

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2016 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Heslop, Moore, Gray, Campbell, Bryan and Shield, and 3 residents (part)

1. James Bryan and Clara Shield were officially co-opted to Council.
2. Apologies for absence was received from County Cllr Kelly.
3. No declaration of interest was received.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2016 having previously been circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed.
5. County Cllr Kelly had circulated his report as he was not able to attend the meeting. One matter referred to County Councillors funding applicants for the forthcoming Tall Ships Race and nominations from High Schools were requested. Cllr Jordon explained there had been a lot of interest from students wanting to take part. Cllr Jordon reminded the meeting that the Parish Council needed to prioritise options for applying to County Cllr Kelly and the small members' scheme. Quotes were currently being sought for parking in Horsley Road and a path on the top of Horsley Road/Cooksfield area.
6. Matters arising:-
 - i) **Barrier at shop:** No further progress to report.
 - ii) **Lane to rear of Castle View:** Again, nothing further to report.
 - iii) **Traffic issues:** Double yellow lines on the corner of Tyne Gardens and Castle View should be carried out in April assuming no objections were received.
 - iv) **Bridge Closure:** More damage had been found and it will be quite some time before the bridge re-opens. Cllr Heslop queried if this damage had always been there but Cllr Gray understood the assumption was that it had been caused by flooding as the previous inspection about 4 years ago did not reveal this. Cllr Jordon also updated the meeting on the closure of the river road to Bywell – progress was being made between NCC and the landowners as regards re-positioning the affected road and County Cllr Kelly had informed her that he was confident it would go through although this would take time.
 - v) **Village projects:**
 - 1) **Handyperson:** Cllr Jordon had met with Peter Hind explaining some of the jobs which needed doing (weeding around church yard, sweeping) and he estimated these would involve about a day's work, costing £120. Cllr Jordon thought such tasks would

need doing 3 or 4 times a year and asked for other suggestions so she could draw up a schedule. Cllr Gray was concerned that some sort of contract should be drawn up although Cllrs Moore and Bryan felt this was unnecessary as he would only be employed as and when required. It was agreed that a handyperson was needed and the approximate annual cost would be in the region of £1000. A final decision would be made at the next meeting.

- 2) **Wild Flowers**– At the last meeting it was agreed that the wooden planter on Horsley Road would be dismantled and wild flowers sown. Also along Castle View – an area would be used. Debbie Reed, Green Ovingham (who was present at the meeting) had circulated suggestions for utilizing more areas and it was agreed that the 2 above were an initial trial area and that a part of the playing field could be used too.
 - 3) **Telephone Box** – Cllr Jordon asked that confirmation be sought from BT as to whether they would continue to maintain the box if the Parish Council did not go ahead and adopt it as she felt that it could be an unnecessary expense painting it themselves. Cllr Gray also queried whether a volunteer to paint the box could be found if it was agreed to buy the paint. The Clerk would check with BT and if they confirmed that they would not maintain it, she would then order the required paint at an approximate cost of £30 - £35.
 - 4) **Bus Shelters** – Martin King, NCC, had confirmed on the site visit that it would be possible to erect bus shelters on the two proposed sites. One on Castle View, by the Notice Board would need a minimum passageway of 1.5 metres and therefore would have to be of a canopy design. Cllr Moore suggested the bus operators should be approached to see if they would help with funding. The Clerk would obtain quotes and then approach the relevant bus operators. Construction costs also needed to be taken into account.
 - 5) **Workshop**: This had originally been proposed by Cllr Chalmers but agreed at the January meeting to put on hold until other projects had been finalized. It was agreed to plan a workshop meeting in May.
 - 6) **Storyboard** – This had not progressed any further and Cllrs Jordon and Gray would arrange a further meeting with residents Bob Klotz and Ken Rusby to move it forward.
- vi) **Dog Waste bin by field opposite the School**: The Clerk had now received a quote for 2 traditional style robust bins one of which would be placed by the entrance to the field opposite the school. The other bin was to replace that vandalized by the Church. The cost, including delivery and fixing straps and VAT, was £583.82.

- This was approved.
- vii) **Village Inspection:** An on-site meeting had been conducted with Martin King, NCC, on 11th March. Cllr Jordon had since updated the village action plan and circulated it. The main points raised was parking on Horsley Road – Martin King would prepare a quote for this. It was noted a resident had also just complained to the Parish Council about the state of the verges. The top end of Windsor Crescent (Nos 49-74) by the playing field needed attention to the pavements. Cllr Moore had raised the state of the grassed area on Windsor Crescent, due to parking, with ISOS specifically because they had previously agreed to consider the widening of the road but at the time had no available finances. As a new financial year was approaching, she had contacted them again but was told that ISOS could not fund it but were prepared to gift a strip of land to NCC providing NCC then maintained it. Martin King advised that NCC would not permit widening of the road but suggested a metre strip of tarmac around the edge of the green to so that vehicles still had to mount the strip to park. Although he also confirmed that NCC would not be prepared to fund it, he would forward a quote which the Parish Council could forward to ISOS. Cllr Jordon asked the Clerk to check the above details with Martin King before contacting ISOS. Cllr Moore pointed out that ISOS will have to repair the area at some stage due to the poor condition. Cllr Jordon hoped if the above proposals were carried through it would resolve the parking problem as vans and cars do park further than a metre on to the grass at the present time.

The large puddle at the southern end of the path from Bewick Lane to Main Road was a continuing problem. This would be followed up by NCC as it was their responsibility. The path at the back of Dene Garth was also looked at. Martin King confirmed that paving stones needed attention but this could not be carried out for the time being due to the extent of the overhanging hedge from a neighbouring property. Cllr Jordon had spoken with the residents concerned who grew the hedge for privacy and they had been upset at the suggestion of cutting it back. Cllr Jordon would look at this again with Cllr Campbell to see if any other suggestion could be put forward.

7.	Accounts to pay/be paid	
	M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Nov/Dec)	£585.49
	Duke of N'land Estates (rent Playing Field)	£250.00
	Wylam Nurseries (pots & compost)	£283.54
	Adrian Jackson (village maintenance)	£365.00
	NWater (quarterly charge)	£13.86
	J Swinburn (planings for green & tree removal)	£135.00
	Ovingham Reading Room (Room Hire Feb)	£17.00
	C Lindsay (internal audit gratuity)	£50.00
	A Jackson (village maintenance)	£385.00
	D Jordon (tel. expenses & refreshments for meeting)	£31.77

The Clerk advised Chris Lindsay had not asked for any gratuity preferring

to donate to a local cause in lieu but to keep records in order, payment was authorised to him.

8. **Planning applications:**
16/00076/FUL: 35 Dene Garth – extension and alteration including garage conversion, revised parking arrangements and landscaping works – **GRANTED**
15/04187/FUL 6 Wheatfield Close - retrospective construction of single storey kitchen extension – No objections
15/00808/FUL: Houses to North of Piper Road (amended application) – Cllr Gray was still awaiting information regarding the points raised about flooding concerns. He noted that ISOS had now submitted revised plans/documents but could not confirm if they had been approved.
9. **S137 Grant Applications:** The Clerk had circulated requests received from various organisations (GNAA, Tynedale Hospice, Core Music, N’land CAB, Tax Aid, N’land Community Voluntary Action and Community Action N’land) and reminded the Cllrs that £500 was allocated in the budget for this. Cllr Jordon also asked for consideration to be given to Sports Tynedale. After much discussion it was agreed that £100 each be given to GNAA, Tynedale Hospice, Community Action N’land and £50 each to Core Music, N’land CAB, Tax Aid and Sports Tynedale.
10. **Future audit arrangements/transparency fund:** As previously minuted, the Parish Council needs to decide by the end of March 2016 if it is to join new audit arrangements which are being planned nationally, or whether to make their own arrangements. Although it may be unlikely an external audit would be deemed necessary under these new arrangements, it was agreed to opt in to those proposed by NALC rather than the Parish Council making their own arrangements.
11. **Freedom of Information Act/Data Protection:** This was still ongoing as there were many policies to be looked at.
12. **Parish Council Grazing Land:** The current tenant had tendered his notice with effect from 31/3/2016. Cllr Jordon had spoken to the Allotment Association but they did not have sufficient interest to take it on. It was agreed that the Clerk prepare an advertisement locally.
13. **Village Environment (including flooding issues):** Cllr Jordon had met with John Alderson & Tim Fish (NCC) with regards trees in the Whittle Dene area. Trees which required removal had been marked. The owners had been informed although it was pointed out formal action may be required if they did not attend to them.
Dog fouling was still an issue although it was hoped that this would improve when the new bin was installed opposite the school. It was noted some owners are picking up the mess but then leaving the bags behind. The Clerk would ask Prudhoe Town Council for information as they had recently highlighted the problem in the town. Cllr Shield also suggested that the pupils from the 1st school be invited to design a poster which could be displayed around the village and she was asked to contact the School. Damage to the wall by the memorial cross had been reported. Concerns from some residents continued about the Silver Birch Tree on Isos Land behind the bungalows on Windsor Crescent. Isos had badly pruned it some months ago and two residents had asked for it to be removed. Isos had

given permission to the Parish Council for this and Cllr Jordon would follow it up.

Cllr Jordon praised the recent efforts of Green Ovingham and the Allotment Association in tackling debris by the river.

Some residents had notified the Parish Council that the X84 service bus would no longer allow passengers to alight at the White Swan, due to Health and Safety regulations. Although it was not a designated bus stop, for many years passengers had been able to disembark there. The Cllrs thought it was probably a better position for a bus stop than the one by the Reading Room. The Clerk would contact the bus company to query their decision.

Cllr Jordon also advised that a resident had complained about vehicular access on Windsor Crescent being blocked on occasions due to workmen's lorries and the storage of building materials on the path and green. Cllr Gray wondered if there was any conditions in the recent planning approval for 10 Windsor Crescent which stipulated free access and he would check and forward to the Clerk.

Flooding: Cllrs Jordon and Gray had recently attended a meeting with Environment Agency who had looked at the Flood Plan drawn up by SWAP. EA suggested that a couple of contact numbers be forwarded to EA and they would also give a direct number to their incident room – this would ensure SWAP would be advised in any future flooding situations. A further meeting was arranged for April to include NWater and NCC. This would concentrate on looking at the longer term plan and improving co-operation between the various bodies. Cllr Jordon said they came away from the meeting with suggestions and agreed that they had learned from the experience. All residents affected had been contacted by Tynedale Rotary Club who were offering financial assistance. The Rotary Club would also be able to assist the Old School House users using a “different pot”.

14. **Grass cutting for 2016 season:** Adrian Jackson had prepared a quote for 2016/2017 season which would remain at £1225.00. As the green did not appear ready for cutting, Adrian would include jobs such as strimming around posts etc. to compensate. The Cllrs unanimously agreed to this.

15. **Committee reports:** The Reading Room continued hosting the “Film Club” – the next one being “Lady in the Van”. A Gosling Fair would be held again although further discussion would take place at the next meeting as it was believed this may clash with a proposed concert in the Church to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. Cllr Jordon understood that the Allotment Association were holding a BBQ too. Gel bags were currently stored in the loft at the Reading Room, a jumble sale was planned for the end of April.

A recent Burial Board meeting had determined that garden waste could no longer be burnt at the cemetery. Some other burial committees were reporting a large hike in their water bills which needed to be checked.

Cllr Jordon asked for a volunteer to attend the next meeting at SCA, Prudhoe. This was as a replacement for Phil Holden and would be on 28th April. Cllr Heslop thought he would be able to attend.

16. **Correspondence:**
a) The Clerk had circulated details of the proposed NCC street

lighting project whereby new LED lights would be used. The Parish Council would have an opportunity to find out more information at a forthcoming event in May, to which Cllr Gray volunteered to attend. This should give more details about whether lights could be dimmed, used only at certain times etc.

- b) Prudhoe Town Council had forwarded a letter asking for support for a new Tyne River Crossing which would be east of the existing bridge and ideally link the A695 with the A69. The Cllrs had strong views about this proposal and Cllr Moore felt that the Parish Council had to ensure any decision was reflective of the residents' opinions. In the past, Prudhoe Town Council had not been so supportive of a crossing. Cllr Jordon proposed the issue be more fully discussed at the next meeting in April.

17. **Distribution** was still being circulated.

18. **Any other business:** None

19. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 21st April at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm