

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

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Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray and Foster, County Councillor Quinn (in part) and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Campbell (ill), Jackson (work commitments) and MacDonald (funeral) but it was noted the meeting was still quorate.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. Official notice had been given to County Council following the recent resignation of James Bryan. Unless an election is requested by residents, it was agreed to start the procedure to co-opt at the next Parish Council meeting in January. No election was required following the resignation of Hazel Chalmers.
5. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn had recently met officers from Highways on site in Ovingham looking at roads and footpaths. NCC had approved most of the "Pothole priority area nominations" county wide and a second exercise should start soon. She confirmed that Parish Councils in the Bywell ward were looking at forwarding options for her to consider funding from the small fund scheme. The maximum she could pledge for an approved scheme was £5,000. Cllr Jordon mentioned the overgrown hedges on the road to Ovington and understood that the Clerk had been in touch with landowners and work is scheduled shortly for part but she had received no response from Field House Farm. Cllr Jordon pointed out the road to Wylam also needed hedges and tree branches cut back. County Cllr Quinn will make enquiries. Cllr Gray updated her on the proposed NWL works. It has taken them a long time to get consent from landowners although that had been expected. Letters will be sent to residents advising them of the situation and timescales.  
Cllr Quinn left at 7.30pm.
6. Matters arising: -
  - i) **Traffic Issues:** Following complaints regarding a large camper van parked on Wheatfield Close, Cllr Jordon had been in touch with Highways. As the van was taxed and insured, there was nothing they could do. The enforcement officer was aware of the complaints but similarly nothing could be done. Cllr Jordon had contacted the police but as she hadn't received an update had been in touch again to be informed the officer was not at work at the moment. Cllr Jordon had asked that the issue be passed to another officer. She felt

there was nothing else the Parish Council could do but she would continue to press the Police for an update.

- ii) **Defibrillator for Village:** Cllr Jordon informed the meeting the cabinet case would be put in place on the west wall of the White Swan on Friday (17<sup>th</sup> November). Professor Norton had still not forwarded his invoice or been in touch to contact the ambulance service. The Cllrs questioned if training was required as Professor Norton had implied it was not necessary. Cllr Jordon had obtained costs from the likes of St Johns Ambulance and the Cllrs felt these figures were expensive. The Clerk mentioned that Ovington Parish Council may run a training session and she will inform the Cllrs that Ovingham may be interested.
- iii) **Storage of ride on mower:** Cllr Campbell had forwarded a quote for a substantial shed but it was too expensive (£3600 approx.). He had informed Cllr Jordon that he was obtaining a quote for a wooden lean to shed. Cllr Foster had prepared a Risk Assessment for the previous meeting and Cllr Gray proposed some minor amendments which were agreed. Cllr Jordon had spoken to the resident who usually cuts the grass on the playing field and he was happy to go through it with Cllr Foster & Cllr Campbell who will contact him.
- iv) **S106 funding for new play equipment:** It was expected funds will be received shortly. Cllr Jordon had been informed that there was no funding left in the Prudhoe Wider Area Sport funding larger “pot”.
- v) **Face book page for Ovingham Parish Council:** Cllr Jackson had begun looking at a face book page and forwarded photographs for the “home” page. However, the Cllrs agreed with the clerk that it may be better to have the same photographs which are on the website – the Clerk will forward. It was agreed that this would be a “no comment” face book page.

7. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Oct)	£299.70
Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in Oct)	£15.00
A Jackson (new beams etc. for playing field)	£240.00
A Jackson (“top” playing field & grazing field)	£160.00
Royal British Legion (poppy wreath)	£30.00
P Holden (petrol for Mower)	£71.97
D Jordon (plants etc.)	£40.54
Trevor Bell (grass cuts)	£280.00

A minimum donation of £17 was requested by Royal British Legion but the Cllrs agreed to donate £30 especially as they had also been given large poppies to put on posts.

- 8. **Planning Application: 17/03289/FUL 24 North Meadow** – proposed single storey wrap around extension and new vehicular gated access – **GRANTED.**
- 9. **To consider Budget/Precept for 2018-2019:** Updated figures had been circulated again and the Clerk advised that received income, other than the precept, was likely to be much less in 2018-2019. Although the Cllrs were not planning to raise the amount of the precept, as there was still sufficient

funds, it was agreed to defer the decision until the January meeting to ensure more Cllrs were present to discuss the matter fully.

10. **OPPFUG – new management agreement:** Cllr Jordon had circulated proposals for the way forward as it appeared increasingly unlikely that OPPFUG will approve the agreement. She felt that as the Parish Council lease the land, are responsible for the management and maintenance, arrange insurance etc. they must make the final decision on any matters. It is public money being used for the upkeep and must be carefully audited. Cllr Gray commented that any incident would come back to the Parish Council and agreed, they should retain control. It was understood that an AGM had still not been held for OPPFUG although the constitution had been adopted. A meeting was due shortly and Cllr Jordon will draft a further agreement before then. Cllr Foster will attend the meeting together with Cllr MacDonald.
11. **To consider holding “Parish Council Surgeries”:** Cllr Jordon had suggested this as she thought some residents were reluctant to attend a meeting to raise concerns and a surgery will be much less formal. It was agreed that these would be held for a trial period and will take place between 6pm and 6.45pm on the night of an official Parish Council meeting. Cllr Jordon asked that the Cllrs be available for this on a rota – it would only require 2 at any session. The Clerk also stated that the December issue of the Parish Magazine will be delivered to every household so she will mention this in her article and on future agenda notices.
12. **Grazing Land:** The land had not been used for some time and Cllr Jordon had arranged for the field to be “topped”. Some interest had been received when the tenancy was available earlier this year but the Clerk will also mention this in the December Parish magazine. Cllr Jordon also suggested that rent be increased to £150 per year on the understanding that the Parish Council will arrange for the field to be “topped” annually. This was agreed.
13. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon advised Trevor Bell may carry out a further grass cut this season but he will monitor it. The hedge to the rear of Tyne Gardens was overgrown – Home Group will attend to it. Tony Newton had advised Cllr Jordon that a cherry tree will be planted on the corner of the green to replace the diseased tree that was removed a few years ago. This will be in the spring and he will cover the cost. Cllr Jordon also advised that the handyman, Peter Hind, had not been asked to do his previously scheduled jobs for the autumn as the NCC road sweeper was keeping the paths clear of leaves and a lot of the weed growth and the village did look tidy. She asked for ideas for the handyman to carry out. She also reminded the meeting that annual pruning of the trees and shrubs in the church yard was due soon – she will ask Adrian Jackson to attend to this. Cllr Jordon also advised that there were currently no funds to point the Pack Horse Bridge which she was concerned about but she was going to follow this up with NCC.
14. **Committee Reports:** Cllr Gray advised the “Christmas Cheer” to be held in the Reading Room will now take place on 10<sup>th</sup> December. There had been no recent meeting of the Burial Board Committee. Cllr Jordon advised quite a few jobs had been done during the last month on the playing field by the Councillors and volunteers. The contractor

Adrian Jackson had pruned back tree branches and topped the field. A small area in front of the pavilion needed attention and she would follow this up. A previous suggestion by a resident of putting a fence around the basketball pitch had been priced at around £6500. The Parish Council did not have the funds for but Cllr Jordon suggested Sport England or other funders could be approached.

15. **Correspondence:**
  - a) A further update had been received regarding the street lighting project. It was now underway in Ovingham but some issues had come to light including power cuts. Cllr Jordon advised that some poles needed replacing and this was on the lighting work programme. Cllr Jordon remarked that there were no lights by her property and Wellburn and it was a fault in the cable. It had been reported and NCC and Northern power grid were dealing with the problem. Cllr Foster thought there was also a problem with the lights on Castle View which will be followed up.
16. Distribution was still being circulated.
17. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair: Cllr Jordon informed the meeting that County Cllr Quinn had contacted her with regards the proposed path from the Chalets on Horsley Road. The original costing given last year was seriously under estimated and a new quote had been received for over £31,000. Highways stated that due to the nature of the work, if carried out, £5000 would be used on traffic management alone. Cllr Jordon will ask for a site meeting. County Cllr Quinn had implied that funds could be used for the path (rather than the defibrillator) but only if it was important for it to be laid. The Cllrs felt that this was a dangerous busy stretch of road and some solution had to be found. Cllr Jordon had arranged a site meeting with NCC for 23<sup>rd</sup> November to discuss this further.
18. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm