

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of a remote meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 11th March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell and Cairns, County Councillor Quinn and the Clerk.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Jackson and Swinburn.
2. Declarations of interest was received from Cllr Campbell re agenda item 7 iii (3 Dene Close).
3. The minutes of the last meeting having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and will be signed in due course.
4. Matters arising:
 - 1) Application for Community Chest Funding: Cllr Jordon had been informed that the application had been unsuccessful because it did not meet the criteria related to Covid-19.
 - 2) Village Signs: Cllr Jordon requested that this be discussed later in the agenda (Item 12)
5. Accounts to be paid:

M Davenport (Sal/expenses Jan/Feb)	£591.97
Northumberland Estates (annual rent playing field)	£250.00
Firepoint Services (annual check)	£34.76
D Jordon (Tel calls, gratuity gift)	£20.00
Southern Electric (quarterly charge)	£49.50
Wave (quarterly charge)	£20.11
Ovingham Middle School (donation towards laptops)	£250.00

Although the Pavilion was not in use, the bulk of the invoices for electricity and water was towards a standing charge.

6. County Councillors Report: County Cllr Quinn advised she was disappointed that the application for Community Chest funding had not been successful as she knew a lot of work had been put into it. The issue of fly tipping has been raised and Cllr Jordon updated County Cllr Quinn that this was happening on a regular basis and she had been in discussion with NCC Environment Officer to discuss ways of alleviating the problem. Removal of items was a dangerous task for the NCC workforce. County Cllr Quinn advised she had a site meeting with NCC next week regarding various issues including the recent spate of fly tipping on the river bank on the Wylam Road. Due to the location, health & safety was a priority and she believed NCC may consider CCTV cameras going forward. Potholes was a continuing concern and admitted the standard/response to filling them should have been better. Figures for Covid-19 in Bywell ward continued to fall. The local community had given an excellent response to the Middle Schools' request for laptops – 17 in total were funded. Cllr

Jordon informed her that the flooding at the Pavilion was being looked at by Northumberland Estates – there is a blockage in a resident’s garden and a power hose will be used which hopefully should clear the problem; it is hoped that the tree will not have to be removed. Cllr Jordon also asked County Cllr Quinn to find out why proposed works to re-surface the road from the West End to the Schools had been put on hold after being cancelled in 2019. There were numerous potholes and the general state of the road was poor. County Cllr Quinn also confirmed that the request to improve the blind bend on the road to Ovington (as per LTP) was being considered but she had not received a response regarding criteria when determining requests for LTP.

Cllr Jordon thanked County Cllr Quinn who left the meeting at 7.20pm.

7. Planning Applications: -
20/01897/FUL – Overdale, Dene View – construction of garage - Granted
20/04141/FUL – 4 Tyne Gardens – construction of 2 storey side extension - Granted
20/04076/Ful – 3 Dene Close – front elevation extension amended application – Granted
21/00244/FUL – 2 The Terrace – proposed rear extension – no objections
20/04091/FUL – 7 Wheatfield – single storey extension to front elevation no objections
Cllr Gray advised that the previous issue with the original application for 3 Dene Close which had been objected to by neighbours because of proximity and party walls was not a matter for Planning.
There was no further update on the application for 18 Castle View nor that for Piper Road.
8. Elections May 2021: The Clerk briefly outlined the timetable for the election. She will forward the relevant links for applications to the Cllrs and in due course, official notice will be publicised in the website and notice boards. Forms must be handed in – there was a small window of between 29th March & 8th April – at Hexham and appointments could be made for this.
9. Standing Orders and Policies: It was agreed that most policies did not need to be reviewed each year. Cllr Jordon proposed that Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations Policy be reviewed annually; the rest on a 3-year cycle unless a change is notified. Cllr Jordon had also circulated a draft Safeguarding policy. The Cllrs agreed to the proposal and the Clerk will ensure review dates are on all as well as updating the asset register.
10. Risk Assessment: This had been circulated by the Clerk and adopted.
11. Additional S137 Requests: Some requests had been considered and granted in October but a further request had been received from Citizens Advice, Northumberland. It was agreed to give £75 to Citizens Advice and also to Great North Air Ambulance who usually ask for a donation.
12. Village Action plans including long term projects: Cllr Jordon advised a quote to repair the fence on Castle View for £54 and £320 to replace wooden surrounds to the zip wire track. These were both authorised. Cllr Jordon proposed that the decision to buy 3 village signs and refurbish the Pavilion be put on hold until a physical meeting can be held as she felt the

amounts involved required a full council discussion. This was unanimously agreed. Updated village action plans had been circulated.

13. Village Environment: Work should be undertaken on the overhanging branches at the Church on 27th March. Bewick Lane footpath was very uneven and Cllr Jordon has spoken to Highways about this. Unfortunately, funding has already been allocated but NCC will consider later. She had also spoken to Home Group about the parking at the entrance to Bewick Lane. Lack of parking meant that vehicles have recently parked on the grass which is becoming churned. Unfortunately, there was also no money available to provide additional parking. The large waste bin outside the village shop was damaged and the Clerk had requested repairs or a new one. Cllr Gray hoped the water gauge will be installed next week. He had also asked if the gauge at Bywell which monitored river levels, be the same as that at Hexham which also predicted levels for the next 36 hours as this could prove very advantageous to residents. Cllr Jordon advised that further discussions had taken place between NCC and the landowner related to the Phase 2 of the Surface Water Scheme. It was looking very positive and hopefully the scheme will be able to proceed. Potholes have been reported throughout the village. Proposed replacement trees on Piper Road had still not materialised and currently as there was no tree officer at NCC did not know when this would occur. Cllr Jordon thanked Cllr Cairns and his wife for the continued checking of the playing field and picking up litter. Cllr Campbell hoped to paint the goal posts shortly and Cllr Gray advised a volunteer was needed to paint the telephone box.
14. Any other business as considered urgent by the chair: Cllr Jordon noted both Ovifun and the Reading Room hoped to arrange events in the summer. Subject to government guidance, these should be able to proceed.
15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 15th April 2021 at 7pm. The Clerk advised this should again be a virtual meeting as village halls etc., will not be re-opening before 17th May.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm