

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 19th July 2016 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

Nigel Parkes – Chairman
Shaun Hanson --- Councillor (part)
Margaret Towler – Vice Chairman
Maureen Begg – Councillor
Amanda Wilson - Clerk

Apologies:

Ian Guest --- Councillor

Three village residents

The minutes of the last meeting on 17th May 2016 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) BT Way Leave Compensation – Following a tele/con with Emlyn Evison on 11th January 2016, it was suggested that Mrs Begg, on behalf of OPC, sent an email to BT to declare that we wish to escalate this issue and take it higher within BT Openreach. Email received from Leslie Sheldon on 14/7/16 stating she had chased up the complaints department but had, to date, not received a reply but would follow up on her return from leave on 25th July. **Action: Mrs Begg to follow up with BT/Leslie Sheldon.**

ii) Ovington Bridge – On going issue with DCC re. bridge wall reinstated approximately two meters short by DCC. Mrs Begg spoke to and received an email on 15/07/16 from Historic England confirming that they have emailed Bryan Harris (DCC Conservation Officer) as essentially the bridge has been altered and Historic England should have been consulted. They will update OPC next week when they hear from Bryan Harris. **Action: Mrs Begg to follow up with Historic England.**

iii) Broadband - Last update from Digital Durham 26/04/16 re. providing a more detailed update for Ovington later in the year. **Action: On going - Mrs Begg to monitor and follow up.**

iv) Public Footpaths – Health and Safety re. installation of hand rail above barbed wire fence on footpath down to river. Mrs Begg followed up on 19/07/16 with Mike Murden, Public Rights of Way Officer who advised that this would be fitted hopefully by the end of August. **Action: Mrs Begg to monitor**

v) Transparency Code – Internet Access – £819 cheque received for hardware i.e. printer, scanner, computer, router and also MS Word Licence etc, to be sourced and purchased. **Action: Mrs Begg.**

vi) Damage to Village Green Oak tree - Mrs Begg informed the meeting that she had been advised that the tree would try to repair itself by scaring over the damaged area however that the Council would have to risk assess the potential weakness in the tree. As DCC had agreed to take over the maintenance of the trees on the Village Green DCC would have the responsibility. It was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor and review the situation next year. Mrs Begg to contact Durham County Council to get their opinion. **Action: On going - Mrs Begg**

vii) Parish Notice Board – Mr Parkes advised the meeting that he would install a latch on the notice board. **Action: No progress - Mr Parkes (still on going)**

viii) Proposed Planning Application for “Ovington Pastures” – note;- no formal planning application has, to date, been submitted;

- a) Mr John and Jennifer Wain requested and have attended a preliminary meeting with Ovington Parish Council members on Tuesday 28th June 2016, meeting notes to be raised and submitted by Nigel Parkes, to seek initial views on their proposed planning submission for 9 houses. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- b) Despite acknowledging the Parish Councils concerns and indicating a re-think on the proposed scheme OPC received a letter from Mr & Mrs Wain dated 11th July 2016 stating they are continuing with their application for 9 houses as originally proposed with the addition of hedge screen to the East boundary. OPC to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and express disappointment at it's content. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- c) **OPC to continue to monitor the situation - ALL**

ix) Maypole:

Update as of 19th July 2016;

a) Due to procurement rules requiring several quotations for products and services over certain spend thresholds i.e. £200 - £2000 – minimum 2 quotations and £2000+ minimum of 3 quotations and the predicted cost of supply & delivery and separately, the installation, falling within & above these thresholds, OPC will make every reasonable attempt to comply with this requirement, noted that this item is very bespoke and it may not be possible to secure the requisite number of quotations i.e. for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of a suitable treated, length and tapering diameter “Maypole” shaped tree trunk.

Therefore Maypole procurement is currently “on hold” until this situation can be clarified, a meeting specifically to discuss this issue & present the various quotations will be held on Wednesday 10th August 2016 @ 7.30pm **Action – Nigel Parkes**

b) Barbara Levett, on behalf of The Village Hall Committee, pledged £1000 towards the Maypole fund for which OPC passed on their thanks.

c) Funding available for the replacement of the Ovington Maypole now stands at £4,595.00.

x) Fairview Garage for sale with particulars mentioning potential of usage as a ‘depot’ subject to relevant consents: Concerns raised re more heavy traffic using roads within the 7.5 tons weight restriction if the garage was sold with this intent. The Councillors agreed to monitor the situation. **Ongoing.**

xi) Concern was raised about the speed of Thursday’s “Time Trial” by a local cycling group, through the village. **Action; Nigel Parkes to contact them – on going.**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

None

Financial Report:

Mrs Begg as the Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been four bills paid since the last meeting: £10 to Ovington Village Hall – hire of hall (Cheque 333 dated 19/05/16),

£204 to Mill Gardens – Grass Cutting (Cheque 334 dated 19/05/16), £251.85 to Zurich Insurance (Cheque 335 dated 25/05/16) and £19.26 to CDALC (Cheque 336 dated 10/06/16)

Receipts – Total - £3,415.88 - 10/06/16 Donation for the Maypole Fund from selling cakes £95, 19/05/16 Donation for the Maypole Fund, anonymous £1000, 22/06/16 Transparency Fund, IT equipment £819, 04/07/16 Interest, Savings £1.88 and 20/06/16 Donation for the Maypole Fund, Mr & Mrs Guest £1,500.

To date the Parish Council had £1.11 in the current account and £7,517.86 in the savings account. (Maypole Fund - £3,595 and Transparency Fund - £819.00)

Invoices were received for – Village Hall Hire 2 x £10 - £20.00 and Mill Gardens Grass Cutting £408; All invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Correspondence:

- 1) Jennifer and John Wain – dated 11/07/16 ref. Planning application for 9 houses.
- 2) Britain in Bloom e-mail to Margaret Towler ref. funding available, to be reviewed and reported back to the Parish Council – **Action Mrs Towler**

Any other Business:

- a) Concern was raised about an increase in dog mess around the village, it was agreed a note will be put in the next OPC newsletter. **Action - Mrs Begg**

The next Parish Council Meeting was arranged for Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 7.45pm. (Hall booked at meeting with Mrs Levett).