

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

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Minutes of the Annual meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.15pm. in the main hall of the Reading Room.

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

1. Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Swinburn seconded Cllr Jordon as chair which she duly accepted.
2. Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Jordon seconded Cllr Gray as vice chair which was duly accepted.
3. Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Foster (work commitments)
4. No declarations of interest were received.
5. To nominate Councils representatives on other bodies: -
  - a) Ovingham Joint Burial Committee – Cllrs Jordon and Swinburn
  - b) Reading Room – Cllr Jackson
  - c) Ovingham Community Orchard – Cllr Cairns
  - d) East Tynedale T&PC Forum – Cllrs Gray & Jordon
  - e) Allotment Association – Cllr Jordon

It was agreed to defer nominations for Essity until such time as required. Cllrs Jordon and Cairns will continue to monitor the playing field on a regular basis.

6. The minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
7. County Councillors Report: Cllr Jordon welcomed the new County Councillor Holly Waddell to the meeting and looked forward to working with her. Cllr Jordon queried the main points raised as part of County Cllr Waddell's election campaign. Speeding had been mentioned as an issue in the village. It was pointed out the data collected from three traffic surveys (last one two years ago) did not show that speeding was an issue and the request for the 30mph sign to be moved further east was turned down by Highways. After a brief discussion, Cllr Gray confirmed that he will forward previous held data etc. to County Cllr Waddell for background information. Cllr Jordon also mentioned pot holes which the PC reported on a regular basis especially those outside the schools. Previously promised Highways maintenance was still to be undertaken. County Cllr Waddell will look at information and she left the meeting at 7.40pm.
8. Matters arising not otherwise on the minutes: None noted.
9. Accounts to pay/paid:

M Davenport (Sal & Expenses April)	£299.65
J Jackson (anti vandal paint for pavilion)	£13.98
N Gray (warning signs re above)	£15.56
D Jordon (gift for resident)	£17.07

- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (annual sub) £10.00
10. Planning Applications: -  
**21/00244/Ful – 2 The Terrace** – proposed rear extension - **Granted**  
**20/04276/Ful – 18 Castle View** – extension above utility room - **Granted**  
 Cllr Gray had been in touch with enforcement at the Planning Department with regards current work at The Hermitage Caravan site. Whilst the Cllrs agreed that the work to the entrance of the site was a big improvement, concerns were raised as no previous application had been submitted. Enforcement had confirmed that the current owner has been asked for information related to work carried out and future work planned; they will then make an assessment of the most appropriate course of action.
11. Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2020/2021:  
**11.1: To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor:** The internal auditor did not raise any issues. The Clerk advised that she was considering spreadsheets for financial year 2021/2022.  
**11.2: To approve the Annual Governance Statement:** The Cllrs unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement.  
**11.3: To approve the draft annual accounts for 2020/2021:** The annual accounts were approved.  
**11.4: To approve the accounting statement and explanation of variances:** Income and expenditure was considerably higher than the previous year but this was due to NCC erroneously crediting County Councillors funding twice one of which had to be subsequently refunded. Overall balance had increased but it was agreed that projects would likely have been approved if the pandemic had not occurred. A summary of earmarked reserves was circulated. Again, the Cllrs unanimously approved the accounts.
12. Village projects: Cllr Jordon proposed that fencing and a barrier or gate be considered at the entrance to the village green leading down to the Vicarage Haugh. Vehicles especially during the summer were driving down and parking on the green, damaging the surface. It was resolved to meet contractors for advice and quotations.  
 Cllr Jordon now felt that paying for 3 village entrance signs costing at least £4,000 could not be justified in the current climate so she suggested one only on the Pack Horse Green. This was agreed subject to approval of wording.  
 The Cllrs also agreed to putting a sign on the Pavilion wall – they felt many residents did not know about the pavilion.  
 Cllr Jackson suggested that refurbishment of the Pavilion should be approached in stages due to the overall cost. Cllr Jordon remarked that it would be in the region of £6500 if refurbishment of toilets and conversion of showers to cupboards was included. The last 12 months had not given a clear indication of potential usage so it was agreed to paint the outside initially and the Cllrs also agreed to the conversion of the showers into cupboards.  
 Cllr Gray will also seek information about enhanced services offered by NCC which could be taken up by the Parish Council.
13. Village Environment: Phase 2 of the Surface Water Scheme should be undertaken shortly as agreement had been reached between the landowner and NWL with regards access. The gauge for water levels was still not in

operation. NCC are monitoring the area where recent fly tipping had occurred; they will then consult with the Parish Council to make a decision regarding replacing the concrete barriers with a more visually pleasing preventative access measure. A temporary tarmac dropped kerb at the entrance to the playing field had been put in place – a full length concrete kerb will be put in place in 2022. A bin by the steps at the bridge entrance was damaged. The Clerk will obtain quotes for a new one. Potholes continued to be reported. Gulley’s were cleared recently on the School Road – a larger machine is to be brought in to cleanse all gullies on the main road through the village. Quotes will be obtained for removing ragwort. Cllr Jackson will arrange for notices to go on the playing field entrances advising dogs should be kept on leads if instances of fouling continues. Cllr Jordon had submitted information in support of obtaining some funding for trees on the Playing Field. More details were required which Cllr Gray will arrange. The drains at the pavilion had been attended to. The annual inspection of the playing field is due towards the end of June. The Cllrs will meet on site next week to look at any issues. Cllr Gray had used anti-vandal paint on the fence at the pavilion and placed relevant notices. Hopefully this will deter youths from climbing onto the roof.

14. Social Media – Parish Council Facebook: Changes in face book regulations recently had seen more comments from users which were not always relevant. Cllr Jackson explained this could be prevented by changing the page to a group. The postings are for information only and it was noted that these were generally popular especially last year when a scarecrow competition had been held. The Cllrs agreed to keep monitoring their face book page before considering changing to a group.
15. Co-option to Council: There are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. The clerk had placed an “advert” in the next issue of the Oracle which should be delivered shortly. Cllr Gray queried procedure and timings for co-option following an election. The Clerk thought there was no time limit but will double check.
16. Committee Reports: Various groups had started up in the Reading Room again but not the drama group or choir. OJBC will meet early June.
17. Correspondence: The Clerk had received an offer of 2 paintings of the village which the Cllrs were very happy to accept. It will be decided later where to hang them.
18. Any other business: Cllr Jordon advised that Cllr & Mrs. Gray will judge the scarecrows at the end of June. Cllr Cairns suggested different judges be used for the garden competition later in the summer which was agreed.
19. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm