

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 15th December 2025

Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

Also in attendance: 7 residents

Apologies: Cllr P Barton, Cllr Dungait

79/25 Questions from Parishioners

A resident raised concerns regarding a road traffic incident in which a vehicle collided with their garden wall. The property owner confirmed this was a repeat occurrence and is currently being addressed through insurance. However reiterated ongoing concerns regarding excessive vehicle speed through the village, particularly drivers travelling too fast for weather conditions.

A discussion followed on the challenges, advantages and disadvantages of various traffic-calming strategies: 20mph, typically only applicable where a school is present in the village - Chicanes, can lead to drivers slowing down and then accelerating sharply, incurring increased noise.

Questions were raised regarding the increase in police vehicles and blue lights through the village. Can we arrange for a police representative to attend a meeting?. ACTION: Deb Wilson

During litter picking - evidence of poaching was discovered (a hare found in a plastic bag, floating in the river). Discussion followed on the difficulties of catching poachers. It was confirmed that the police are aware of ongoing poaching activity in the area.

80/25 Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th November 2025.

57/25 Graffiti still present - NCC to be re-contacted. ACTION: Deb Wilson

77/25 Camera signs have been sourced and installed, impact not yet known.

77/25 Parish notice board is in need of refurbishment or renewal. ACTION: Cllr Scott

67/25 Awaiting response from NCC regarding residents query on static buildings/ structures on campsite and whether planning permission is required.

81/25 Planning

- (i) 29 The Croft - single storey extension - GRANTED

82/25 Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey

Those who responded to the survey were thanked - 51% return rate was achieved which exceeds the 38% threshold generally regarded as a good response.

As results have only recently become available, time is needed to fully absorb all findings. However, the most pertinent issue for the village was regarding The Forge, where there was overwhelming support for maintaining a pub in the village. In light of the clear and confident mandate from the community it was agreed to contact both the agent acting on behalf of the owner and UCBS to encourage them to meet, engage constructively and explore mutually acceptable resolution to the current impasse.

Results, graphs and summary are available to anyone on request, they will be available on website and in paper format in the near future.

83/25 Fly tipping

Email from Cllr Dungait following ongoing investigations into fly-tipping in the area. The vehicle on Ulgham Lane has now been removed. A large pile of tyres remain on site and are still awaiting removal. Food waste continues to be dumped with the most recent incident reported further down Ulgham Park lane. A welder and oil container have been retrieved and will be disposed of safely.

84/25 Precept and Budget

The budget for 2026-27 was reviewed along with four options for precept. Option 3 was agreed. This option increases the precept by £224, which equates to £1.28 to Band D properties, with adjustments applied pro rata by NCC to other bands.

85/25 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>

86/25 Correspondence

- (i) Email: NALC Rob Murfin presentation on planning reform. Monday 15th December
- (ii) Email: NCC - Additional grass cutting outside the core season (April-September) 3 additional cuts starting mid March and extending beyond the core season. £197.25+VAT - ACTION: YES

- (iii) Email: Northumbria Police: there have been new crimes and incidents reported including a report of poachers, however due to their disclosure policy are unable to identify individual incidents or people involved.
- (iv) Email: Resident re incident and damage to property
- (v) Email: NCC - Northumberland Design Code - survey to be completed by 9th January 2026 - the code will set requirement for developers for the design of future development.
- (vi) Email: NCC - Local Nature Recovery Strategy open for public consultation until 9th January 2026 - <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/economy-and-regeneration/projects-and-programmes/rural-growth-and-innovation/local-nature-recovery>
- (vii) Email: NCC - invitation to attend Joint Town and Parish Council Conference - Thursday 5th March 2026 - to reply by Friday 27th February with names of 2 attendees.
- (viii) Phone call from owner of the campsite advising police have been informed of an individual taking photos around the campsite - nothing of obvious value to steal however after a similar previous incident there was a break-in overnight - nothing further to report.

87/25 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - AGM, Tuesday 20th January 2026. All Welcome
- (ii) Meadows - nothing to report. Hedge to be cut along Grange Road down to the Ford, before 1st March. ACTION: Cllr Scott.
- (iii) UCBS - as far as can be establish, The Forge Inn remains on the market for sale. The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill is speeding through parliament - whilst we don't know how long it will take, it changes right to bid to right buy. NCC will be responsible for commissioning independent valuation and bringing the parties together.

88/25 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

Clerk request permission to purchase 14th edition of Local Council Administration at a cost of £144, we are currently using 8th edition. AGREED.

89/25 Reports from Chairman and Members

Deb Wilson was thanked for the work to date on the village survey.

90/25 Date of next meeting

Monday 19th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in the WI Hall.