

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Foster, Jackson, Macdonald and Kirkland, County Cllr Quinn and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Jordon opened the meeting by asking the resident if she had come across any problems with regards the footpath and dropped kerb on Piper Road and into Wheatfield Close as Cllr Jordon had been contacted by a resident about this. The resident did not feel she could really comment, but Cllr Jordon will look at it in the morning and report back accordingly.

1. No apologies for absence were received.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn reported that Highways had been busy re-painting road markings in the Parish. Cllr Jordon advised that there were still some areas that hadn't been looked at. These included the road going west from the Reading Room to the School and she was disappointed that a "slow" sign had not been painted on the road beside Grey Cottage/Bridge End Pub; this is being followed up with Highways. Cllr Jordon also informed the meeting that she had tried to contact Neil Snowdon, Highways, to discuss traffic issues including a fresh survey on speeding but had not managed to reach him. Cllr Quinn will follow this up. Cllr Gray also commented that he had not been able to reach the planning officer who dealt with the application for the Bridge End – County Cllr Quinn advised this officer had left and she was not sure who had taken over. Cllr Jordon thanked County Cllr Quinn who left the meeting at 7.25pm
5. Matters arising: -
  - i) **Traffic issues:** Most of these had been mentioned above with County Cllr Quinn.
  - ii) **Allotment Association Tenancy agreement (amended):**  
The Clerk had forwarded written confirmation to the chair of the Allotment Association with regards the section 6(ii) relating to bee hives on the allotments and that the Parish Council felt it must be included. To date, she had not had a response although she understood there had been a meeting of the Association a few days ago.
  - iii) **Ovingham Community Orchard:** Cllr Jordon reported that the agreement had been signed; proposed changes aired at the last

meeting had been agreed which included responsibility for the borders. Cllr Jordon noted the group were holding an open day on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

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

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Sept)	£294.98
Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in Sept)	£15.00
SLCC & ALCC (annual subscriptions)	£130.00
Ovingham Community Orchard (donation)	£300.00
I Campbell (hammerite paint)	£15.67

7. **Planning Application:**

There were no current planning applications, but Cllr Gray gave an update with regards potential breach of planning permission at Glebe Barns (roof tiles not slate as per application). The planning officer had informed him that a planning contravention notice will be served following a meeting on site with the owners/agent and will ensure the Parish Council are kept updated. Cllr Gray commented that the original slate tiles had been removed from the building and it appeared that it was not just the extension which would have tiles other than slate. He felt frustrated that Parish Councils were not involved in discussions – they were just asked to comment.

Cllrs Gray and Jordon also reported that work had now started on the renovation of the Bridge End Pub which was welcome news. However, they also expressed concerns about the potential lack of site management bearing in mind the location of the premises. A very large skip had been brought in and they felt this could cause vehicular access problems for the residents of River View in particular and for pedestrians as there was no lighting around the pub. Cllr Gray will contact the Planning Department with their concerns.

8. **Road Safety through the Village:** Following comments on Facebook with regards to lack of safe crossing areas for children, Cllr Jordon felt that the issue of road safety needed to be explored further. The main area commented on was the corner at the church – children were stepping onto the road in front of vehicles and this was a big concern especially in the morning. Cllr Jordon suggested she meet with Neil Snowdon, NCC, at about 8.15 one morning to monitor the situation. It was noted that a school patrol had been used some years ago but there had been nothing in recent years as there were no volunteers. Cllr MacDonald queried if a “walking bus” could be encouraged especially as there were several areas in the village when children would need to cross the road. He also felt that NCC should be sympathetic to the request for 20mph because of lack of safe crossing and having 2 schools in the area. It was agreed that initially, Cllr Jordon will arrange a meeting with Neil Snowdon.

9. **To Note conclusion of audit for financial year 2017-2018:** The Clerk explained that following new changes to the audit and the fact that Ovingham Parish Council were an “exempt authority” having turnovers of less than £25,000, there would be no official notification that audit had been concluded by the external auditors. However, it was agreed that the position should be minuted.

10. **To consider budget/precept for 2019/2020:** The Clerk had circulated details of previous years agreed budget and income/expenditure as at the

end of September 2018. She advised that it was probable the Parish Council would not need to submit a request for the Precept to NCC until the end of January but as in previous years, the Cllrs should look at it in detail before their January meeting. Expenditure to date was greater than last year but much of this was in relation to the refurbishment of the Pavilion so would not be repeated. Income had also increased – again, mainly due to donations for the Pavilion and it was hoped more users will come forward to rent the Pavilion. Some figures such as wages, Burial Board Precept and Insurance would likely remain much the same and she had also calculated expected expenditure for the year end. The Cllrs agreed to consider the budget in full detail at their November meeting and hopefully agree a figure for the precept.

11. **Surface Water Scheme update:** Cllr Jordon reported that work was making good progress. A recent meeting had been held with contractors involved. Work on Horsley Road junction with Main Road which was scheduled for week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> October.
12. **Parish Council Surgery/Village plan updates:** Cllr Jordon noted that some maintenance jobs were due shortly – she will ask Adrian Jackson to look at them - a quote had been received for the removal of the rubber tiles which was accepted. The Clerk confirmed that she had arranged a zip wire inspection although no date had been received yet. The replacement swing seats were on order although she will need to chase this up. Some painting was required to smarten up the swings - Cllr Jordon asked for volunteers. Cllr Gray felt that funding was required to update the Playing Field although Cllr Jackson commented it was not that long since major investment had been received. Cllr Foster agreed with Cllr Gray and more facilities for older children would be welcome.
13. **Village environment:** Cllr Jordon had asked NCC to attend to overhanging tree branches by the church to be pruned but NCC advised they could not do so this year. Cllr Jordon asked for volunteers as she would like this attended to before the Act of Remembrance on 11<sup>th</sup> November, but it was agreed to ask Mr. Jackson to do the work. Some progress had been made with issues raised on Bewick Lane – there is a new representative for Home Group and Cllr Jordon is to meet with her to discuss the removal of furniture and brown wheelie bin. Overhanging tree branches on Piper Road have been reported; Cllrs will investigate and discuss further at the next meeting. Crocuses have been planted at Piper Road end of the village. With regards to the proposed sale of Whittle Mill Cabin Site, the land was being valued and possible funding investigated. Cllr Jordon felt it was important the Parish Council were kept updated on this.
14. **Committee Reports:** There was nothing to report from the Reading Room or Forum Committees. Cllr Kirkland will attend the SCA meeting (19<sup>th</sup>) in place of Cllr Campbell. Cllr Jordon advised that work on trees in the cemetery had not started as there was a backlog generally due to recent high winds. Their next meeting was 29<sup>th</sup> October. She asked Cllr MacDonald if he had managed to arrange a meeting for OPPFUG - he replied that he hadn't but will try and organise one in the next few weeks. Cllr Jordon again queried the type of cover held by both OPPFUG and Ovifun and asked the Clerk to follow this up.

15. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had recently forwarded an email from Prudhoe Town Council with regards arranging a meeting to discuss the possibility of sharing the cost of employing an officer to deal with litter and dog fouling. However, although the Cllrs agreed dog fouling was especially a problem on the playing field, they felt that the potential costs would be too great for the Parish Council. The Clerk also advised that it was unlikely that Ovington would attend any meeting for the same reasons.
16. **Distribution:** This was still in circulation.
17. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> November.
18. There being no other business as considered urgent by the Chair, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.