ULGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Council held in Women's Institute Hall
Monday 19th October 2026
Councillors J Scott (in the Chair)
Councillors: H Shaw, K Thornton, P Barton

Also in attendance: 5 residents

1. A resident raised concerns about significant garden damage caused by goats, noting this was the third incident, and requested advice and support.
2. A resident formally thanked Hugh Annett of Widdrington Farm for the swift removal of fly-tipping.
3. Residents raised concerns around the campsite, including a caravan remaining in one location for several years, and compliance with the 28 day rule. Residents were advised that this wasn't not within the Parish Council's remit and to contact Planning Enforcement.
4. Kirkfield Banks planning application: Residents raised concerns regarding the application, citing the site's green belt designation, proposed changes to planning conditions and the presence of a warden during the sites's stated closed period.

65.10.26 Apologies for absence

Cllr Dungait, Mrs P Lamb, Mr G Brown

66.10.26 Declarations of Interests

Cllr Scott and Cllr Shaw declared an interest in item 74.10.26 (iii) relating to Ulgham Village Association's request for a donation towards this year's firework event.

67.10.26 Councillor Resignation

The resignation of Jim Robson was noted. Cllr Scott thanked him for his contribution over the past year and for agreeing to continue supporting the village in the future.

The required documentation has been submitted to NCC Elections department, and the Council awaits further notice following the statutory 14-day period.

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68.10.26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 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:
Cllr Shaw was unable to meet the police at Hadston, and will hopefully be able to attend the next meeting where she will ask if there is an opportunity for an Ulgham meeting. After contacting Cr Dungait, hopefully there will be an opportunity for a surgery in Ulgham in the near future

The new light at the far end appears to not be working and the one on The Croft still needs to be adjusted.

Arnott is not currently working, Youll and Son Fencing will be asked to provide a quote for the remaining fencing in the playground

E Guy has advised they have hedge cutting equipment and happy to provide their services for the hedge cutting around the playground.

69.10.26 Planning Applications

- New applications received
    1. Kirk Field Banks - Variations to current permission, details previously circulated.

    Councillors raised concerns regarding the proposed full-time warden, noting the potential implications of permanent occupation.
    Also concerns around the site being within green belt and as it can be a wet site in the winter, the site's closure during the winter months allows time to recover.
    The Council agreed with the content of an email opposing the proposed full-time warden, but raised no objection to extending the permitted opening dates to include Easter.
    Councillors agreed that NCC must clarify the existing planning permissions and resolve the conflicting understanding of what is and is not permitted before any further application is supported.

- Previous application
    2. Tree Preservation Order: Linden Grove - PERMITTED
    3. Tree Preservation Order: Bilsdale - PERMITTED

70.10.26 Planning

Councillors received an update from Cllr Thornton following her attendance at a planning seminar and further discussions at the recent Town and Parish Conference. Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are influencing how development is managed, with greater support for housing in existing settlements,

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locations with good transport links and sustainable development, including measures addressing climate change. The concept of Grey Belt land was also discussed, alongside the need to prevent towns from sprawling into surrounding areas. As much of Northumberland' geography is not towns, it means a significant proportion of the county is likely to be viewed as grey belt.

Northumberland County Council is preparing a new Local Plan aligned with the NPPF, with provision for approximately 35,000 homes. Although development is expected to focus on larger, well-connected settlements, all areas will need to be considered. Interested parties can nominate potential development sites, followed by consultation on proposed sites and a further public consultation. The importance of making the Parish Council's views known and encouraging parishioners to participate was emphasised.

There will be further consultation in the near future, with Council to encourage local participation, in particular details around County Council's mapping or potential areas for development.

71.10.26 Finance

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

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

72.10.26 Speeding in the village

NCC are happy to carry out two speed survey as requested, they are aiming to have both surveys completed by December 2026.

73.10.26 Policies

The Risk Assessment and Publication Scheme were presented for approval. Councillors have not had sufficient time to review the documents, and consideration was deferred to the next meeting.

74.10.26 Correspondence

To receive and consider correspondence received by the Parish Council.

(i) Email: Northumberland Police Monthly Report:
Incidents and Crimes from 6th September 2026 – 3rd October 2026
- There have been no crimes reported to Northumbria Police within this time frame
- There have been some incidents reported to police within the time fame as above which have been dealt with by police

(ii) Email: Northumberland County Council. From 9th October 2026 NCC will begin work on the preparation of the next Local Plan for Northumberland. They have 30 months to prepare and adopt a new plan. Monday 12th October they will be lounging a consultant exercise for town and parish councils which will run unto 9th December 2026. Looking at new housing development sites and required infrastructure.

(iii) Email: UVA, for parish council to consider a donation towards the firework event on 5th November 2026

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Following discussion, Cllr Barton and Cllr Thornton agreed that a donation of £350 would be appropriate, an increase on the previous year due to higher costs, including insurance and food safety training. It was suggested that UVA review the cost to attendees for next year's event.

RESOLVED: To donate £350 to UVA towards this year's firework event.

75.10.26 Reports from Ulgham Village Groups

- UVA

  Plans for the fireworks are progressing well, with key volunteers in place to help organise the event. Thanks were expressed to everyone who contributes and hoping for a successful evening and fine weather.
- Meadows - nothing to report
- UCBS

  We have been working hard to establish and confirm the current position following the sad death of the owner of the Forge Inn.
  We understand the owner died without leaving a Will and we believe there is one elderly living relative. We have been unable to directly contact the relative, but understand that they are unwilling to accept the inheritance and / or take on the role of Administrator of the estate. However, they have also apparently not formally renounced their entitlement, which would then normally pass to the Crown (a process known as Bona Vicantia). So in essence it appears we are in a state of Limbo.
  The recent change in the Law to Right to Buy, unfortunately does not apply, as having no current owner, it cannot be for sale.
  We are looking to explore the possibility of Compulsory Purchase via Northumberland Council under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

76.10.26 Reports from Councillors

Cllr Scott - reported on an issue with fly tipping and the challenge of who owns the van. Cllr Barton and Cllr Scott will continue to communicate with NCC enforcement.

Cllr Shaw - reported the following:

- Highways - the continued state of Ulgham lane now the development has been completed
- Signage - the need for signposting to Ulgham Park, which hopefully will stop caravans driving down the lane in error
- Environment - green bin collections to continue into early December
- A helpline for residents "
- 'We're her to keep you safe and well' Contact: 01670 620015, 9am-6pm, 7 days a week.

77.10.26 Next meeting date: Monday 16th November 2026

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