

ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 16th February 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: P Barton, J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

Also in attendance: 6 residents

Apologies: Cllr Dungait, Mr G Brown

104/25 Questions from Parishioners

A resident raised concerns about pedestrian safety whilst using the right of way through the field on the land North West of Hulwane, due to horses. ACTION: Deb Wilson - to contact Highways Planning to clarify whether a fenced pedestrian walkway was agreed.

Residents again raised the issue of pothole and the condition of Ulgham Lane. Residents were advised to report any issues via the FixMyStreet reporting system.

105/25 Minutes

Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th January 2026.

91/25 Quotes for fencing have been requested.

99/25 Cllr Thornton is no longer available to attend at the Town and Parish Council Conference. It was agreed Cllr Scott would take her place. Should further places become available, Cllr Barton and Clerk D Wilson will also attend.

RESOLVED: the minutes be approved

106/25 Planning

There were no current planning applications relating to Ulgham.

An email from Longhirst Parish Council regarding the planning application at Fairwinds, Ulgham Lane was discussed. The Council confirmed that it had no objections to the current planning application.

107/25 Village Survey

- (i) Tennis Court - Cllr Barton provided feedback regarding the potential installation of a multi-purpose covering, with estimated costs in the region of £40,000. It was noted that Sport England may support crowdfunding and provide grants of up to £15,000. Following discussion, it was felt there would not be sufficient demand to justify the cost.

- (ii) Lighting in the park car park - discussion around the installation of a solar/wind powered light, at an estimated cost of £4,000 with no ongoing electricity costs. The option of installing a trial light before committing was considered and agreed. ACTION: Cllr Robson.
Extra lighting towards the west end of the village is to be discussed with NCC. ACTION: Cllr Scott

108/25 Haul road

Following recent communication with residents regarding the bridleway, it was agreed that a formal update should be requested, with support to be sought from Cllr Dungait. ACTION: Cllr Scott

109/25 Speed watch

Update from Cllr Scott regarding a recent Speed Watch meeting. Notes have been circulated to all councillors. There were 4 attendees from Ulgham. Reports of login issues, which the new team is aware of and currently monitoring. New speed guns are now available and a training session for their use is scheduled for Wednesday 18th, 10am in Bedlington.

110/25 Blue plaque for Luke Clennel

Unfortunately, Luke was not selected this year for a National Blue Plaque. Mr G Brown suggested consideration of a local commemoration in a visible location for posterity. Discussion followed and Cllr Barton kindly offered to explore other companies that provide similar commemorative plaques. Resident of Ulgham Hall confirmed they remain happy to have such plaque installed on their property. ACTION: Cllr Barton

111/25 Correspondence

- (i) Email: UVA asking PC to consider contributing 50% towards printing of village Newsletter - total cost for this year is £240. AGREED
- (ii) Email: Resident highlight the speed camera (Manor Court) has not been working. This has been investigated and likely due to reduced solar.
- (iii) Email: Advance Green Futures, which is part of Advance Northumberland, invitation to an event to find out about our plans to create a habitat bank at Potland Burn in Ashington
- (iv) Email: Community Governance Review: Stage 1 public consultation goes live on 1st Feb and runs until 30th April - During this consultation, we will seek views and/or proposals on existing parish boundaries, the number of councillors, and whether any new parishes should be created or existing parishes abolished or merged.
- (v) Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the control of dogs - letter from NCC - placed on noticeboard
- (vi) Email: NCC re graffiti - We have had another go at removing the graffiti on the bridge using jet wash but due to the type of spray paint used and the surface it

has been sprayed on we have not been able to remove completely (does not stand out)

- (vii) Email: FixMyStreet: The criteria for installing new grit bins are points-based and take into account several factors. These include the severity of slopes and bends, the type of traffic using the road, whether the highway forms part of a Priority 1 gritting route for roads or footways, the presence of an existing grit bin within a 200-metre radius, and levels of footway use. A Highway Inspector has visited and assessed the location. Unfortunately, it does not meet Northumberland County Council's criteria for the installation of a new grit bin. However, the local town or parish council may choose to purchase a grit bin from Northumberland County Council for installation at a location that does not meet the winter service criteria but is considered necessary locally. Any proposed location must be safely accessible for highway crews to refill and must not obstruct the public footway. These grit bins are typically green in colour. This report has now been closed. Ulgham park may be willing to purchase - if county will fill it
- (viii) Email: Representative of St Johns asking for donation towards the cost of grass cutting. It was AGREED $\frac{1}{3}$ of costs, up to a maximum of £2,000. Discussion followed around ongoing costs for the future, to be further discussed at the next budget review.
- (ix) Email: Northumbria Police: Incidents and Crimes 2nd January 2026 - 8th February 2026
 - (i) There have been no crimes reported to Northumbria Police within this time frame
 - (ii) There have been incidents reported to police within the time frame as above which have been dealt with by police
 - (iii) There has been some disruption to the highway however this was resolved by police

112/25 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- (i) UVA - Cllr Shaw thanked those who attended the AGM. Upcoming events were noted, including March Matinee - Easter Trail - Saturday Rendezvous on Easter Saturday - Duck race in May and Summer Feast.

It was queried whether the Council's insurance includes 'product liability'.

ACTION: Deb Wilson

- (ii) Meadows - Cllr Barton highlighted a dangerous tree overhanging the road up to Ulgham Grange, which needs further investigation. ACTION: Cllr Scott
- (iii) UCBS - Communication with the agent is ongoing, but no progress was reported.

113/25 Accounts for Payment - to authorise payment of the following:

- (i) £52 annual payment to Information Commissions Office
- (ii) £120 to UVA - Contribution towards printing of Newsletter
- (iii) £85 for SLCC - clerk training

- (iv) Agreement to purchase the dog bin. ACTION: D Wilson
- (v) Note: there will be upcoming costs for website and emails to ensure compliance with Assertion 10.

114/25 Reports from Chairman and Members

Cllr Thornton reported that NCC is conducting a public consultation on future community access to library services, including changes to the mobile library series from a three-weekly to a six-weekly schedule. The consultation closes on 20th April. The link to the consultation was provided:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/news/council-launches-consultation-help-shape-future-northumberlands-library-service>

Cllr Shaw highlighted issues caused by leftover sandbags from NCC highways and raised concerns about the use of Facebook by councils. Cllr Shaw expressed a preference not to use the platform, while Cllr Robson noted that, if used appropriately, it could serve as an effective tool for digital advertising and providing information to residents,

115/25 Date of next meeting

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