

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 20th October 2025

Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors: P Barton, J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

Also in attendance: 9 Residents

Apologies: Cllr Dungait, George Brown

52/25 Questions from Parishioners

A resident requested an update on the proposed bin at the Meadows. The Parish Council is awaiting confirmation from NCC regarding collection arrangements. Funding for the bin will come from next years budget.

A resident raised concerns regarding noise from the campsite, describing it as sounding like construction work. The resident also queried whether there were any updates on the campsite planning application. There is no further information at present.

A resident wished to revisit concerns regarding a possible misinterpretation of the planning rules relating to the application at Southcroft Stables. The exact query will be put in writing to be raised with Rob Murfin at the next county council meeting which Cllr Shaw intends to attend.

The President of the WI expressed thanks to the Parish Councillors who attended and supported the recent coffee morning.

A resident queried if there was any information regarding the burnt out car on Ulgham Lane. No further information is currently available.

53/25 Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th September 2025.

40/25 Speed watch team to arrange new date

41/25 Welcome to Cllr Thornton following her co-option last month

RESOLVED: the minutes be approved

54/25 Planning

- (i) The Croft (29) - Single story extension - APPLICATION- no objection

55/25 Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey

The parish survey is in its final review stage and will be printed and delivered by the end of the month.

56/25 Village Security

With darker nights and increases suspicious active it was discussed as to whether cameras would help deter criminal behaviour. Potential to evidence if an incident occurred and provide residents with an increases sense of safety.

To look into potential grant funding. ACTION: Deb Wilson

57/25 Grafitti

Highways have forwarded to NEAT/Neighbourhood to look to remove on our behalf.

58/25 Fly tipping

Concerns were raised regarding the increase in fly tipping. Junk food left for the second time, removed by Cllr Shaw. Fridge down Ulgham Lane has been reported on Fix my Street.

59/25 Woodland Fence

Following a site visit by NCC, it was confirmed that the fence will be removed and re-installed at the correct boundary location (tight to the hedge line). Thanks were extended to Cllr Dungait for his support in this matter.

During the site visit, NCC also queried the absence of a Type C access which should have been installed as part of the planning approval for the land north west of Hulwane (riding arena).

60/25 Local Transport Plan (LTP)

Nothing further to submit.

61/25 Blue plaque for Luke Clennel

We hope to be notified on the out come of our nomination by the end of January 2026

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/national-blue-plaque-scheme/make-a-nomination/#next-steps>

62/25 Correspondence

- (i) Email: Resident - escaping goats and property damage, the matter has since been settled amicably with the animal owner
- (ii) Email: Northumbria Police - monthly update stated:

There have been some crimes reported to police within the time frame; however, we are unable to disclose what this has been

There have been incidents reported to police, some suspicious activity whereby unknown persons have checked the area out, which has then been reported where items have been stolen from farms.

- (iii) Email: Environmental agency - looking for someone to volunteer as a rainfall observer in Ulgham, more information on village noticeboard ACTION: Deb Wilson and newsletter ACTION: Cllr Shaw
- (iv) Email: NCC - Governance review that needs questionnaire completing by 30th November
- (v) Email: UVA - donation towards Firework Display - budgeted £200, agreed to pay £200.
- (vi) Email: Widdrington PCC - wreath for Remembrance Service - £19.00
- (vii) Email: PCC - for the final £880 of the £2000 agreed churchyard maintenance for the current year.

A discussion followed regarding future support. It was noted that there had been no contribution from Widdrington Parish Council since 2011. A request in 2012 for Widdrington PC to share costs equally was declined, and no further contributions were received until this year.

A request was made again to Widdrington PC in May 2025 (following local elections) for a contribution. The Council agreed at that time to make a donation; however, no commitment was requested or given regarding future annual support. It was noted that annual budget setting takes place early in the year.

Going forward, Ulgham Parish Council has agreed to contribute one-third of the cost of maintaining the churchyard.

63/25 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - A positive meeting was held on 30th September. The risk assessment for the upcoming firework night has been submitted. It was agreed we would pay for professional first aid support on the night. Remembrance Day will be held at Holy Trinity this year. The UVA AGM will take place on January 20th.
- (ii) Meadows - nothing to report
- (iii) UCBS - nothing to report

64/25 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

- (i) £880 - PCC - churchyard maintenance
- (ii) £200 - UVA - towards firework display
- (iii) £70 - S Thornton - playground strimming

65/25 Reports from Chairman and Members

Cllr Shaw provided a brief update from the latest NALC meeting. A civility and respect document to be considered and will be circulated to councillors. It will be brought to the next council meeting for discussion.

Cllr Scott reported on the recent meeting of parish council chair. The main issue raises was ongoing concerns with planning, planning enforcement and the wider planning process. Other issues included a perceived lack of engagement with community concerns, delays in responses and a lack of urgency. It was noted that Fix my Street is currently under review. NALC, was not felt to be offering good value for money by some councils.

66/25 Date of next meeting

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