

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of a remote meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 15th April 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson and Cairns and the Clerk.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Foster and Swinburn.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and will be signed in due course.
4. Matters arising:
 - 1) Elections May 2021: Confirmation had been received that the six candidates had been elected unopposed. The two remaining vacancies will be considered as and when applications are received but probably not before June.
 - 2) Standing Orders and Policies: Any necessary amendments had been made as agreed at the March meeting and uploaded to the website. The safeguarding policy had been circulated and approved.
5. Accounts to be paid:

M Davenport (Sal/expenses March 2021)	£305.64
Tyne Valley Woodlands (tree work at church)	£960.00
NALC (Annual subs & webhosting fee)	£308.69

It was unanimously agreed to give the internal auditor £50 as a small token of thanks.

6. County Councillors Report: No report due to the forthcoming election. However, Cllr Jordon thanked Karen Quinn on behalf of the Parish Council and residents for her help and support during the last four years. She was wished all the best in the future and hope to see her at future village events.
7. Planning Applications: -
 - 21/00454/FUL – Bleach Green Farm Cottage** – siting of timber framed garden building for use as a home gym -**No objections**
 - 21/00911/FUL – 63 Windsor Crescent** – extension to front porch. Cllr Jordon had looked at this application and confirmed there were no objections although it may be out of time to submit comment.
 - 20/04091/FUL – 7 Wheatfield** – single storey extension to front elevation **granted**Cllr Gray confirmed that there was no further update on the application for Piper Road.
8. Village Action Plans including long term projects: Proposals for long term projects have been deferred until physical meetings can resume. Village Action Plans: Trees have been pruned back in Jimmy Johnsons Garden. Zip wire and fencing work had not been carried out yet. Potholes continued to be a problem and Cllr Jordon had spoken to Highways who

confirmed they have been inundated with pothole reporting but that they would now be a priority. Water Gauge: Cllr Jordon had been informed that relevant IT software will be installed and hopefully up and running shortly. Dene Garth: It is anticipated that the final design which has been submitted will be approved and work penciled in for early May.

9. Village Environment: A very successful litter pick was carried out last weekend – 27 volunteers. The Clerk will chase up the request for a new litter bin at the village shop. The annual tree inspection will be carried out in May. Karbon Homes have targeted work on the swale/bund first week in May. There had been no progress with the drains at the Pavilion as the workforce was busy elsewhere – at least it was dry at the moment. Gulley’s on the south side of the Church are blocked possibly as far as the Bridge End and a camera will be needed to see the extent of the problem caused by tree roots. This will be done in sections. Vandalism at the allotments has been reported and the Police will do a patrol – trees have also been damaged and in the Dene. Dog fouling continues to be a problem especially on the playing field. The Cllrs discussed whether to put up warning notices, such as “dogs must be kept on leads at all times”. It was agreed that the wording will be determined at the next meeting but ultimately, issuing a banning order may be necessary. The majority of dog walkers are responsible but unfortunately a few continue to either allow their dogs to exercise freely and/or fail to pick up their waste. Unsightly concrete barriers have been put in place at the layby on the Wylam Road which had seen a lot of fly tipping recently. Cllr Jordon had met with Highways who agreed it was not a visually satisfactory solution and hopefully was just a temporary measure until large boulders can be placed instead. Some trees in the Churchyard need attention – mainly yews which are overhanging and a sycamore tree branch which is overhanging. The large sequoia tree has had no decision yet as regards its removal. The PCC had submitted a faculty application but it was noted not all the PCC agree with this. The forthcoming camera work on the blocked gullies should reveal the problem. Unfortunately, youngsters had been spotted on the roof of the Pavilion today (15th). Cllr Jackson will purchase anti vandal paint for the fence and the necessary warning notice(s). The wall on the west side of the burn had been reinstated following the tree removal.
10. Audit 2020-2021: This has now been received by the Clerk and needs to be approved before the end of June. The Clerk hopes to have it ready for the internal auditor shortly.
11. There was no other business as considered urgent by the chair.
12. To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7.15pm. Cllr Jordon will check the availability of the main hall of the Reading Room as it was noted that the Blakett Room would not be large enough. It was possible a different date and time may be needed. Cllr Jordon also thanked Cllr Campbell for his very pragmatic approach to the role of Parish Councillor. He was someone who could always be relied on in all circumstances and will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Parish Council, she wished him all the best.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm