# ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 15th June 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton, P Barton

Also in attendance: 7 residents

**Questions from Parishioners**

One resident queried what was happening to the speed sign at Manor Court and why is it taking so long to replace.

Response from the Chair: The existing speed sign cannot be repaired. The estimated repair cost is £900, and as the sign is seven years old and nearing the end of its lifespan, the Council is exploring alternatives rather than replace like for like due to significant costs involved.

There remains concern among residents regarding the speed of some vehicles travelling through the village. A request was made for a police speed enforcement van to visit the village. A resident has separately contacted Cllr Dungait, who has requested a copy of the lated recorded speed data.

A resident thanked the council for the tubs and hanging baskets placed along the main road.

A resident highlighted that hedges are overgrown throughout the village, particularly along the main road towards Manor Court.

A resident acknowledged that highways work signs have not being collected and have been left in hedgerow. It was requested that NCC be asked to remove them. Council advised that residents can also report such issues via FixMyStreet.

**22.6.26 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Dungait and Mrs Lamb

**23.6.26 Declarations of Interests**

To receive declarations of interest and other registrable interests from Councillors relating to items on the agenda and to consider any requests for dispensation applications in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

None to record

**24.6.26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026, having previously circulated, were considered.

The following updates were noted:

- 11.2.26 fence been replaced and wood removed
- 12.5.26 planning application withdrawn

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**25.6.26 Planning Applications**

It was noted that the Tree Preservation Order application at Bilsdale had been withdrawn.

The Chair highlighted that the planning application currently under consultation at Fairwinds Longhirst, had been incorrectly report as being in Ulgham in a local newspaper article.

**26.6.26 Finance**

The bank statement, reconciliation and schedule of payments reviewed.

- The current balance was reported as £31,121.14
- An invoice has been received from G Youll and Son for fencing works at the playground car park in the sum of £2,820 inc VAT

**RESOLVED:** That the bank reconciliation be approved and that the accounts for payment, including staff salary payments and routine contractual expenditure, be approved.

**27.6.26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

(i) Approve the report of the internal auditor as set out within the AGAR

(ii) Approve the Annual Governance Statement

(iii) Approve the draft annual accounts for 2024-25
(iv) Approve the Accounting Statement and the explanation of variances
(v) Agree submission of the Certificate of Exemption to the external auditor
(vi) Agree dates for the exercise of public rights: 17th June - 28th July

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and associated documents be approved and submitted as required.

**28.6.26 Windfarm**

The Chair provided an update on the windfarm arrangements and the appointment of the Council's representative. Cllr Thornton expressed an interest in undertaking the role. However, as Cllr Scot is currently the Chair and only one representative may be appointed, Cllr Thornton is unable to take up the position at present.

Cllr Scott confirmed he will remain in post as Chair until the November 2026 meeting and will then step down, allowing sufficient time for the appointment of a new Chair and for Cllr Thornton to undertake any necessary induction.

It was confirmed that applications from communities 3km of the windfarm will be prioritised, with those within 5km considered as a secondary area.

**29.6.26 Village Lighting**

There was no formal update received regarding improved lighting within the village. Costings are still being explored by Cllr Dungait.

**30.6.26 Website**

The new Parish Council website is now live, however historical Parish Council information remains available on the existing village website which will continue to be maintained as a source of general village information. The new website will be dedicated solely to Parish Council business.

**31.6.26 The Forge**

There was no discussion regarding the Forge following the recent passing of the owner. The item will be deferred to the next meeting.

**32.6.26 Correspondence**

Correspondence received by the Parish Council:

(i) The Parish Council were asked to consider communications received from parishioners regarding hedges and footpaths, including concerns relating to visibility, line of sight and reduced access.

The Council is aware of a number of properties with overgrown hedges, all of which are currently under review by respective owners. Due to safety concerns regarding visibility when exiting Ulgham Lane and the resulting poor line of sight, the Parish Council will arrange for hedging to be cut back.

A resident advised that electricity supply will be temporarily switched off on 23rd June 2026, from 9am to 12 midday to facilitate tree trimming around power lines.

(ii) NCC: Email advising of potential support for neighbourhood plan - email previously forwarded, to consider the Parish Council's response.

(iii) NCC: Email regarding New Northumberland Plan and a Scoping Consultation which is running until Wednesday 1st July 2026

(iv) Email from CAB thanking the Parish Council for the recent donation of £100

(v) Email: BT - offering digital sessions on the digital switchover 24th June 11-12. Cllr Thornton and Clerk to attend.

(vi) Police Report - Incidents and Crimes from 2nd May - 2nd June 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.

**33.6.26 Questions from Members of the Public**

proposed changes to Standing Orders regarding the arrangements for public questions were received as follows:

Under Section 3, to add under h:

h. In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

The management of public question time is at the discretion of the Chair.

Please note however that a question may possibly be rejected if it requires the disclosure of any categories of confidential or exempt information, namely information:

- relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- it is substantially the same as a question which has been
- put at a meeting of this or another County Council

- committee in the past six months
- the request repeats an identical or very similar question
- from the same person
- the cost of providing an answer is disproportionate
- it is being separately addressed through the Council's
- complaints process
- it is not about a matter for which the Council has a
- responsibility or which affects the county
- it relates to planning, licensing and/or other regulatory
- applications
- it is a question that town/parish councils would normally
- be expected to raise through other channels

**RESOLVED:** That the amendments to Standing Orders relating to public question arrangements be adopted.

**34.6.26 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups**

- UVA - Thanks were recorded for the planting and the baskets. A meeting will be held on 30th June at 7pm to discuss the 'picnic in the park' event on 8th August 2026, including insurance requirements.
- Meadows - nothing to report
- UCBS - Although we have not been directly informed, we understand that Mary sadly passed away last week. As a mark of respect, there will be no further update provided from UCBS today.

**35.6.26 Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Barton advised that NALC meetings held on a Saturday are difficult to attend. Cllr Shaw confirmed she is willing to attend in his absence.

It was noted that the next meeting is on Saturday 4th July, and Cllr Shaw will attend on behalf of Cllr Barton.

**36.6.26 Next meeting date:** Monday 20th July 2026