

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 16th December 2024

Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance: 7

Apologies: T Warlow

62/24 Questions from Parishioners

For highways, whilst litter picking - highways signage left randomly throughout the village. ACTION: Deb Wilson

Our designated First Aider has stepped down. New person to be nominated. Will be further discussed at UVA AGM

The new build in Stables - resident wasn't aware of the new entrance. NCC approved some time ago, it was objected to at the time, including involving the ombudsman.

Issue with goats escaping - coming over the river - entering private gardens and damaging fruit trees. ACTION: Cllr Scott

63/24 Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th November 2024.

60/24 Northernpower and power cuts - the fault that previously caused regular power cuts to the village was repaired earlier this year. Our network is vast and is made up predominantly of overhead electricity cables. They cannot promise uninterrupted power supply as some are caused by external factors due to birds, but they are surveying the area to see if there is any scope to add bird diverters to minimise the possibility of bird strikes.

The bin at the top of the hill opposite the Forge has not yet been looked at. ACTION Cllr Scot

64/24 Planning

(i) 24/03709/FELTPO Manor House Cottage Manor Farm - Sycamore Trees - no objections

65/24 Correspondence

- (i) Email regarding wood - resident who last month requested permission to pollard a tree, has asked if the parish council would like the the boughs be left for residents to collect as firewood - yes please, return email has been sent.
- (ii) Email regarding review of retrospective planning for The Pines - residents contacted our MP who has written to the Chief Executive of NCC who will personally review the case.
- (iii) Application for Designation as a Neighbourhood Area for Ulgham has been approved by NCC
- (iv) The Forge Inn. NCC have "considered the nomination and has decided that the property meets the legal definition of 'community value' and therefore it will be listed in the Public Register of Assets of Community Value for five years."
- (v) Police report - incidents and crimes 2nd November - 4th December - "nearby damage to farmlands within the areas". We have been asked to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police. Discussion followed regarding multiple sitings of young males with dogs running and acting suspicious through the village. Police are aware.
- (vi) South East and North Northumberland - Community Resilience Forum - sessions planned for the new year, councillors need to book a place.
- (vii) Age UK Northumberland - Christmas activity books - already actioned by Cllr Shaw

66/24 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

UVA - Santa has been cancelled in the WI this year due to lack of interest. AGM will be 21st January, an overview of the last year and planning for next year. The playing field will have been owned by the Parish for 40 years next year thanks to the efforts of Cllr Lough and Cllr Green at that time. Possibly looking to purchase new equipment. Wicksteed and Playdale mentioned, but will look into others. A bid to windmill before the end of January would be ideal.

Meadows - nothing to report.

UCBS - nothing material to report - UCBS AGM will be held in February.

The English Devolution White Paper, published by the government today, will look to introduce the right to buy. The government is delivering on its manifesto commitment to replace the community 'Right to Bid' with a strengthened 'Right to Buy' Assets of Community Value, creating a more robust pathway to community asset ownership.

Quote from the Government website: "And we will look at the case for strengthening communities with greater rights to be involved in their local issues, as well as delivering a new community 'right to buy' for valued community assets, such as empty shops, pubs and community spaces. This will empower local people

to bring community spaces back into community ownership and end the blight of empty premises on our high streets.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

Discussion followed, Cllr Barton advised of the Scottish system whereby Scottish ministers appoint an independent valuer to place a value on the property.

67/24 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

- (i) £18.96 - refund to Deb Wilson for RBLI - Christmas Lamp Post Signs (3)
- (ii) £20 - Poppy Wreath to Ulgham PCC
- (iii) £90 - Brass engraved plaque for WI Centennial

68/24 Reports from Chairman and Members

Cllr Shaw - Northernpower forward text messages to those registered with them in the event of adverse weather. Key members of our village will be asked to check on residents as part of our village resilience.

Bill Wake, our long standing resident and veteran has died, a card of condolence will be forwarded on behalf of the parish council to his family. ACTION: Cllr Shaw

Cllr Brown has memories from the Christmas 1975 on a memory stick. This will be forwarded to Leigh to upload to the website for sharing. Memory stick to be returned to Cllr Brown when uploaded.

Cllr Scott - the minutes from last month stated that there was a partly successful bid from the Windfarm. The issues were around the committee which have now been addressed and funds now agreed.

A thank you to the WI for a lovely evening celebrating their centennial.

Cllr Barton - there is a group hiring the WI Hall for a New Years Eve party which is open for all who are free to join.

68/24 Date of next meeting

Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.