

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 17th February 2025

Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)

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

Also in attendance: 4

Apologies: Mike O'Brien

Three members of Alcom Team were in attendance to answer any questions or concerns residents have regarding fibre broadband in the village.

Concerns were raised last month regarding the use of telegraph poles being used opposed to fibre being run underground in the village. In particular one proposed installation on private land on Orchard Close which has now been resolved with Land Registry.

It was confirmed there will be no installation without communication with affected residents, however telegraph poles may need to be installed on public land where the current infrastructure will not support underground fibre (it may be that armoured cable is currently insitu, but no ducts present to thread the fibre through). The Croft in particular is deemed to have insufficient infrastructure to allow underground fibre. The voucher scheme does not cover the groundwork to install underground fibre, which can be expensive, there would also be significant disruption should pavements need to be excavated.

Regarding landlines and maintaining telephone numbers. We currently run land lines via copper which is being superseded by fibre. Telephones can be used over broadband (Voice over Internet Protocol) and current telephone numbers can be maintained similar to 'porting' a mobile number when you switch provider.

Regarding resilience, power cuts will be a consideration for some, there are systems in place such as Redcare Alarms, but these will incur subscriptions. Alcom do have an internal backup system to cover immediate emergencies and have the potential to provide generators in certain circumstances. Individuals can purchase battery packs for routers, but are advised to seek advice prior to purchase from Alcom to ensure the right voltage etc.

Two residents who have recently had fibre installed by Alcom, complemented the team on their expertise and customer service. Alcom advised they are proud of their network, focused on future proofing the network and aim to maintain their quality customer service.

78/24 Questions from Parishioners

No questions from parishioners received.

79/24 Minutes

70/24 owner of goats confirmed that on 2 occasions, goats couldn't possibly of been wandering on the far side of there river do to the hight of the water and secondly they were locked away, deer however were spotted in the vicinity.

80/24 Planning

Nothing to report

81/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Mark Harrison NCC has asked for a good date to meet - late Feb/early March.

ACTION: Deb Wilson to arrange

81/24 Correspondence

- (i) Invitation to join Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee Monday 10th February via Teams to consider draft Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-26.
- (ii) Clear Councils webinar "Risk Management for Local and Parish Councils" via Teams - Wednesday 26th February 12-1pm.
- (iii) Assetwatch offering services around CCTV and security.
- (iv) NCC document received by email in relation to parish election charges. Invitation for clerk to attend seminar on election process on 3rd March.
- (v) Northumberland Open Space Assessment - Draft for Consultation - Consultation ens 5pm on 14th March 2025.
- (vi) Forric Homes and the Stables development - there were concerns regarding no progress, confirmation from Forric Homes that works will restart shortly after Monday 17th February.
- (vii) Caravan site - follow up communication from previous minutes regarding caravans using Woodlands for access to the caravan site. The caravan site now has its own postcode for satnav users and is using what3words, both should help with accurately locating the entrance to the campsite. Should there be any issues this coming season, the owner is open to other suggestions.

82/24 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - Bids are in for the park equipment, results in May - aimed at older children/adult exercise equipment, games table for use by all. Play crates for the younger children. Easter trail again this year on Easter Monday, similar to last year. 5th May Celebrations - see UVA minutes
- (ii) Meadows - Hedge meant to be cut - still needing cutting - hopefully this week
- (iii) UCBS - member only AGM Tuesday 25th

83/24 Bank Account and Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

- (i) None to date

84/24 Reports from Chairman and Members

Cllr Brown: booklet to welcome new villagers has been updated.

Cllr Shaw:

1. Our annual information sheet with contacts etc will be produced in May after the election.
2. An increase in dog fouling on pavements has been raised as a concern.

ACTION: Deb Wilson - print posters from NCC site

85/24 Date of next meeting

Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.

Signed by Chair:

Date: