

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of a remote meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 10th August 2020 at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Jackson, Foster, Cairns and Swinburn and the Clerk.

1. The Councillors granted acceptance of reasons (Covid-19) for not attending Council meetings during the period March to July 2020 for all Councillors. Apologies for absence from Cllr Campbell was also accepted for this remote meeting (IT difficulties).
2. The minutes of the last meeting having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
3. No declarations of interest were received.
4. **Annual Governance and accountability Return for 2019/2020:**
The Clerk had previously circulated relevant information with regards the annual return for 2019/2020.
4.1: To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor: Points raised included better management of the manual accounts book. It was agreed that these will be implemented for 2020/2021.
4.2: To approve the Annual Governance Statement: Cllr Gray queried section 7 regarding taking appropriate action on matters raised by either the internal or external auditor. The Clerk explained no comment was received for the previous years' accounts from the external auditor – points raised above (4.1) are to be implemented this current financial year. The Cllrs unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement.
4.3: To approve the draft annual accounts for 2019/2020: Other than amending the title of one section to "Playing Field Expenses", the annual accounts were approved.
4.4: To approve the accounting statement and explanation of variances: The accounting statement was re-stated due to change in allocating Clerks expenses (box 6 instead of box 4). An explanation of variances referred to the large reserves currently being held. This was primarily due to receiving grants to fund various projects but the Cllrs have earmarked funds for various other projects including essential tree work and further maintenance at the pavilion. Again, the Cllrs unanimously approved the accounts.
5. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 27th August at 7.15pm. Cllr Jordon hoped that this could be a physical meeting in the Pavilion. However, the Clerk expressed concerns about holding such a meeting. Further guidance will be sought and a decision made shortly as to whether it be virtual or physical.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm