

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 23rd January
2018 at Ovington Village Hall**

Present:

Nigel Parkes--- Chairman
Patricia Hanson – Vice Chairman
Peter Levett – Councillor
Shaun Hanson - Councillor
Amanda Wilson – Clerk

Apologies:

Julie Parkes - Councillor

One village resident

The minutes of the last meeting on 5th December 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) Broadband - Alli Walker of Durham County Council / Digital Durham (DD) emailed Nigel Parkes on 19th January 2018 – content in summary;

a) Given numerous processes that need to occur – we hope to have a better understanding between April and June 2018, at which time we will look to provide OPC with an update.

b) Funding and existing fibre infrastructure will form part of the decision making process as to whether Ovington will be included in the upgrade plans... see above.

c) Ref BT Community Fibre Partnership (CFP):- Although not quoted in this particular email it is understood that CFP option would cost circa £50,000 to provide High Speed Broadband into the village. CFP is usually delivered within 12 months and given they (DD) don't yet know if Ovington is to be included in any plans through the Digital Durham Programme, Alli suspects CFP would be a quicker route.

d) Alternative Technologies in the meantime? Mastband and 4G, Satellite Broadband, Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme – www.digitaldurham.org/better-broadband/

This update is to be shared throughout the village (including alternative options) in the next newsletter to be circulated by the end of March 2018. **Action: ALL**

ii) Maypole Plaque: A possible location has been cited within the committee who will now go and take a closer look to decide i.e. next to the existing seat opposite the Four Aalls. It has been proposed that the VAT refund of £818 should be spent on a plaque inscribed with a short history of the Maypole Village. Ashley Bye has now kindly provided a history of the village Maypole. The content of this needs to now be condensed so it is suitable for inclusion on a plaque. The options for what sort of plaque, where it should be located and what it should say and/or depict needs to be explored and agreed. Suggestions to date; An A4 sized brass plate mounted on a rough-hewn piece of rock placed near the cherry tree, Ashley's research and history printed and available for sale in the village, The plaque and mount in place ready for our entry to "Britain in Bloom", Pricing also to be obtained for 2 No. Cast Iron "Maypole Village" entrance signs to replace existing. **Action: Shaun and Patricia Hanson & ALL**

iii) Monitoring BT service into the village – Village resident Dot Jones has offered to compile a record of any issues raised to her by village residents regarding British Telecom's service into the village, none to date. **Action – Monitor**

iv) Village Green – Maureen Begg confirmed via email 22nd January 2018 that the Village Green is now registered with the Land Registry under Ovington Parish Council. Maureen also confirmed that this would have no impact on the agreement between DCC and OPC re maintenance of the trees

both on the Green and on all public land in the village. She went onto to clarify that The Village Green has been registered with the County Council 's since the 70's as a Village Green in ownership of the Parish Council and the registration with the Land Registry was just to record this more formally and also digitally. OPC has requested that this tree maintenance agreement be forwarded to the Parish Council for their records. **Action: Amanda Wilson**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – Following circulation of the initial newsletter and requests for interested parties to come forward and join a meeting held just prior to this meeting, a good number of village residents attended and a list of "actions" were drawn up and will be circulated around the village to ensure total village engagement. A great start! **Action – SH/NP**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

This field has recently been sold on although the planning application remains in unaltered. The Field down Cliffords Lane, Dorma Bungalow - Pending due to amended drawings and the necessity for a wildlife survey. Timescales unknown. **Action: Shaun Hanson to contact DCC for any updates.**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been one bill paid since the last meeting: £10 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 368 dated 21/01/18)

Receipts – None

As of 23rd January 2018 the Parish Council had £154.00 in the current account and £4,746.30 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – none declared.

No invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Precept 2018/19 agreed unanimously to remain unchanged from the previous year at £1,968.00 as proposed by Nigel Parkes and seconded by Peter Levett.

Correspondence:

E mail from Alli Walker (DCC/DD) to Nigel Parkes on 19th January 2018

Any other Business:

Christmas Decorations – Very large "Baubles" were spotted by Nigel Parkes hanging from the branches of trees in Staindrop, Nigel thought that might be nice for our Village Green for Christmas 2018. Prices to be obtained **Action – Peter Levett**

Ovington Children's Group – a note to say that after an "active period" of circa 15 years the group is to be mothballed until someone with young children steps forward and offers to continue the clubs good work. A letter of thanks to be sent to the main group organisers Katrine, Margaret and Amanda was proposed and agreed by all members of the Parish Council. **Action - Nigel Parkes**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be TBC (Hall must be booked with Mrs Levett).