ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 21st September 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: J Robson, H Shaw, K Thornton, P Barton

Also in attendance: 4 Residents

52.9.26 Apologies for absence

Cllr Dungait

53.9.26 Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were received, and there were no requests for dispensation.

54.9.26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2026, previously circulated, were considered.

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

Matters arising for information only:
42.7.26: Cllr Shaw contacted Wicksteed regarding comments raised in the recent playground inspection. Wicksteed confirmed that all items meet the required standards and advices the Council to contact them again if any further concerns arise.
50.7.26: Parish Council Noticeboard: the Parish Council wished to thank our resident for refurbishing the Parish Council noticeboard.

55.9.26 Planning Applications

- New applications received

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1. Tree Preservation Order.:2 The Croft
2. Tree Preservation Order: Linden Grove
3. Tree Preservation Order: Bilsdale

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

- Previous application
    1. Erection of self-contained annex to be used as ancillary accommodation. 1 Ulgham Grange Crossing. Decision: REFUSED

56.9.26 Finance

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

Following discussion regarding then payment to PPC, it was agreed to pay the full amount of £1,400 requested, taking into account the additional grass cutting required before the end of the year.

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

57.9.26 Speed Camera and speeding in the village

The Council discussed residents' ongoing concerns regarding speeding and potential measures to improve road safety.

It was suggested that Highways be contacted regarding possible data collection at Ulgham Grange and also the possibility of installation of rumble strips.

The response from the Police to a residents FOI request was noted. A request has been made for a police officer to attend a Parish Council meeting, and the possibility of requesting a mobile speed enforcement van and additional speed warning signs was discussed.

The Council also discussed arranging a 'Cuppa with a Coppa' event to encourage police attendance and provide residents with an opportunity to raise their concerns directly. Cllr Shaw to action

58.9.26 Village Lighting

The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Ed Dungait for his support in improving our village lighting

- Both lighting units were installed on 6 August 2026.
- The lighting unit in The Croft, that is to provide some illumination to the footway, has been operational since the date of installation.
- The new pole-mounted unit on the main road was connected by Northern Powergrid on 16 September 2026 and is now fully operational

It was noted that the street lighting in The Croft needs a slight redirection to fully illuminate the path.

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59.9.26 Playing field maintenance

The Council discussed the damaged fence post at the gate and whether to replace it with two substantial posts or leave the gap open. It was agreed to leave the gap open.

The boundary fence was also discussed, with approximately one-third of which remains to be replaced following previous works. It was estimated that around 30 posts would be required, and it was agreed to obtain a quote from Arnott before committing to the work.

A resident had enquired about placing a memorial seat in the playing field in memory of Gregor and Mary, at the resident's expense. It was agreed that Cllr Scott would meet with the resident to discuss a suitable location for the bench and forward details of a potential bench supplier.

60.9.26 Correspondence

The Council received and considered the following correspondence: .

(i) Email: Northumberland Police (Rural Crime) - In relation to reports of Rural Crime, please see below;

Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity in your area. We encourage residents to keep an eye out for unfamiliar vehicles, people acting suspiciously, or any unusual activity around farms, outbuildings, livestock, machinery, or fuel stores. Where possible, ensure security measures such as CCTV are in place, as well as keeping things secure and locked away. Please report concerns promptly. Information from residents is invaluable in helping us prevent crime and identify offenders.

If you witness suspicious activity, report it via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

(ii) Email: Northumberland County Council is undertaking a public consultation on a proposal to introduce a new countrywide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) relating to the consumption of alcohol in public spaces. Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 9th October 2026.

Website: https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/public-protection/consumption-alcohol-countywide-proposal

(iii) Reminder of the Town and Parish Council event - 8th October 2026. To submit 2 names by 2nd October. It was agreed that Cllr Barton and Cllr Thornton will attend with Cllr Scott, should a third place become available at short notice.

(iv) The Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) August 2026. Email inviting to attend a seminar to explain the changes hosted online: Monday 21st September 5:30pm - 6:30pm

(v) Police Report: Incidents and Crimes from 3rd August 2026 – 4th September 2026.There has been some disruption to highways, but these incidents have been resolved by Police.

- 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.

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(vi) Email from a resident querying changing of boundary under a new Neighbourhood Plan. This has been discussed with NCC and the resident informed of the findings.

(vii) Email from resident regarding follow up from Freedom of Information request and Speed watch - this was further discussed under item - 57.9.26

61.9.26 Community Governance Review - Consultation on Boundary Changes:

The proposed boundary changes to include Ulgham Park, excluding the lakes, were received. The Council was happy to accept the proposed changes and had no further comments at this time.

62.9.26 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- UVA - A successful summer picnic was held with approximately 80-80 people attending. Thanks were extended to those who water the flower tubs and baskets. The next UVA meeting will review recents events and discuss the forthcoming fireworks display, including insurance requirements. Two members will be undertaking food hygiene and safety training.

- Meadows - Nothing to report

- UCBS - There has been no significant progress to report

63.9.26 Reports from Councillors

Cllr Shaw

- Suggested she ask Cllr Dungait whether he would consider holding a drop-in surgery in Ulgham. This was considered a positive suggestion.
- Reported residents' concerns regarding caravans heading down towards Ulgham Park, possibly due to incorrect SatNav directions, causing difficulties when turning. She has discussed this with the campsite owner who will provide updated directions to help minimise the issue in the future.
- Acknowledged NCC's swift response to the replacement of a bin and expressed thanks for their efficiency.

Cllr Robson

- Regarding concerns regarding excessive grass cutting and noise at the campsite. The owner disputed that the grass was being cut excessively and does not consider the noise excessive. It was suggested that a suitable means of recording noise levels be explored to establish evidence if required.

Cllr Barton

- Reported that tow dead hares had left in the village. The matter was discussed in the context of rural crime, and the importance of reporting suspected criminal activity to the police at the time of incident was noted.

64.9.26 Next meeting date: Monday 19th October 2026

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