

# ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 15th July 2024

Councillor J Scott (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance: Cllr David Towns and 4 parishioners

Apologies:

## **26/24 Questions from Parishioners**

Parishioner raised the issue of being charged with criminal damage for voluntary clearing public footpaths - he mentioned one public footpath in particular and is looking for written permission from the landowner to continue to clear as and when needed. Mr Lycett has volunteered to contact the landowner and gain permission as requested.

The UCBS update on the Forge detailed later on the agenda (31/24) was brought forward at the request of the Chair, as Cllr Towns is only able to attend for a limited time. Cllr Towns reminded the parish council that as a member of NCC planning committee he would be unable to express an opinion on this matter.

Dave Wilson provided the update on behalf of UCBC - An update has already gone out to shareholders. A local property developer approached the parish council who subsequently included UCBS in discussion regarding a proposal to split the current Forge Inn site, retaining part of the premises as a Community Pub/Hub, freeing up the remaining area for housing development.

The initial proposal was effectively the shop as a micro-pub, this was deemed too small and unacceptable by both parish council and UCBS to support the village community hub as described in the business plan.

A second proposal which would utilise part of the main pub building was put forward for consideration, this being the single-story section on the right hand side of the building as you look at it. This may be a workable compromise keeping a pub/cafe/shop and may allow sufficient space for a car park for passing trade to support the business plan.

We acknowledge the owner is asking an unrealistic value as a pub and values the property as a development plot. There has been no further communication with

the owner as they have assured in the past they would advise UCBS when the property has been sold.

Further discussions concluded:

- With a new government in place the previous 'right to bid' within the ACV process, may become a 'right to buy'
- UCBS are confident the business is viable with the right ownership, business plan and continued support of the community
- It was unanimous that UCBS would need to purchase to ensure it remains a pub
- Any change to residential would need a change of use application to NCC and is expected to be refused at this current time

### **Returning to Questions from Parishioners**

The state of the recent road patching was brought up by a parishioner. Further details are included under correspondence later on the agenda with road works planned for later next month. The current quick/cold fill is not meant to be permanent but to make safe dangerous potholes.

A parishioner asked to revise previous concerns previously discussed in May regarding the caravan and camping site entrance and road safety. Following a discussion it was agreed that the caravan and camping club, traffic police and highways would be contacted to resolve the issue. ACTION: Deb Wilson

### **27/24 Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th June 2024.

15/24 The ground behind the tennis court has now been cleared and sprayed with weed killer. Totally understand the concern raised and have received a thank you for attending to the issue swiftly.

18/24 Playground to be discussed under correspondence agenda item 28/24

19/24 Roadworks under correspondence agenda item 28/24

Woodland Fence, Cllr Towns was able to confirm the fencing in question has fenced in public highway

21/24 Blue plaque - agenda item 30/24

24/24 New speed sign, ordered and now installed. Thanks to Dave for helping to install

RESOLVED: The minutes be approved.

### **28/24 Correspondence**

- (i) Roadworks email: Temporary Traffic Regulation Order - B1337  
12/08/2024-16/06/2024 08:00-17:00 Access will remain for residents and businesses. Road closure order valid 29/07/2024-29/01/2025
- (ii) Woodland Fence - email from the owners acknowledging receipt of email, as previous Cllr Towns was able to confirm the fencing in question has fenced in public highway, still awaiting NCC response
- (iii) Wicksteed email identifying list of repairs following playground inspection. Most will be completed by Cllr Scott, to request quote for roundabout ACTION: Deb Wilson
- (iv) LTP forwarded to councillors 3rd July, to be reviewed, priorities to be submitted before Friday 27th September
- (v) Macular Society email asking to promote their group in our Newsletter.
- (vi) Believ - EV charging provider, private company. EV charging is not currently a priority for Ulgham and will discuss with NCC in the future

### **29/24 The Forge - ACV renewal survey**

A proposal for the basis of a survey to parishioners was presented by Deb Wilson as the current ACV will be due for renewal in November 2024. Cllr Barton does not believe a survey is needed at this time, and bases his opinion on the survey recently undertaken by UCBS with overwhelming support for the ACV. Following discussion which included the consideration of the new government and a right to buy option, and the meaning behind an ACV, in that it highlights to NCC planning that the parish value the asset, the parish council agreed to renew the ACV when required to do so.

Due to complaints regarding the visual aspect of the Forge Inn it was decided to write to the owner to ask permission to cut the grass and tidy/weed the carpark at no cost to them for the benefit of the village.

### **30/24 Blue Plaque for Luke Clennell - update**

The deadline for applications for this year is 19th July. As we have been unable to identify a suitable building that satisfies Historic England's criteria, the decision has been to postpone the application until next year. The Forge Inn would, we believe be an option in the future.

### **31/24 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups**

- (i) UVA - Thank you for the effort put in by may for our Ulgham Fair, the decision was made due to the weather forecast to hold indoors this year, it was still very well supported. Hanging baskets are looking good and again a thank you for those that water them. The next UVA meeting will be 24th September and dedicated to firework night.
- (ii) Meadows - David requested gravel for footpaths - agreed via email, ordered and delivered.
- (iii) UCBS - as above

### **32/24 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:**

- (i) £82.00 - Green leaf Recycling for Gravel for meadows
- (ii) £100 - refund to Deb Wilson for gift voucher for Kath
- (iii) £18.99 - refund to Dave Wilson for Hose clips, required for the fitting of the new speed camera

### **33/24 Reports from Chairman and Members**

Cllr Shaw updated on the last Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee meeting July 8th. There were only 5 councillors out of a possible 13 at the Castle Morpeth Planning Committee Northern area, advising that as this is officer led, we will need to attend if and when we get any planning applications. Items for the next agenda need to be in writing and the autumn meeting - suggesting planning, highways, education. NALC are in place to be our link to County.

Cllr Brown acknowledged Lindisfarne hedges have now been cut giving better road visibility.

Cllr Scott thanked Cllr Barton for organising the streaming of the final for the Euro 2024 in WI Hall

### **34/24 Date of next meeting**

Monday 16th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.