UCBS - Share sale completed 31st December 2023 - £105,000 raised - number of requests received therefore share sale extended to align with results of COF (community ownership fund) - COF being progressed with a view to being submitted by the deadline 31st January 2024 - Management committee viewing of the premises 22nd January following which it is intended to submit a formal offer. Anne Marie Trevalyan is planning to visit Ulgham/The Forge 16th February to support the cause.

66/23 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:-

- (i) Clerk – January salary - £108
- (ii) HMRC – PAYE payment – Clerk - £72

67/23 Reports from Chairman and Members

nothing from Councillors

68/23 Date of next meeting:

Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.