

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 28th November 2019 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson, Foster, Cairns and Swinburn, County Councillor Quinn and 3 members of the public.

1. No apologies for absence were received.
2. Cllr Jackson declared an interest in items 10 & 11.
3. The minutes of the last meeting on 17th October 2019, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn confirmed that £7,000 has been pledged from the small schemes fund for new play equipment - Cllr Jordon advised it will be the new year before the 3 new pieces will be installed. County Cllr Quinn reported that potholes were again being targeted by Highways and these can be reported on line. She also asked for an update regarding parking by the schools together with proposed 20mph limits. Cllrs Jordon & Gray had recently met Neil Snowdon, NCC, and various issues were discussed. This included the schools looking at increasing the number of car parking spaces in the Middle School car park, a walking bus drop off, and a school crossing patrol. Highways had some concerns regarding the drop off area which the schools suggested as it was by the bus parking. Cllr Jordon asked County Cllr Quinn how the Parish Council could make enquiries with the Education Dept to see if land by the Middle School could be used for extra parking. Cllr Jordon also advised that there was nothing further to report with regards the completion of the path to the chalets – an impasse appears to have been reached. The field ditches at the top of the lane are overflowing during wet weather causing water to run down the lane damaging the lane surface and village gullies in general have also overflowed in particular one on Castle View. County Cllr Quinn is to keep us informed of NCC re-cycling developments and she left the meeting at 7.35pm
5. Matters arising: -
 - i) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon advised the interactive speeding unit on Castle View was very intermittent and this will need to be checked. Cllr Jackson commented that parking by Church and Reading Room had been especially bad the last few weeks which Cllr Swinburn confirmed and that this is more apparent when events or groups meet in the Reading Room especially on a Tuesday when the Toddler Group meet.
 - ii) **Small Schemes Fund:** This had now been approved and the new play equipment should be installed early next year.
 - iii) **CCTV at the Pavilion:** Following the last meeting, the Clerk had

forwarded data regarding legal requirements and risk assessments which had to be followed before considering installing CCTV. Cllr Jordon remarked these were very onerous – and even if installed could still be subject to objections - and after careful consideration with Cllr Gray, she suggested that CCTV be put on hold. Cllr Campbell commented that the camera itself could be subject to vandalism and Cllr Cairns wondered if a dummy camera be put in place? The Cllrs agreed that for the time being, the issue of CCTV will not be pursued.

6.	Accounts to pay/be paid:	
	M Davenport (Sal & Exp October)	£309.70
	Ovingham Reading Room (Room hire Oct)	£15.00
	Pitch Care Sales (paint for line marker)	£64.40
	T Bell (grass cuts October)	£140.00
	P Holden (petrol for mower)	£58.99
	T R Little (mole control)	£90.00
	D Jordon (plants & ink cartridge)	£37.51
	A Jackson (hedge cutting etc. – pavilion)	£105.00
	Royal British Legion (Poppy wreath)	£25.00
	Wave (quarterly charge)	£19.05

The Cllrs agreed that £25 be given to British Legion which was in excess of the minimum cost.

7. **Planning Application:**
19/02854/PRUTPO – 3 Nunnykirk Close: remove lower branches, various trees - **Granted.**
 Cllr Gray had again been in touch with Planning department with regards 2 applications; Glebe Barns was still an open case but unfortunately the original enforcement officer dealing with this had left and was being dealt with by someone else; Bridge End Inn – there had been no work undertaken for at least 2 months but Cllr Gray had been informed work was likely to resume in the coming week.
8. **Budget/Precept for 2020-2021:** Updated figures had again been circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Jordon commented that some expenditure last year was for “one-off” items and as the balance was still in the black, proposed that the precept be kept the same, i.e. £15,300. This was agreed.
 Cllr Jackson wondered if it was worth transferring some of the balance to a savings account. The current savings account offers a very small rate of interest and the Clerk advised that unless the Cllrs were prepared to tie up income for a few years, would probably not be a suitable option but she will make enquiries. Cllr Jordon noted that the Parish Council had been fortunate in obtaining funding for some projects, such as new play equipment, but asked that Cllrs consider possibilities for other projects.
9. **To consider recycling facilities/options:** Cllr Jordon advised that a resident who had contacted the Parish Council before October’s meeting had been in touch to confirm that she had received support from many organisations within the village who would be happy to take the issue of recycling further. Cllr Jordon stated that the Parish Council should have a representative and she asked for a volunteer. Cllr Foster confirmed she will be the contact. The Clerk will also put some advice about recycling on the

website. Cllr Jordon also reported that a request for a bottle bank had been received – which had been discussed on a few occasions in the past – but again, there were limited options, if any, in the village. One possibility was the car park at the Pavilion but there were too many obstacles to overcome including residents’ objections, glass on a play area, access for wagons collecting and unsuitable surface area. The Cllrs agreed that a bottle bank could not be considered at this stage.

A resident left the meeting at 8.05pm

10. **Grass cutting tender and Playing Fields annual Maintenance Tender:** Draft copies of the above had been circulated for comment. Cllr Gray proposed some amendments including clarification of termination date and contractors right to terminate. Cllr Jordon felt a playing field maintenance tender also be considered. Previously, maintenance was dealt with when required but there were various jobs which needed tackling on a regular basis such as weeding. Cllr Jordon advised she would specifically point out areas which needed attention to any contractor who expressed interest in the tender. Cllr Gray again suggested amendments and including more detail for the latter tender. This was agreed and he will re draft for the Clerk to issue to potential contractors and responses should be received in time to consider at the January meeting.
11. **Public Footpath Annual Maintenance Tender:** Cllr Jordon had recently contacted Tim Fish, NCC Footpath Officer, to discuss the maintenance of the public footpath behind Dene Garth. She had been informed some Parish Councils take on the work themselves due to lack of resources at County level and that NCC will pay for the work. This will likely involve cutting back weed growth twice a year and the Cllrs were unanimous in agreeing to a tender being issued which will include a plan of the area in question. It was also agreed that separate prices be submitted for each of the 3 tenders (not to be amalgamated) and that they be returned by 10th January.
12. **Flood water issued and surface water scheme update:** Progress was being made with Phase 2 of the surface water scheme. Further talks had been held with the landowner and work was expected in Spring 2020. The landowner will also monitor the culvert in Cooksfield. The spring at the back of the Pavilion continues to present problems and again, the landowner will very kindly investigate. The Parish Councillors were asked to keep an eye on the drain in Windsor Crescent. Land has eroded on the lane at the back of the Old School House. Cllr Jordon was uncertain as to who was responsible – NCC or the Scout Group who own the land – but David Green, NCC, will check and advise. A large drain by the chalets on the road was recently cleared – it had been full of gravel and silt – Castle View drain has been unblocked but probably needs more investigation. Talks were ongoing with regards flooding behind the new bungalows between NCC, Northumberland Estates and local landowner. Karbon Homes were also waiting for quotes for relevant work to be received.
13. **Parish Council Surgery/Village Action plan updates:** Cllr Jordon advised damaged surface on Piper Road was being followed up. Cllr Cairns summarised his findings from his allocated surveyed area – some overhanging branches had been cut back but he noted fallen leaves were especially prevalent. Cllr Jordon commented that NCC road sweeper does

an excellent job coming through the village on a regular basis. At this time of year leaves are a daily problem; she would monitor the situation and if necessary, request a visit from the road sweeper.

14. **Village environment:** Cllr Jordon had informed Karbon Homes parking on Windsor Crescent/Tyne Gardens was a problem as vehicles were parking on grassed areas and footpaths. NCC had been pruning trees. Poppies at the Churchyard will be taken down early next week. The Clerk will look at requirements to consider if the Parish Council wish to ensure dogs are kept on leads on the playing field.
15. **Committee Reports:** The Reading Room are holding a Xmas Cheer on 8th December; film club continues on a monthly basis; a baby changer has been put in the disabled toilet. The recent Burial Board Cttee meeting had seen a number of issues agreed including revised cemetery rules and grass tender. However, Cllr Jordon expressed her disappointment at the subsequent agreement to increasing burial fees in line with those of Prudhoe. She again stressed that the Committee was not a profit maker, but the other 3 Parish Councils voted for an increase. There had been no recent meetings of either the Forum or Essity. An inspection of the allotments had been carried out but there had not been a meeting since so members were not aware of the outcome. Cllr Jordon reported that she had spoken to those residents who had been on the OPPFUG committee to see if they still wished to be included. Some were still keen to continue and it was possible others may become involved. Cllr Jordon advised that Cllr Foster had stood down from the Committee and asked for volunteers to replace her as the Parish Council representative. Cllr Gray remarked that it was important to maintain such a committee as they could apply for certain grants for which the Parish Council were not eligible. Cllrs Gray and Jordon are to look at the OPPFUG Constitution and see how this can be amended. Cllr Jackson suggested a meeting then be held to discuss the way forward. This was agreed.
16. **Correspondence:**
 - a) NCC – Northumberland Local Plan – notification of examination hearings on chapter 13 (managing natural resources). No comments to be made
 - b) To consider donation to church for gravel for path: Due to work being carried out at the church, drains had been dug up and the PCC asked for a donation towards new gravel when completed. Cllr Jordon explained some years ago she had said the PC would pay for new gravel – cost about £70 – but this was declined at the time. Cllr Jordon will make further enquiries with regards the price.
17. **Distribution:** This was still in circulation.
18. **Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair:** Cllr Jordon reminded Cllr Jackson that a cover was needed for the mower.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.