

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
September 2018 at Ovington Village Hall**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

None

One Village Resident

The minutes of the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting – commencing 7.45am**

**Election of Committee**

In accordance with current legislation the Annual Parish Meeting should be held in May each year so it was proposed by the current Chairman, Nigel Parkes, that the committee positions should remain unchanged until this meeting is held in May 2019. No objections were raised, the committee and Councillors to remain unchanged.

**Chairman's Report**

The current Chairman provided a summary of the Parish Council's notable events over the past year, please see attached.

**Financial Statement**

See meeting minutes below – balance as of the beginning of May 2018 Current Account £2338.54  
Savings Account £4746.00

**Future AGM to be consolidated into normal Council Meetings**

Yes, the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be combined with a routine Council meeting in May 2019 due notice being provided as required.

**AOB - None**

**Meeting closed at 8:00pm**

**Parish Council meeting minutes – commencing 8:00pm**

**All present as above.**

**Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**Matters Arising:**

**Broadband** - Update as of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Nigel Parkes spoke to Alli Walker, Digital Durham in mid August who confirmed that Ovington would be included in the next phase but when challenge

as to when the next phase would commence, she did not know when the starting date would be but hoped to provide us with an update by the end of September.

- Update as of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 – It is hopeful that a decision will be made in June as to whether Ovington will be included within the next phase, Phase 3 which will also commence in June 2018. Alli Walker of DD strongly advised against entering into the Community Broadband scheme and paying around £50k for this. Both Digital Durham and BT have offered to come to a village meeting to explain the latest news on progress. No major progress or answers OPC to continue to make contact and push this forward. **Action; Nigel Parkes**

Background;

Alli Walker of Durham County Council / Digital Durham (DD) emailed Nigel Parkes on 19<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.digitaldurham.org/better-broadband/)

**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 Ails. 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. At the latest meeting it was agreed to concentrate on the plaque and not the village entrance signs. Ashley Byes history of the Maypole is to be condensed for inclusion on the plaque. Update as of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 – John Stroud has kindly offered to build a wall and possibly mount the above suggested plaque and flowers as an integral part of the retaining wall. **Action: ALL (wording Julie Parkes) Ongoing**

**iii) Monitoring BT service into the village** – No issues. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 on 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. Nothing received from Maureen to date therefore it was decided to contact Durham County Council direct for confirmation of this arrangement. **Action: Nigel Parkes (Ongoing)**

**v) Northumbria in Bloom** – With 2 visits now from judges and a presentation as part of this, we will hear the results on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Nigel and Shaun will be attending the meeting to hear the results in Newcastle. Nigel reported that he had received a large amount of positive and enthusiastic feedback from the village, a number of residents asked what was happening next year! The committee agreed to purchase some additional spring bulbs to plant around the village, these will be planted by the Parish Council next weekend.

**vi) 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, on going. Prices are astronomic at £7,000 each individually designed this isn’t a sensible option. It was therefore proposed we shop around and what we can get for a budget of around £200. It was suggested we have a look to see if we can establish if there are any grants we can get, initially trying to find out where Staindrop got their funding from. **Action – Shaun Hanson (funding) and Peter Levett (ongoing towards Christmas)**

**vii) Village Green Residents Access Road** – Flooding concerns; Update as of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018; Nigel Parkes visited Jean to understand the problem and advise her whilst the Parish Council are sympathetic it is not a Parish Council matter as the road is private and unadopted. Nigel once again as a neighbour offered to help alleviate the problem by offering to dig drainage but reiterated it was not a Parish Council matter.

Both Nigel and Patricia offered to visit Jean again to check she was ok and offer to help as neighbours.

Letter from Jean Dauber regarding the concern over possible flooding into her cottage on the Village Green should proposed perimeter track improvements go ahead. A letter has been sent to advise that this is not a Parish Council matter but the Parish Council would be happy to provide support should any issues arise. As a gesture of goodwill the neighbours have also offered to install some drainage to hopefully alleviate the problem. **Action; Nigel Parkes/Patricia Hanson**

### **Consideration of any current Planning Applications**

Approved “Field” Application – Permission for one dwelling was granted at a planning committee meeting, after a site visit on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Full responses to both committee members and resident concerns can be viewed on Durham County Council Planning portal.

Ovington Edge – There have been concerns raised within the village regarding access to the road from the new garage buildings under construction within the grounds of Ovington Edge. As part of this the existing boundary wall has been breached to allow access to the South of the main building from the garden onto the main road through the village. It is unknown if this is a temporary access to facilitate the construction works or a more permanent solution. If permanent this may require retrospective planning permission and may be considered dangerous given the blind bend as you enter the village. It does look like access within the boundaries of Ovington Edge and the new garage and out buildings may be too tight to use the original access. Enquiries are to made to establish the longterm arrangements. **Action – Nigel Parkes (ONGOING?)**

### **Financial Report:**

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been three bills paid since the last meeting: £500.02 to Mill Gardens for Grass Cutting (Cheque 374 dated

23/07/18), £220.01 to Mill Gardens for Grass Cutting (Cheque 375 dated 20/08/2018), £110.00 to Mill Gardens for Grass Cutting (Cheque 376 dated 20/08/18).

Receipts – £None

As of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the Parish Council had £1028.17 in the current account and £3746.00 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – One £10 to Ovington Village Hall

1No. Invoice were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Future expenditure – Salt Bins, Grass Cutting and Maypole Plaque

**Correspondence:**

None

**Any other Business:**

None

**Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.45pm**

**The Hall has been booked with Mr Levett**