



ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 18th May April 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

1.5.26 Election of Chairman

The Council proceeded to elect the Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2026/27.

Nomination: Cllr Scott

Proposed by: Cllr Robson

Seconded by Cllr Thornton

With no further nomination, a vote was taken and Cllr Scott was unanimously elected Chairman.

Cllr Scott signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2.5.26 Election of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were received for Vice-Chairman for the year 2026/27.

Nomination: Cllr Barton

Proposed by: Cllr Scott

Seconded by: Cllr Robson

With no further nomination, a vote was taken and Cllr Barton was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

3.5.26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Barton

4.5.26 Declarations of Interest

A request was made for any new or amended declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011.

No new or amended declarations of interest were received.

5.5.26 Appointment of Representatives

Following discussion, the following councillors were appointed to represent the Council:

- Ulgham Village Association (UVA) - Cllr Shaw
- Windfarm - Cllr Thornton (Cllr Shaw remains chair)
- National Association of Local Councils (NALC) - Cllr Barton

6.5.26 Chairman's Report

Cllr Scott presented a report reviewing the Parish Council's work over the past year, acknowledging the valuable contribution of County Councillor Ed Dungait, parish councillors and the clerk.

The report highlighted the village survey, as well as the ongoing efforts of local groups including the UVA, Cricket Club, and the dedicated volunteers who continue to work hard in the meadows. There was also recognition of the continued efforts being made by UCBS to secure the pub for the village.

The report was received and noted.

7.5.26 Financial Report

The Clerk presented an overview of the Parish Council's accounts, outlining the current financial position and highlighting the main areas of expenditure during the year.

The report was received and noted

8.5.26 Date of next meeting

Monday 17th May 2027

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Monday 18th May 2026

Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)

Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton

Residents present: 2 residents

Questions from Parishioner

There were no specific questions from parishioners:

- A resident thanked the Parish Council for forwarding information from NCC regarding a previous query relating to the campsite. The resident has now been able to respond directly and has been advised that the results of the enquiry may take up to 6 months.
- Cameras installed by the Wildlife Trust in private woodland area are being used to monitor local wildlife, particularly red squirrels, which have been sighted in the local woods.
- The rain gauge (weather station) has now been successfully relocated and installed at a new site within the village.

9.5.26 Apologies for absence
Cllr P Barton, Cllr Dungait

10.5.26 Declarations of Interests
No declarations received.

11.5.26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting
Minutes from the meeting held on 20th April, having been previously circulated, were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Comments:

- Work on the fence is due to be completed this week
- The offer regarding the salt bin has been relayed to residents of Ulgham Grange for consideration. No decision has yet been made.

12.5.26 Planning Applications

- Bilsdale - Tree Preservation Order - T22 - re-pollard to previous points - no objection were raised from members of the council.

13.5.26 Finance

- Council approved payments and noted the current bank balance following monthly bank reconciliation.
- Payments to approve:
 - Greenleaf Recycling - £140 (gravel for meadows)
 - Zurich Annual Insurance - £570.00 (by 1st June 2026)
 - NALC Subscriptions - £116.18 (due by 1st July 2026) - approval to pay resolved

It was resolved to approve payments as above.

14.5.26 Speed Camera

The speed sign nearest to Manor Court is broken and has been taken down. Following a discussion on replacement options, it was agreed not to pay the £2,500 -£3,000 to replace with a data recording device but to trial a more basic speed indicator sign, with the intention of considering additional signs at other locations throughout the village if the trial proves successful. Speed data for the village will continue to be collected by the existing camera on the main road.

ACTION: Cllr Robson agreed to research suitable replacement signs, with a budget of up to £500.

15.5.26 Village Lighting

Cllr Dungait met with Cllr Scott and clerk D Wilson earlier today to discuss improvements to street lighting in the village.

As the playing field carpark does not have electricity supply, the estimated cost of installing a light in this location would be approximately £5,000.

However, there is potential to install a light at the entrance to the western side of the village, as well as replacing the existing single light on the path from the main road through to The Croft with a double light fitting to improve illumination of the path.

16.5.26 Website

The website has now been built but still requires updating with local information and content.

All councillors have now been issued with [.gov.uk](mailto:info@bilsdale.gov.uk) email address, although there remains a couple of minor issues relating to setup and day to day usage that are being addressed.

17.5.26 Correspondence

- (i) NCC - The scoping consultation for the preparation of a new Local Plan will start 20th May 2026 - 1st July 2026
- (ii) Citizens Advice - requests for donation - following a discussion, Council unanimously agreed to donate £100.
- (iii) Police Report - Incidents and Crimes from 4th April 2026- 1st May 2026
 - There have been some crimes reported to Northumbria Police within this time frame, as above. However, we are unable to disclose what these have been
 - There have been some incidents reported to police within the time frame as above which have been dealt with by police
 - There has been some disruption to highways but these incidents have been resolved by police.

Information for the public from Northumbria Police:

If you suspect that there is a live incident of poaching, anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity in your area do not hesitate to call 999 and report it.

We send updates on a regular basis to our new platform called Nextdoor. Please can you encourage members of the public to sign up to this if they wish for updates about their local area. The website is - <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

18.5.26 Questions from Members of the Public

Whilst Cllr Shaw did not agree with the proposed process, the majority of councillors agreed that further consideration should be given to changing the arrangement for public questions. Under the proposal, any resident wishing a matter to be discussed at a council meeting would be required to submit their question in writing to the Clerk in advance, so that it can be considered for inclusion on the agenda.

19.5.26 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- UVA
 - Photographer update from last month - he is currently working on a project focusing on communities and community spirit across Northumberland and hopes to visit all parishes to take photographs and speak with residents. There is potential interest from Woodhorn in the project, which may ultimately lead to an exhibition.
 - The annual Duck Race will take place Monday 25th May, 1pm
 - A UVA meeting has been arranged for 30th June at 7pm to discuss the summer picnic in the park
- Meadows - nothing to report

- UCBS - English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 has now received Royal Ascent and is law. UCBS have written to NCC to request they progress an independent valuation, to then enforce the right of first refusal. NCC has indicated that it is awaiting publication of the 'Secretary of State Regulations' before they have a definite position. We are trying to establish how long this is likely to take.

20.5.26 Reports from Councillors and Clerk

Cllr Shaw:

Hanging baskets and tubs - 12 hanging baskets have now been assembled. Volunteers are being sought to assist with watering in the west end of the village.

The cricket club hosted a successful coaching session for Ashington whilst their own pitch was unavailable.

Cllr Scott:

Wind Farm update: Following a recent successful meeting there remains £80,000 of funding remaining for the September meeting.

21.5.26 Next meeting date: Monday 15th June 2026