

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of a meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 17th June 2021 at 7.15pm.
in the main hall of the Reading Room.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Jackson, Swinburn, Cairns, County Councillor
Waddell, 1 resident and the Clerk.

1. No apologies for absence were received but it was noted that Cllr Foster had tendered her resignation which was duly accepted.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting held on 20th May, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors Report: County Cllr Waddell gave an update following the recent incident of a youth being rescued from the River Tyne. Information signage will be put in place and life belts and she confirmed that the signs will be much more than just “No swimming”. The Cllrs agreed that the information sign should be placed near the life belt at Vicarage Haugh. County Cllr Waddell also advised that the local schools will be speaking to their pupils about the dangers and about anti-social behaviour in general. She had received the data from Cllr Gray with regards speeding. Cllr Jordon mentioned that the 20mph signage by the schools had still not been put in place which County Cllr Waddell noted. County Cllr Waddell mentioned she had received a request from a resident to site a grit bin – she will forward details. She left the meeting at 7.30pm.
5. Matters arising: -
 - a) Social Media: Both Cllr Jackson & the Clerk felt previous issues were reducing. It was agreed to continue to monitor.
 - b) Co-option to Council: Following Cllr Foster resignation, there were now 3 vacancies. This new vacancy may have to be advertised via NCC but the Clerk will check. Cllr Jordon advised some interest had been received and they will discuss at the end of the meeting.
 - c) Village Signage: Cllr Jordon had received a design from a resident for the Pavilion and will contact him again for further suggestions. The proposal of a village entrance sign, at the Pack Horse Green was debated. Cllr Gray proposed a village information board instead to include some general interest items. It was agreed to adopt the latter subject to pricing and ideas for inclusion on the board.
6. Accounts to pay/paid:

M Davenport (Sal & Expenses May)	£303.79
Ovingham Reading Room (Room hire May 2021)	£15.00
T Bell (grass cutting)	£340.00

Cllr Swinburn offered to be the new bank signatory following Cllr Fosters resignation which was accepted. The Clerk also advised that she had to follow up a query from Inland Revenue regarding “unpaid” PAYE.

7. Planning Applications: -
21/01766/FUL – 19 Wheatfield Close – new ground floor extension – **no objections**
21/00911/FUL – 63 Windsor Cres – extension to porch -**granted**
Cllr Gray had received no further updates from planning with regards work at The Hermitage. He also commented that it is 3 months since any updates on-line for the proposed development at Piper Road.
8. Request for donation to “Ovingham Oracle”: The clerk had circulated the request which the Cllrs discussed. The last donation had been given in October 2019 for £200. It was agreed to grant £150 this time but ask that any future requests be made in time for their October meeting which is when such requests are considered.
9. Defibrillator: Although standing down from Council, A Foster had offered to continue as an administrator/contact for the defibrillator. Cllr Jordon felt the second named contact should be a Councillor. No offers were forthcoming so it was agreed to defer until vacancies are filled.
10. Village projects: Cllr Jordon had received a quote for a gate and fence at the entrance to the village green leading down to the Vicarage Haugh. Although the quote seemed reasonable especially as material costs had risen considerably, it was agreed a second quote was required which Cllr Jackson will follow up.
Pavilion: Colours to paint interior were discussed agreeing that a light colour was preferable. Cllr Jordon queried whether to take the boiler out at the same time as the cupboards and it was agreed to go ahead with this. Cllr Cairns had noted that the barrier poles at the playing field car park were rotten and needed removing. To prevent car parking on the grass Cllr Jordon had obtained a quote for bird fencing but again a second quote was required to be sought by Cllr Jackson.
11. Village Environment: Cllr Jordon advised that the final design for the Phase 2 Water Scheme had been agreed between the land owner and NCC. Stantec are finalising the design details which could take 2 months. Extra funding may have to be found to complete the work. Cllr Gray confirmed that the gauge for water levels had now been installed but he wasn’t convinced it was in the right place and not sure how effective it will be especially with regarding messaging if water levels rise.
Cllr Jordon had met with the tree officer (NCC) and it was agreed that various works will be carried out at the Church and also that a dangerous overhanging branch at Nunnykirk will be removed. Further work will be scheduled for overhanging branches at The Hill as well as an ash tree (ash die back). Replacement trees for the felled willow trees on Piper Road will be planted in the autumn. Cllr Jordon had also spoken to the resident of Model Cottage and a pipe will be fitted down the side of the wall and monitored for flow of water. There was still no further progress for the path to the chalets. Potholes had been reported. Signs will be put in place warning of the danger on the rights of way footpath in Whittle Dene which has eroded. It was agreed to ask T Bell to attend to overgrown ivy at the Church. The annual play inspection was due shortly.

12. Committee Reports: A meeting of the Burial Board Committee was due next week as was that of the Reading Room Committee. It was agreed that the grounds of the playing fields were looking good at the moment. Cllr Jackson confirmed that the area round the picnic tables will be attended to shortly. Cllr Jordon felt that the Parish Council do an excellent job in the upkeep of the playing fields. The child cradle swings were broken and the Clerk had obtained a quote. Including fitting it was £459.20. It was agreed that this quote be accepted as the Cllrs were reluctant to fix the swings themselves or use a local contractor who may not be familiar with the process. Cllr Cairns remarked dog fouling had improved on the playing field but there was still a lot of litter being left. Cllr Jordon noted that some graffiti on the pavilion toilet door was being attended to.
13. Correspondence:
 - a) NCC Local Plan examination: Cllr Gray had briefly looked at this plan and noted that Ovingham was still classed as a village. The Clerk will forward a hard copy and Cllr Gray will circulate any thoughts in due course.
 - b) Project Gigabit – research into broadband infrastructure: Cllr Gray felt this was aimed at rural communities although Cllr Jackson commented her broadband connection was poor at times.
 - c) Activity sessions on the Playing Field: Cllr Jordon commented that although such sessions should be encouraged, it was important that the Council be approached first especially as it could clash with other planned activities.
14. Any other business: Cllr Jordon confirmed that Cllr & Mrs. Gray will judge the scarecrows at the end of June together with a resident. Prizes were discussed but due to fewer entries this year, it was agreed to leave this to the judges. Cllr Jackson proposed that future competitions be held during the school holidays which should attract more entrants.
15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 15th July 2021 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm