

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 19th January 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: P Barton, J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

Also in attendance: 7 Residents

Apologies:

91/25 Questions from Parishioners

Concerns were raised regarding dogs on the park area in general, with particular emphasis on one dog that was not on a lead. This incident caused distress to a resident.

Residents raised concerns about the number of road traffic accidents. Whilst acknowledging that recent weather conditions have been poor, specific concern was noted at the corner from Woodlands entering the centre of the village. Existing bollards are not felt to provide sufficient protection for passing pedestrians. Can highways explore possible replacement or alternative safety measures? ACTION: Deb Wilson

Residents previous query re static buildings on campsite has yet to be answered. Original email to NCC 3rd December 2025 - chased 12th January 2026 - no response to-date.

Playing field trees are potentially become dangerous - around the playground equipment and near the boules area - hedges need trimming so that they remain manageable - resident volunteered to trim the hedge. ACTION: Cllr Scott
Cllr Scott advised the boundaries and fences are to be reviewed.

Graffiti is an ongoing issue, to be followed up. ACTION: D Wilson

92/25 Minutes

RESOLVED: the minutes be approved

93/25 Planning - Nothing to report

94/25 Village Survey

Whilst it is taking time to assimilate the qualitative data, the tennis court was identified for discussion at the meeting.

There was discussion around the potential for a multipurpose covering which would allow the space to be used for activities beyond tennis. ACTION: Cllr Barton

95/25 The Forge Inn

As requested in the Parish Council email dated 19th December 2025. UCBS and Mrs Whelan's agent have re-established communications. Unfortunately, Mrs Whelan is currently very unwell so progress is likely to be limited for the time being, however discussions will continue as circumstances allow.

96/25 Road Traffic Accidents

Nothing further to add as discussed under 91/25 Questions from Parishioners

97/25 Precept and Budget

Further to the minutes of December 2025, Council was advised to delay submission of the precept form pending receipt of a revised tax base (Minute 84/25).

Under Option 3, the previously agreed increase for Band D properties was £1.28. Following application of the revised tax base, the increase under Option 3 is reduced to £1.15 per Band D property, with proportional adjustments applied by NCC to the remaining bands.

Council agreed the amended figures and resolved to submit the precept form to NCC by the deadline of 23rd January 2026.

98/25 Blue plaque for Luke Clennel

We will aim to notify nominators on the outcome of their applications by the end of January 2026

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

99/25 Correspondence

- (i) Email: NCC re Resilience Forums 2026 - events scheduled across Northumberland
- (ii) Email: NCC - reminder re Town and Parish Council Conference Thursday 5th March - Cllr Shaw and Cllr Thornton have been put forward to attend, further places may be available after the closing date (Friday 27th February) should any other councillor/s wish to attend
- (iii) Email: Northumbria Police - Incidents and Crimes from 29th November 2025 – 01st January 2026. There has been some disruption to the highway however this was resolved by police
 - There have been no crimes reported to Northumbria Police within the time frame, as above.
 - There have been incidents reported to police within the time frame as above which have been dealt with by police.

- (iv) Email: NCC - opportunity to join a group set up to improve access to Northumberland's countryside.
- (v) Email: SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments - IT trial web-based project to 'test' a new system for forwards AGAR submission online
- (vi) Email: Resident re road repair signage left at the end of Ulgham Lane and by the churchyard. ACTION: Cllr Scott

100/25 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - AGM tomorrow night - all welcome, refreshment will be served.
- (ii) Meadows - nothing to report.
- (iii) UCBS - nothing further to report other than above.

A resident speaking on behalf of the Women's Institute, commented that the bus shelter near the WI Hall has not been cleared of leaves and would benefit from general cleaning and tidying.

101/25 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

- (i) £165.60 - North East Foresters - Hedge cutting B1337 to footbridge

102/25 Reports from Chairman and Members

Cllr Shaw raised an issue on behalf of a resident regarding the need for an additional grit box along the lane to Ulgham Park. Following discussion, it was agreed to look into installing a new grit box to be placed at the top of the hill near the location of the previous fallen tree, to help address ice on the hill down towards the river.

It was also requested that the grit bins across the village be checked and refilled as needed.

For council to look into purchasing a grit spreader
Copy of planning talk by Rob Murfin is still outstanding.

Cllr Scott raised concerns on behalf of a new resident to the village who is finding it difficult to exit their driveway onto the main road due to the speed of passing traffic. It was suggested that a permanent camera sign could be considered to help encourage drivers to slow down..

Ounces were also highlighted regarding poor lighting at the end of the village. This is something to be raised with NCC. Previous discussions have identified that the parish would be required to fund half the cost.

103/25 Date of next meeting

Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.