

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 19th April 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson, MacDonald and Foster, County Councillor Quinn and 4 members of the public.

The meeting opened with a member of the public raising some concerns which Cllr Jordon addressed. These included recent damage to a litter bin – a new bin will be ordered by the Clerk; residents own refuse bins – Cllr Jordon will check with Home Group and work on land around Dene Close which Cllr Jordon confirmed was behind schedule; NWL had confirmed this would be re-instated once the weather conditions improved.

1. It had been agreed after the March meeting that Keith Kirkland would be co-opted to the Parish Council but unfortunately, due to a long standing prior commitment, he was not at the meeting. Co-option will be officially confirmed at the May meeting.
2. There were no apologies for absence.
3. No declarations of interest were received.
4. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
5. County Councillors Report: County Cllr Quinn apologised for not attending the last meeting which had been a misunderstanding. She wondered if any progress had been made with regards parking on grass opposite the schools – Cllr Jordon replied that the proposed camera monitoring was delayed as NCC only had 2 available, one of which was broken. OPC was also still waiting for plans and costings for improved parking on Horsley Road which was a continuing problem which the Parish Council had tried to address on numerous occasions although Cllr MacDonald felt it was a traffic calming measure in some respects. Cllr Jordon also informed County Cllr Quinn there was nothing further to report with regards the path to the chalets on Horsley Road. Cllr Jordon queried the proposed changes to the schools in the west area of the county and whether this could eventually spread to Ovingham – County Cllr Quinn thought it was unlikely. County Cllr Quinn also advised that potholes are gradually being attended to but it was a long process as there was such a backlog.
6. Pavilion/Playing Field: The Cllrs had been inspecting the playing field recently and were anxious to attend to as many issues as possible before the planned annual inspection by PlaySafety in June/early July. Cllr MacDonald felt that as long as issues were in hand it shouldn't prove a problem but agreed that the Parish Council should get as much done as possible. Adrian Jackson will be asked to provide quotes for some jobs.

Cllr Jordon also advised that a large willow needs pruning and wondered if the Cllrs could tackle this themselves.

Pavilion Closure: Following a decision to close the pavilion until refurbishment had been carried out, some members of OviFun had attended that evening's surgery to voice their dismay. (A copy of notes is available on request). Cllrs Jordon and Foster had been in attendance and explained the reasonings behind the decision to close. Cllr Jordon had already approached businesses asking for support in funding and had been quite successful (either by monetary donations or materials) but she had advised OviFun that the refurbishment will not be finished before an OviFun fundraising event (car wash) at the beginning of June; the kitchen will not be available although water can be accessed. Guarantees could not be given that work will be complete for the OviFun day at the end of July so alternative arrangements for the day will have to be in place. Cllr Jordon advised the Cllrs that in addition, the Parish Council may need to employ a cleaner for the Pavilion. Cllr MacDonald thought the ultimate responsibility lay with the Parish Council but the Cllrs needed to sit down with OPPFUG to determine everything. Cllr Jackson remarked that it was only now becoming apparent how much Phil Holden had done behind the scenes. A survey for asbestos had been carried out – the report was expected soon; an electrician will also submit his report for the fixed wiring test which was due every 5 years. The Cllrs also needed evidence of insurance cover held by OviFun – there were many areas still to determine and Cllr Jordon suggested that a working party be formed to cover as much as possible with members of OPPFUG.

7. Matters arising: -

- i) **Traffic Issues:** Problems with regards parking on Horsley Road and at the school had already been covered in agenda item (5).
- ii) **Storage of ride on Mower:** Cllr Campbell was still looking at options.
- iii) **Banking arrangements/new signatories:** The Clerk had now received confirmation that Cllrs Campbell and Foster were authorised signatories.
- iv) **Asset Register:** The Clerk had circulated a basic spreadsheet detailing assets owned by the Parish Council. Cllr Gray queried the values of some items but the Clerk replied that according to previous audit advice, values remained the same as when purchased – the total amount only changing if an item was disposed of or if anything was bought. This was, of course, different to values as defined by the Insurers. It was agreed that a further check of assets held had to be conducted.

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

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses March)	£299.73
Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in March)	£15.00
D Jordon (telephone calls)	£9.08
D Jordon (village garden funds for poppy project)	£66.98
Trident (asbestos survey at Pavilion)	£234.00
NCC (extra grass cuts)	£268.03
M Davenport (training for Data protection x 3)	£30.00

9. **Planning Application: 18/01031/FUL – Glebe Barns, Burnside** – single storey extension – **no objections** (provided proposals adhered to)
Cllr Gray commented that the application for Swinhope House was no longer available on the website of NCC but he didn't know why. He also had noted that the application for the biomass boiler at Welburn Care Home was to be decided under delegated power.
18/PRUTPO – Ovingham Cemetery – remove epicormic shoots & crown lift minor branches – **No objections**
10. **To approve exempt authority status for financial year 2017/2018:** The Clerk had now received further guidelines including a statement for the Parish Council to confirm that turnover had not exceeded £25,000 in the last financial year. As the accounts had not been checked by the internal auditor yet, the statement will be reviewed at the May meeting although the Clerk confirmed that turnover had, in fact, been less than £25,000.
11. **Village Action Plan and Parish Council surgery queries:** Several issues raised were being dealt with. These included parking across from Brewery Farm steading; up to date minutes in the file in the Reading Room; trees at the allotments. Damage to the Pack Horse Bridge had been dealt with promptly by NCC and Cllr Jordon reported the repointing of the bridge was now complete and they had done an excellent job. No response had been received with regards the tree trunk across Whittle Burn although it had been reported. Cllr MacDonald advised the area around a large manhole cover on Piper Road was raised and was a potential danger – it was thought this was responsibility of NWL. Cllr Jordon will check. Cllrs Campbell and MacDonald thought areas in the village could not be checked properly at the moment due to the housing development on Piper Road and that of NWL. No doubt there will be issues to report once these have finished. Cllr Jordon asked for ideas to put forward which the handyman could undertake.
12. **To note confirmed changes to Insurance Policy:** The Clerk had now received confirmation from the insurance brokers that the policy schedule referred to the Pavilion, rather than the village hall which had been the case for a few years despite numerous requests to change it. The Clerk also confirmed that the defibrillator was automatically covered under the existing policy.
13. **To consider Risk Assessment for audit purposes:** This had been circulated by the Clerk and agreed no changes were necessary.
14. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon reported that concerns had been raised about whether planning permission was needed for a fence which had been erected on Piper Road on what is termed as Amenity Land. Similar issues had been raised in the past and most recently in 2014/2015 when the PC was advised by NCC planning that application would normally have to be submitted if it was deemed to be on amenity land. Cllr Gray will check with the planning department.
Cllr Jordon reported that the recent litter pick organised by Green Ovingham had been very successful. There had been a large amount of waste on the riverbank by the allotments which included tyres and this had now been removed. She also advised youths were again gathering in the area by the river and leaving rubbish behind. Much of it was collected by a resident from Castle View and she had thanked the person concerned.

There had been electricity supply problems around Dene Garth; a generator had been in place for over a week at the entrance to Bewick Lane; Cllr Jordon had received a refund from Npowergrid for recent damage to planters in this area whilst the work was being carried out and these will be replaced.

15. **NCC Local Plan – Spring 2018 consultation:** Cllr Gray understood that comments only needed to be submitted if the Parish Council had anything further to add. The Cllrs agreed no further action was required.
16. **NWL/NCC Surface Water issues update:** Cllr Jordon advised that NCC/NWL were keeping OPC up to speed on this work. As far as the work to the north of Dene Garth was concerned, discussions with the landowner were ongoing, but importantly Npowergrid will be replacing the overhead line with a cable which should assist with resolution. As far as the work to the north of the new homes on Piper Road was concerned, access to the Northumberland Estates land has been agreed and work will begin, initially removing two trees on the boundary between the building site and the playing field. Cllr Gray also advised the EA project to draw up a new hydrology model for the Tyne was being implemented. This should enable flood predictions to be more accurate. OPC believed some data fed into the old model was incorrect & Cllr Gray had met with EA consultants on site to explain our position. With regard to the Whittle Burn & the culvert at Cooksfield, NCC/NWL propose to put water level gauges to provide warning of high water levels. These gauges will automatically send a warning to both mobile phones and email accounts & Cllr Gray will advise residents with regards to signing up for such information.
17. **Committee Reports:** There was nothing to report from the Reading Room Committee. The latest Forum meeting had to be re-scheduled. Cllr Jordon advised there was little to report from the most recent meeting of the Burial Board Committee.
18. **Correspondence:**
 - a) Riversdale Surgery – users report. The Clerk had circulated correspondence which had been received in relation to the proposed closure of the doctors’ surgery in Wylam. The Cllrs felt that as they had not been approached by residents, they could not comment but agreed details will be put on the website and face book page.
19. Distribution was still being circulated.
20. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair: Nothing reported.
21. The date of the next meeting which will be the Annual meeting, was confirmed as Thursday 17th May 2018 at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm