

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 27th July 2017 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Bryan, Foster, County Councillor Quinn (in part) and 6 members of the public.

Cllr Jordon welcomed the residents to the meeting and two residents raised the poor state of grass cutting in part of the village – some areas had not been cut. Cllr Jordon replied she would make enquiries but commented that weather conditions were playing a part – grass was growing quickly and there had been quite a lot of rain recently.

1. Aileen Foster was co-opted to Council but unfortunately, Joanna Jackson (who had also recently been co-opted) was not able to attend the meeting so would not be officially co-opted until the September meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr MacDonald.
3. No declarations of interest were received.
4. Notice of resignation had been received from Hazel Chalmers and this was minuted. The Clerk advised that an official notice must be displayed and submitted to County Council and she would arrange for this in due course.
5. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
6. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn updated the Cllrs on a number of issues and reminded them that County Cllrs will be submitting requests for locations within their wards to be considered for the "pothole" fund. She had already received a request from Wylam and asked Ovingham for any areas to be considered. Cllr Jordon thought that outside the schools was a priority and despite numerous reports to NCC, there were still problems. County Cllr Quinn had also been asked for help in solving the confusion over signage for cyclists and Ovingham Bridge. If using the pedestrian bridge, they must dismount but it was not clear and on numerous occasions over the years, residents had suffered abuse from cyclists who rode on the pedestrian bridge. County Cllr Quinn and the Cllrs agreed that unfortunately even with new signs it was a problem which would likely re-occur. County Cllr Quinn had also been lobbying the contractors for the Piper Road development to use larger road signs but without much success. Cllr Campbell commented that overall, the vehicles were keeping to the correct route and speed limit.
Cllr Quinn left at 7.35pm.
7. Matters arising: -
 - i) **Defibrillator for Village:** Cllr Jordon had arranged for Professor Norton to attend a special meeting next Wednesday (2nd August) at

6.30pm to answer queries. She had also invited Ovington Parish Council, as they were also interested in buying a defibrillator, and the Clerk confirmed that at least one Cllr (Adrian Smith) would be attending.

- ii) **Lane to rear of Castle View:** Still ongoing – no date given for this yet.
- iii) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon commented vehicles were no longer parking on the double yellow lines at the bottom of Horsley Road or Castle View. It was a difficult issue to monitor but the Civilian Enforcement Officers will continue to patrol the village. She also noted that since the incorporation of the double yellow lines at the entrance to Tyne Gardens and by Model Cottage, vehicles should not be parking in this area.
- iv) **Village projects:** Cllr Jordon advised the wooden barrels had been put in place at the bottom of River View and final touches are to be made to the entrance area.
- v) **Policies and Standing Orders:** An email had been circulated with suggested documents that Parish Councils needed to have in place but NALC were still updating all policies. The Clerk asked that as OPC already were complying with the above, the issue be taken off the agenda until further information is received. This was agreed.
- vi) **Storage of ride on mower:** Cllr Bryan had not been able to suggest an area to store the mower, but Cllr Jordon wondered if it could go in the gap by the west side of the pavilion as it was by a metal gate and could be suitable. She reminded the Cllrs that they had expressed preference for the mower being in a locked shed and asked that this area be considered.
- vii) **S106 Funding for new play equipment:** Cllr Bryan advised proposals had been looked at by OPPFUG. However, this would be from the “large pot” which was available to other areas. Cllr Jordon queried the S106 funding of £1388 available specifically for Ovingham and pointed out that the closing date was near. After a discussion related to the present situation about the OPPFUG constitution, a query was raised as to whether the Parish Council could apply for this funding. Cllr Jordon and the Clerk will check and hopefully an application could be submitted before the next council meeting.

8. Accounts to pay/be paid:

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses June)	£322.10
Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in June)	£15.00
Play Inspection Co Ltd (annual inspection)	£78.00
P Holden (football nets)	£101.53
D Jordon (Bedding plants etc.)	£201.23
Unicorn Restoration (paint for telephone box)	£51.59
Trevor Bell (grass cuts)	£280.00
I Campbell (fee for household waste/removing)	£4.00
P Holden (petrol for mower)	£63.65

The Clerk advised that she had just received the paint for the telephone box. Cllr Gray would pass this on to Bob Klotz who had volunteered to

- paint it.
9. **Planning Application: 17/02385/FUL Bridge End Public House – refurbishment of existing closed down pub with new pitched roof to replace flat roof details.** Cllr Gray had been looking at this new application for the Bridge End and it appeared that previous proposals for an upstairs function room had been abandoned but he felt it was not totally clear as there had been no plan submitted for the proposed elevation. Cllr Gray had been in touch with planning and was awaiting their response and noted that the Parish Council had to submit comments by 1st August. He felt that the application is probably acceptable subject to receiving further plans of the proposed elevation. He will summarise a response even if Planning do not get back to him.
 10. **Play Inspection Annual Report:** This had recently been carried out and the report circulated to the Cllrs. Cllr Jordon stated she was disappointed with some of the points raised as well as being concerned about the high risk given to the climbing frame. Cllr Bryan replied much had already been raised by OPPFUG and steps had been taken by Cllr Jordon to remove the climbing frame. Cllr Jordon felt initial impression of the appearance of the playing field was changed on closer inspection especially around the play area and play equipment. However, Cllr Bryan felt it was unreasonable to expect, what were volunteers, to deal with some issues. Cllr Gray felt much of the management was tied up with the constitution which was going to and fro between OPPFUG and OPC. A lively discussion followed, tied in with the constitution (also on the agenda) which Cllr Jordon asked be discussed fully at the end of the meeting.
 11. **OPPFUG – new constitution draft and maintenance agreement:** This was to be discussed at the end of the meeting (see below).
 12. **Local Transport Plan 2018/2019:** Proposals to be considered had to be submitted to County Council by the end of September and the Clerk had circulated details including a copy of last years' request. Cllr Jordon proposed a 20mph throughout the village, 20mph outside the schools to be given a priority and if this was given the go ahead, a request made to extend the 30mph sign further out of the village on all three entrances, as speeding was always a concern. This was agreed.
 13. **To consider request from Ovingham Drama Group for donation towards new stage:** Ian Heslop, who had submitted the request, had attended the recently held AGM of the Reading Room. A new stage would cost about £8,000. Cllr Gray reminded the meeting that the drama group were struggling to continue and hoped to attract younger members and felt that a new stage would not only benefit the drama group but also could be used by other users. Cllrs Jordon & Gray had indicated that OPC could give up to £1000 if application to the lottery fund (submitted by Ian Heslop) was successful. Ian had implied chances were improved if about 25% was pledged from other sources. Cllr Jordon reminded the Cllrs that £500 was already allocated in the budget which could be used towards the project and the Clerk confirmed further monies could be used if the Cllrs wanted towards this, or other requests, as long as it was within the legal limit (£7.57 per elector). Cllr Jordon proposed that £500 be donated to the drama group, plus another £500 (making a total of £1000) on the condition that they are successful in their application to the Lottery fund. This was agreed.

14. **Village environment:** Cllr Jordon advised that the stone wall leading into Burnside had been repointed. Complaints had been received about dog fouling especially on the playing field. Further laminated copies of the children's poster will be displayed around the village and the Clerk reminded the Cllrs that following recent correspondence from NCC regarding the "Green Dog Campaign" she had received a supply of dog waste bags. It was acknowledged that the problem was unfortunately, one that would always raise its head on a regular basis but would be monitored. Some owners would always be irresponsible with regards picking up dog mess. Cllr Jordon advised that the proposed path (funded by Paul Kelly) down from the chalets would be done this financial year. NCC had confirmed this. The direction sign for the playing field was ongoing. As Ovingham was now back in the west area (with regards NCC), Martin King, Highways, was no longer the contact which had reverted to Kris Westerby. Cllr Gray reminded the meeting that NCC had started changing street lights to LED as these were more energy efficient and therefore cheaper to operate. Residents would be able to ask for "baffles" to be fitted if they felt individual lights were too bright. NCC have also confirmed that all lights will dim at midnight. Further work was still required on the village green before it was brought up to standard but it was ongoing.
15. **Committee Reports:** Cllr Gray had attended a meeting of the East Tynedale Forum last night (26th July) when future funding had been discussed. All but 2 of the Forum group had responded about the proposals (as discussed and agreed by Ovingham PC at the June meeting) and the Forum decided to invoice all members regardless but on the condition that any council which did not pay would no longer be a member of the Forum. The meeting had also considered pooling resources for maintenance of interactive signs and this could be extended to other areas such as playing field inspections and it was hoped this would reduce costs.
16. **Correspondence:**
- a) A resident had asked that the Parish Council consider moving the two notice boards by the church to a more accessible position. Parked cars frequently blocked access and she asked if they could be moved nearer the bus stop. Although sympathetic, Cllr Jordon pointed out this had been considered some years ago, and although it would be expensive, moving them nearer the bus stop would not be approved by Highways.
 - b) NCC had now confirmed that the planned closure of C253 Bywell to Ovington Junction road scheduled for 10 – 13 August had been cancelled.
 - c) Following the recent tragic Grenfell Tower Fire, N'land Fire & Rescue had circulated plans in the event such an incident occurring in Northumberland.
 - d) NCC had informed the Parish Council that the Local Plan Core Strategy had been withdrawn from examination. The Cllrs understood this was primarily to reconsider the number of housing required in the County.
 - e) The Clerk had circulated a letter from Wylam Parish Council with regards the planned closure of the surgery on Woodcroft

Road. The Cllrs acknowledged that this could lead to problems for many residents who had no access to private transport and that public transport was at times limited when travelling to Prudhoe. They agreed to write, in support of Wylam Parish Council and ask that all avenues be explored before closure is agreed.

17. Distribution was still being circulated.
18. Any other business: There being no other business, Cllr Jordon asked if 2 residents, Debbie Reed and Phil Holden would stay whilst the matter of the OPPFUG constitution was being discussed as they were both heavily involved with the group. This was agreed and the remaining 4 residents left the meeting at 8.50.
19. **OPPFUG – new constitution draft and maintenance agreement:**
Following a meeting between Cllrs Jordon, Gray and Bryan a further amended draft of the constitution had been circulated. Cllr Bryan advised that the members of OPPFUG had not agreed the amendments and although he felt it important to discuss the matter in an open meeting, felt external advice was needed. Cllr Gray queried why a new constitution was required in any event – Cllr Bryan replied the existing one was no longer relevant. He also confirmed that the constitution needed to be approved at the AGM of OPFUG and this hadn't been possible. The existing constitution dated back to 2002 and the draft proposal, in Cllr Grays opinion, raised too many queries such as levels of membership and roles on the committee. He was also concerned that a situation could arise out of that in which decisions regarding the Playing Field were ultimately decided by non-residents. Cllr Bryan, backed by two of the residents' present, stated it was to encourage more users and ultimately more volunteers in managing the playing fields. Cllr Jordon felt the proposed draft was too detailed and believed that the 2002 constitution was, apart from some tweaking, still relevant. Cllr Gray offered to reword that section he had serious concerns about (committee membership). After further concerns were raised by Cllr Campbell and the 2 residents, it was increasingly clear that no resolution would be reached. The Clerk advised unless an intermediary was considered it was unlikely that anything would be agreed. However, Cllr Bryan, together with the 2 residents, was happy for Cllr Gray to look at the draft and circulate it again for approval emphasising that it was now an urgent issue. Cllr Bryan also asked about level of insurance cover in general and of it covered volunteers. The Clerk believed it did but would check and advise (she had already made an enquiry when increasing the value of cover for the ride on mower).
20. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 21st September at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm