

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 19th May 2025

Councillors P Barton, J Robson, J Scott, H Shaw

Also in attendance: 6 residents and 1 representative from Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Apologies: Cllr Middlemast

1/25 Chairman's Report

The Chairman circulated copies of his annual report

2/25 Appointment of Chairman 2025-26

Nominations for the position of Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025-26.

RESOLVED: Councillor Scott to be re-appointed as Chairman for the coming year.

Cllr Scott thanked his fellow Councillors for their continued support

3/25 Appointment of Vice Chairman 2025-26

Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025-26.

RESOLVED: Councillor Cllr Barton to be appointed as Vice Chairman for the coming year.

Cllr Barton thanked his fellow Councillors for their support.

4/25 Appointment to Outside Bodies

UVA: All councillors

Windfarm: Cllr Scott

NALC: Cllr Shaw

5/25 Questions from Parishioners

Cllr Scott welcomed Cllr Ed Dungait who introduced himself as our newly elected county councillor for the new Longhirst Division, which includes 6 parishes - Tritlington and West Chevington, Widdrington Station and Stobswood, Hebron, Longhirst, Morpeth (Northgate) and Ulgham. The first meeting for Northumberland County Council will be next week where the decision will be made on leadership for the county as there was no overall majority this term. Cllr Dungait acknowledged that it was a close contest and whilst a conservative candidate is here to serve all residents, irrespective of political preferences.

A resident highlighted that a road sign from the last road works has still not been removed. The parish council have been notified that resurfacing work has been scheduled for 27th and 28th of this month, hopefully the sign will be taken away when they have completed the works this time.

A plea from residents to enforce hedge trimming in the village, particularly to the end of Ulgham Lane as it obstructs vision when entering the main road. A discussion followed as to whether the hedge at the end of Ulgham Lane was NCC or the owners responsibility. A resident of Ulgham would offer to trim the hedge, but conscious of cases where individuals have been fined for clearing roadside pathways.

A resident thanked the council for our objection regarding the campsite and questioned what does 'go to planning meeting mean?' This was explained along with the permitted strict 5 minutes to speak at the meeting.

A resident queried Southcroft development and whether the build complies with Condition 5: "The development hereby approved shall not exceed the 625 sqm, 2300 cu m volume and 6.2 ridge height of the existing structures on site." To forward to planning/enforcement to review. ACTION: Deb Wilson

A representative of Northumberland Wildlife Trust, John Abbot asked permission to monitor and control grey squirrels and american mink in the Meadows. This was agreed. David Parkin to be informed. ACTION: Deb Wilson

6/25 Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

98/24 Fence - Cllr Dungait - has spoken with Lee Dundas NCC - the person who initially dealt with this has since left - it will be reviewed, and he will discuss with the owners.

Highways have confirmed road works will re-commence 27th/28th May 2025

RESOLVED: the minutes be approved

7/25 Planning

- (i) Self contained log cabin to be used as additional accommodation - 1 Ulgham Grange Crossing NE61 3AX - Miss Lorna Wood 25/01231/FUL - no objection
- (ii) Southcroft Stables - Non-Material amendment - to change right hand gable from Stone to Brick on Plots A B C and D and the addition of 2 windows to snug for countryside views

8/25 Neighbourhood Plan

NCC are able to discount the duplicated responses already received. They have sent a new survey poster for us to circulate which directs to the original survey.

However, following discussion it was agreed the questions are too generic and not fit for purpose. Plan to liaise with NCC following a discussion on suggested questions more relevant to Ulgham.

9/25 Blue plaque for Luke Clennel

Nominations are now open, deadline is 10th July, Mr and Mrs Brown are supporting the application and the owners of Ulgham Hall are happy to have the plaque placed on their premises.

10/25 Insurance

Insurance renewal - due 1st June

- Clear Councils: including Insurance Tax and fees renewal fee is: £663.03
- Zurich: our previous insurers quote, including Insurance Tax and fees: £570

Plan to go back to Zurich this year. ACTION: Deb Wilson

11/25 Correspondence

- (i) Email from Cllr Brown, thanking for his retirement gift
- (ii) Email from David Parkin requesting more gravel for the Meadows, agreed.
- (iii) Email from resident asking if a car business can be run from a residential property?, to further look into this. ACTION: Deb Wilson
- (iv) Locality - BT and Digital take-over posters
- (v) Bus shelter windows
 - Castle Windows Alnwick - £880 to replace 2 windows (bus shelter at The Forge Estate) £680 if just the larger one - advised that the smaller window does not comply with safety regs as the glass is only 4mm
 - Ramage Windows - £810 plus VAT = £972 - £440 plus VAT = £528Decision to go with Ramage - ACTION: Deb Wilson
To consider rendering in the future
- (vi) Rospa playsafety have confirmed annual inspection will be completed in June
- (vii) Road closure - order valid 22/04 - 31/10 2025. Resurfacing works expected 27-28 May 2025 between 8am and 4pm
- (viii) Police report 9th April - 18th May:
 - There have been incidents reported where there had been some disruption to the road networks, however this was resolved by police
 - There have been crimes reported however due to data protection we are unable to disclose
 - There has been a report of a suspicious vehicle and unknown offenders within the area on farmlands. Please can all residents remain vigilant. We will take positive action if we can identify anyone involved in this type of crime.

12/25 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

UVA: Thanked all involved in VE VJ celebrations. A good meeting at Rendezvous on the Wednesday - rang bell at 6:30 on Thursday, heard as far as Hebron.

Duck race on bank holiday Monday 26th 1pm Ulgham Grange

3rd July - UVA meeting to discuss party in the park to celebrate 40 years of owning the playing field.

Meadows: nothing to report

UCBS: Currently in the moratorium period, shareholder update later this month

13/25 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

(i) £195 Green Leaf Recycling - Gravel

(ii) £70 Q Gardens - strimming

14/25 Reports from Chairman and Members

CLlr Scott: windfarm meeting last Tuesday - £174,000 allocated to his year - 8 bids totalling £103,000 received to date.

CLlr Barton: deterioration on The Forge - critical period with the Ivy getting under the roof, potential to cause serious damage and becoming a safety issue.

CLlr Shaw: asked about the tree outside orchard close - very intrusive to those living in the corner bungalow. It will have a TPO on it.

Weather station in Meadow Vale, can it be moved so that it can be used? We have a resident that is interested in having it on their land. To be further reviewed.

15/25 Date of next meeting

Monday 16th June 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.