

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

---

Minutes of a meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.15pm.  
in the main hall of the Reading Room.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Jackson, Swinburn, Cairns, County Councillor Waddell,  
2 residents and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Gray (self-isolating)
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors Report: County Cllr Waddell gave an update following a recent full meeting of the Council, questions/issues had been raised with regards grass cutting and weed control in the Bywell ward and she feels that she can press for better provision. Cllr Jordon remarked this was not the case in Ovingham, the grass cutters have done an excellent job this year and she thanked NCC for this. The new “danger” signs will be installed at the riverside following a recent incident. The 20mph flashing signage outside schools is a priority and should be in place soon. Cllr Jordon pointed out that the Parish Council had been pressing for the signage for some time and preparation work had already been carried out. The request for an additional grit bin initially received by Cllr Waddell is discussed below.
5. Request for a grit bin: A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider a grit bin using funds from County Cllr Waddell. The resident asked that it be situated at a corner of Piper Road (by numbers 14/15 Piper Road) citing the sharp bend at that point. County Cllr Waddell confirmed that Highways had looked at the site and deemed it did not warrant a bin from their budget but the Parish Council could consider asking her to fund it. After a detailed discussion where a number of important points were raised, the Cllrs felt that they could not sanction a bin as there were many other areas in the estate which could have similar issues and agreeing to this could set a precedent. Cllr Jordon stressed that cost was not an issue. There were also concerns about responsibility of spreading the grit as it would be dependent on residents and as such was a health and safety risk. She concluded by putting forward a suggestion of “Snow Warden Volunteers” which is a scheme run by NCC; further details of this will be posted on the Parish Council website.
6. Matters arising: -
  - a) Co-option to Council: Two residents present had expressed interest in becoming Councillors. The Clerk had received no feedback from NCC regarding the latest vacancy but confirmed that the Council could co-opt based on the other 2

vacancies.

- b) Village Signage: Cllr Jordon & Cllr Gray will meet with a company next week to discuss the design.

7. Accounts to pay/paid:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| M Davenport (Sal & Expenses June)                   | £301.32 |
| Ovingham Reading Room (Room hire June 2021)         | £15.00  |
| D Cuthbert (petrol for mower)                       | £84.55  |
| Play Inspection Co Ltd (annual inspection)          | £81.00  |
| Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (new cradle swings & fitting) | £551.04 |
| D Jordon (village plants & tel. calls)              | £111.25 |
8. Planning Applications: -  
**21/01896/Ful – 5 The Terrace** – loft conversion to house & alterations to existing detached garage to form garden store & greenhouse – **no objections**  
**21/02160/Ful – Model Cottage** – conversion of stone outbuilding into study – no objections.  
Cllr Jordon confirmed there had been no further information from Planning regarding The Hermitage.
9. Annual Play Inspection report: This had been carried out towards the end of June and a thorough report had been received and circulated. There were no issues of concern – areas being classed as low or very low risk. Some jobs will need monitoring including the football posts.
10. Recruitment of new Parish Clerk: The current Clerk had tendered her resignation which was accepted. The Cllrs will discuss the next steps at the end of the meeting including advertising and time scales.
11. Village projects: Cllr Jordon had received quotes for a gate and fence at the village green and also at the car park at the Pavilion. The Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the work which will be carried out late September.
12. Village Environment: Cllr Jordon advised that hedge at Castle View will be cut back shortly. All direction signs for Cherry Burn housing are to be removed, damaged gulley covers replaced and gulley's cleansed week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> July. Further discussion to take place due to a change of personnel with regards the unfinished path beside the chalets. A resident on Castle View had complained about garden rubbish being thrown into his tenancy garden. Weeds at the playing field needed attention.
13. Committee Reports: Cllr Jackson had been unable to attend the latest meeting of the Reading Room which was held via Zoom but summarised the minutes. The Committee were looking at a new sound system and applying for grants. Bookings were again being received including that for parties and a jumble sale.  
Cllrs Jordon & Swinburn had attended a meeting of the Burial Committee. Diana Carney was elected chair and Mike Senior, vice chair. It was noted that the general maintenance of the grounds was very good but a check will be made on an old rusty pointed fence on the western boundary. A new area for the scattering of ashes and possible memorial plaques was discussed – further information to be obtained before a final decision is made.
14. Correspondence:
- a) Boot Camp: The Clerk reported that the organiser will contact Cllr Jordon. Unfortunately, her numbers attending were low and she wished to review the arrangement.

- b) Local Transport Plan: This had just been received and circulated. A decision must be made at the September meeting when it will be on the agenda. Cllr Jordon asked the Cllrs to put forward proposals for consideration.
- 15. Any other business: Cllr Jordon asked for judges for the forthcoming garden competition.
- 16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

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