

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2016 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Heslop, Chalmers, Gray, Campbell and Bryan and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Shield (work commitments) and County Cllr Kelly.
2. Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Heslop (item 12d) and Cllr Gray (item 7 – Old School House).
3. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.
4. Matters arising:-
 - i) **Bridge Closure:** Cllr Jordon circulated photographs detailing work still required on the bridge. Repairs to leg bracings were almost complete. NCC hope to appoint a paint contractor by the end of June and have stated this will not hold up the overall programme. They are also still awaiting permission from EA regarding the filling in of the large scour hole. All legs of the bridge have now been investigated. Scaffolding will be removed gradually as the paint contractors work their way across. NCC have given reassurances that all scaffolding will be removed by November when pressed by concerns about potential flooding and damning as was the case last December. The footbridge requires repairs. Cyclist's signs are in place – complaints have been received and the Clerk has relayed them to the chief engineer - NCC has also received telephone calls from residents. No further news with regards to the re-opening of the river road to Bywell although plans are in place for when NCC get the go ahead. NCC will bank up the affected area which should prevent further landslip and the road will be re-routed further inland.
 - ii) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon advised that quotes for suggested works were still awaited (path to the chalets and parking on Horsley Road). Unfortunately it was not a priority for NCC.
 - iii) **Village projects:**
 - a) **Handyperson:** Peter Hind had started work in the village including areas by Castle View and the Church.
 - b) **Bus Shelters:** The matter was listed for full discussion later on the agenda (item 8) but Cllr Jordon advised as a consequence of the survey, a resident had asked if a bench could be placed by the Reading Room. Cllr Gray said he

would raise this at the next meeting of the Reading Room Committee.

- iv) **Co-option to Council:** No applications had been received. The Clerk had mentioned the vacancy in the Church magazine again. On relaying her apologies, Cllr Shield had suggested a “Meet the Councillor” event at the forthcoming Ovi Fun day (July 23rd) and the Cllrs felt this could be a good opportunity to raise awareness and possibly encourage applications from residents.
- v) **Grazing Land:** A resident had enquired about the availability of the grazing land and agreed to take over the tenancy although this may only be for a short period of time.
- vi) **Lane to the rear of Castle View:** NCC had now filled in one of the holes but unfortunately not the other. Cllr Jordon had asked this to be done as soon as possible.

5. **County Councillors Report:** As County Cllr Kelly was unable to attend the meeting, he had circulated his report to the Parish Council. Main points including changes in Ponteland Schools consultation process whereby the first schools in the pyramid now wanted to be primaries. The final draft of the Core Strategy had to be changed to accommodate de-allocation of previously identified employment land.

6. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses May)	£294.34
NALC (annual subscription)	£208.29
Lloyd Ltd (mower repair)	£108.01
Play Inspection Co (Annual inspection)	£75.00
NWater (quarterly charge)	£16.41
Ovingham Reading Room (room hire, May)	£17.00
D Jordon (plants)	£57.30

The Clerk also advised she had received notice of an outstanding debt to HMRC in respect of unpaid tax of £211.59 against her wages. The Clerk was not earning enough (including other employment) to pay any tax and had attempted to sort out her tax code without success. Ultimately, this would need to be resolved but the Cllrs agreed to pay the bill as a refund would automatically follow in due course.

7. **Planning applications:**

16/00179/PREAPP Old School House – change of use of land to residential and erection of detached double garage. The Clerk had submitted comments regarding this application and Cllr Gray confirmed the case officer was not yet in a position to make her own comments but the Parish Council would be informed.

16/00194/PREAPP Land to west of Forge House – proposal to build 2 bedroomed property. In contrast to the above, on receipt of comments from the Parish Council regarding concerns primarily about the proposal being in a conservation area, the case officer had replied confirming they would be taken into account.

16/01933/PRUTPO 2 Nunnyclose/4 the Terrace – crown lift sycamore & chestnut & remove branch system over garden. The Clerk has just received this application which the Cllrs had not had an opportunity to look at yet. Cllr Jordon understood approval would only be given on advice received from the tree officer for NCC.

8. **To consider bus shelter(s) for the village:** Cllr Chalmers had analysed the responses received from residents. A total of 67 had been received and whilst not all had answered each question, generally there was support for a bus shelter at either Piper Road or Castle View. Not everyone who answered used the bus but still offered support for the proposal. Some concerns were expressed about vandalism and possibly encouraging loitering. The Clerk had obtained two detailed quotes for a shelter at Piper Road which included installation and both companies had offered a site visit. However, after much discussion it was agreed that in view of some concerns expressed, the better option would be for a cantilevered shelter on Castle View and although no quotes had been obtained for this option, the Clerk would ask for new quotes and site visits from the two companies concerned, Shelter Solutions and ACE Shelters.
9. **To consider Annual Inspection report for Playing Field:** A comprehensive report had again been received from the Play Inspection Company following their annual inspection and had been circulated amongst the Councillors. Although all areas had been classed as either low or very low risk, it was agreed that it was extremely important to keep on top of the equipment and field areas and Cllr Jordon appreciated the hard work undertaken by Phil Holden and that he was still very much involved in maintaining the playing field. She had visited the field this week and felt some areas of the field badly needed attention in relation to weed growth. Cllr Bryan confirmed that there would be a meeting in early July amongst the Playing Field Users and the report would be raised then. He and Cllr Shield would work their way through it. Cllr Jordon wondered if inspecting the playing field every 3 months or so would help keep on top of any issues and also if the Pavilion could be included. Cllr Bryan confirmed a team of volunteers were still very much involved in maintenance. Cllr Jordon suggested that if some tasks were too much work then Adrian Jackson could be employed to tackle them.
10. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon reported that the path from Piper Road to Wylam was still subject to sand/silt which had been deposited during the floods at the turn of the year. Despite reporting it 3 times, she had only just been informed that the sweeper had been written off and one borrowed had broken down! A new one was now on order. Cllr Jordon noted grass cuts were still a concern and that she felt the church was the worst she had ever seen. Garden waste from the back of Castle View has been removed although a tree remains. Complaints have been received about horse fouling on pavements including outside Cllr Jordon's house. The Clerk will write to some local stables asking them to ensure droppings are not left on pavements. Cllr Jordon also reminded the Council that some annual jobs such as pruning the allotment hedge were due again and the Cllrs agreed that Adrian Jackson be asked to attend to them. Correspondence had been received from Northumbrian Water regarding a Community Engagement & Action Plan for Ovingham in relation to flooding. This will include proposals for reducing flood risk in Dene Close area. NWater will also be upgrading pipes in Wheatfield/Dene Close area which will likely mean some trees being removed. However, this is being monitored by the Tree Officer and any removed will be replaced.
11. **Committee reports:** Cllr Jordon advised that Stephen Barlow (Wylam)

was re-elected chair of Ovingham Joint Burial Committee and Mike Senior (Horsley) vice chair. Otherwise, there was not much to report.

Cllr Chalmers reported a very successful tea party held in the Reading Room last Sunday (12th June) which had been attended by 65 people. Cllr Gray said the issue of safeguarding needed to be considered carefully by the Reading Room Committee and he hoped a member would take it on. All users of the Reading Room would have to comply. Disability access by the front door needed to be considered.

Cllr Bryan left the meeting at 8.30pm.

12. **Correspondence:**

- a) Complaints about unauthorised use of the footbridge (cyclists) had been dealt with above.
 - b) A copy of the Core Strategy revised draft had been received which Cllr Gray would look at and report back.
 - c) Consultation regarding NCC renewable energy was also available for comments and again, Cllr Gray would look at it.
 - d) A letter had been received from Richard Heslop asking for financial assistance from the Parish Council in setting up a “Parkrun” at Prudhoe Riverside Park. Money had been pledged from Prudhoe Town Council but the Cllrs wanted more information before committing themselves. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Richard for more details including the timescale involved.
 - e) Cllr Jordon advised the residents of Greenhaugh had contacted her with regards some scheduled work (commencing 9th July) which required a large works container to be placed on the village green. Land would be re-instated once the container was removed.
13. Distribution was still being circulated.
14. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 21st July at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm