ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 20th July 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton, P Barton

Also in attendance: 2 Residents

Questions from Parishioners
There were no questions from parishioners.

37.7.26 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ed Dungait.

38.7.26 **Declarations of Interests**
No declarations of interest were received, and there were no requests for dispensation.

39.7.26 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on **15 June 2026**, previously circulated, were considered.

The following updates were noted:
The Council wishes to thank those who have been involved in cutting back hedges adjoining public footpaths and highways.

A reminder is also issued to those whose hedges have not yet been cut back to please do so, to help ensure that footpaths remain safe and accessible for all users.

Other matters arising from the minutes are considered under the relevant agenda item later in the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

40.7.26 Planning Applications

The Council considered the following planning application:

- 1 Ulgham Grange Crossing, Ulgham. NE61 3AX - erection of self-contained annex to be used as ancillary accommodation.

RESOLVED: The council considered the application and had no objection or comments. It was agreed that no comments would be submitted.

41.7.26 Finance

The bank statement, reconciliation and schedule of payments was reviewed.

RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation and schedule of payments be approved

42.7.26 Playground Inspection

The latest playground inspection was reviewed and discussed by the Council.

RESOLVED: Councillor Shaw will contact Wicksteed to discuss the comments raised in the inspection report regarding the placement of the recently installed play equipment.

43.7.26 Speed Camera and speeding in the village

The Council considered quotations for additional vehicle-activated speed signs. It was noted that quotations received from specialist suppliers ranged between £3,000 and £5,000.

Following discussion, it was agreed that, rather than purchasing a more expensive models at this stage, the Council would purchase a speed detector sign that displays motorists' speeds, at an approximate cost of £500.

RESOLVED: To purchase a speed detector sign at an approximate cost of £500.

Subject to the Council being satisfied with its performance once installed, consideration will be given to purchasing additional signs to be placed at other locations throughout the village.

44.7.26 Village Lighting

Councillor Dungait provided a written update in his absence on the village lighting project he has been working on:

- A second light will be installed to improve illumination of the footpath between The Croft and the main road. This light will become operational as soon as installation has been completed.
- A new pole-mounted light at the Longhirst end of the village will require a connection by Northern Powergrid before it can be commissioned. It is anticipated that this connection will be completed approximately eight weeks after the installation of the lighting unit.

45.7.26 Parish Documents

Council received an update on the progress of its policies and governance documents. The Risk Register, which had been reviewed at a separate Council meeting, has now been completed.

The Publication Scheme requires further information before it can be finalised and approved.

RESOLVED: That the completed Risk Register be approved and that the Publication Scheme be brought back to a future meeting for approval once the outstanding information has been incorporated.

46.7.26 The Forge

There was nothing to report other than that UCBS is trying to establish the appropriate solicitor or executor of the late owners estate.

47.7.26 Correspondence

To Council received and considered the following correspondence:

(i) Email: NCC providing details of the Digital Switchover Briefing 24th June

(ii) Email: Resident raising concerns regarding the burning of garden waste within the village, including the impact on neighbouring residents and potential road safety issues caused by driving smoke.

Council noted that no similar complaints had been received in recent years. It was agreed that concerns relating to immediate danger or road safety should be reported to the appropriate authorities, including Northumbria Police or Northumberland County Council, as appropriate.

Following discussion it was agreed that no further action would be taken by the Parish Council.

(iii) Email: Resident commenting on how the parish council meetings are advertised and querying whether the meetings could be made available online.

Council considered correspondence regarding the advertisement of Parish Council meetings. It was noted that the phrase "All Welcome" had been omitted from the latest Parish Newsletter. The Council confirmed that meetings are publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements and agreed that future newsletters should clearly state that members of the public are welcome to attend.

Members also considered the request to make Parish Council meetings available online. In reaching its decision, the Council took into account the practical and resource implications, the availability of suitable technology, and the need to ensure the effective conduct of meetings. It was resolved not to introduce online broadcasting at the present time.

(iv) Email: Resident advising they have submitted an FOI request to Northumbria Police regarding speed gun deployment and the recent Longhirst speeding campaign and potential for parish collaboration.

Council noted that the resident submitted a Freedom of Information request and agreed to await the outcome before considering any further action.

In relation to potential collaboration with Longhirst Parish Council regarding speeding issues. Council considered that the current liaison through Cllr Dungait provides an appropriate level of communication between the two parish at the present time.

(v) Email: Police Report - Incidents and Crimes: 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
- The report also encouraged residents to sign up to the 'Nextdoor' community platform for updates about their local area. The website is https://nextdoor.co.uk/

RESOLVED: That the Correspondence be noted and no further action is to be taken.

48.7.26 Community Governance Review - Consultation on Boundary Changes:

The Council considered the consultation on the proposed amendment to the parish boundary to include Ulgham Park.

Council discussed the proposal and were of the view that the parish boundary should follow a clearly defined line to include the residential properties at Ulgham Park. However, did not support the inclusion of the ponds and lakes within the revised parish boundary.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports a revision to the parish boundary to include the residential properties at Ulgham Park, with the boundary following a clearly defined line, but does not support the inclusion of the ponds and lakes. The Council's comments will be submitted as its response to the consultation.

49.7.26 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- UVA - The Community Picnic will take place on 8th August. The WI and the Church will be undertaking fundraising activities, the bar will be one throughout the event and the Cricket Club will host live entertainment in the evening. Barbecues will also be available for those wishing to cook their own food.

- Meadows - nothing to report

- UCBS - nothing to report

50.7.26 Reports from Councillors

Cllr Shaw reported that:

- NALC is considering the development of a national formula for council subscriptions
- The Parish notice board is in need of replacement. Council agreed that, in the first instance, a volunteer should be sought to investigate whether the existing notice board could be refurbished. If refurbishment is not considered viable, the Council will then investigate the cost of purchasing a replacement.

RESOLVED: That a volunteer be sought to assess whether the existing notice board can be refurbished before replacement options and associated costs are considered.

51.7.26 Next meeting date: Monday 21st September 2026