

OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held at Ovington Social Club

Thursday 13th November 2025

Present: Councillors Anne Hudson (Chair), Fiona Maidwell (Vice-Chair), Barbara Goodfellow Lisa Leggatt and Geraldine Shaw.

Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale, Lisa Leggatt (Chair of Community Group) and Tracey Wood (Interim Clerk)

2025/43 Item 1 – Chair’s opening comments and public comments/statements

The Chair welcomed those present. The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate and the meeting would proceed. No members of the public were present.

2025/44 Item 2 – Adoption of Agenda

Councillor Geraldine Shaw requested the addition of a memorial tree request to the agenda.

2025/45 Item 3 – Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence received.

2025/46 Item 4 – Declaration of Interest

None Declared.

2025/47 Item 5 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2025

Resolved that:

- i. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2025/48 Item 6 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Anne Dale reported that:

- **Parking** – Since the introduction of car park charges by Network Rail, there had been an increase in parking in the NCC car park and overflow car park in Prudhoe. This has resulted in an increase in parked cars in Ovingham. The situation is being monitored. County Councillor Dale, will pass on Ovington Resident concerns to County Councillor O’Donnell i.e. inability to park to use rail station.
- **S106 Funding** – available funding will be used by Ovington Parish Council for new signage for the Playpark which will include a phone number for emergencies and Health and Safety issues. Remaining funds will be used for dog waste signs. Barbara Goodfellow will lead on the purchase of signage.
- **NCC Enforcement** – Active officers are in post and working closely with County Councillor Dale on issues raised.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

- **Gateway Signs** – New gateway signs have been approved with funding from NCC. The design of the signs will be approved by members at a future Parish Council meeting.
- **Local Transport Plan** – The Local Transport Plan Capital Programme has moved to a three year programme from 2026-2029. Members discussed items for inclusion in the submission for Ovington:
 - **Bridleway** – the path between St Andrews Lane and Ovingham schools needs to be upgraded to allow Ovington children to use this as a walking route to school.
 - **Slip road from A69** – members discussed the need for a slip road from the A69 on the junction to Ovington. County Councillor Dale informed members this was a National Highways item and could not be included in the LTP submission.
 - **Overgrown Hedgerows** – spreading road ‘shoulders’ and the hedgerows on the road from Ovington to Ovingham have resulted in the narrowing of the country lane resulting in a danger to road users.
- **Ovington Friendship Group** – NCC will be organising an adapt bus to take Ovington residents to Prudhoe, it is expected that the service will run once a week as a ‘dial a ride’ service for multiple journeys.
- **Blocked Gulleys** – have been reported and cleared. Members are encouraged to use FixMyStreet to report problems.
- **EV Chargers** – County Councillor Dale will provide further information when available. Members discussed the potential location of the chargers.

Members thanked County Councillor Dale for her continued hard work and support.

Resolved that:

- i. County Councillor Dale to inform County Councillor O’Donnell of parking issues.
- ii. Chair of Ovington Community Group to circulate examples of signs to members.
- iii. Gateway Signs design be added to a future agenda.
- iv. Clerk to draft the submission for the Local Transport Capital Programme 2026 – 2029.
- v. Clerk to circulate the draft submission to members.
- vi. Clerk to send approved submission to NCC.
- vii. Adapt bus information to be circulated to residents.
- viii. County Councillor Dale to confirm if there is an age limit.
- ix. Clerk to add EV Chargers to a future agenda.

2025/49 Item 7 Matters Arising

- **Parish Clerk Vacancy** – Interviews for the vacancy for the Parish Clerk would take place on 24th and 26th November. The Chair and two Councillors will be on the interview panel. The Interim Clerk will meet and greet the candidates.

Signed..... Date.....
 Chair of Meeting

- **Planning** – Ovingham Parish Council submitted comments for planning application 25/02759/CLEXIS. The deadline for comments is 14 November 2025.
- **NCC Community Governance Review (CGR)** – A Community Governance Review is currently being undertaken by NCC. The preliminary stage of the process gives Parish, Town and Community Councils the opportunity to give views in a pre-consultation questionnaire. Members agreed on a response to the questionnaire.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** – Members had attended a meeting with Sarah Brannigan, where a presentation was given about the Neighbourhood Plan process. Horsley and Ovington Parish Council will work together on a Neighbourhood Plan. A meeting will be arranged in 2026 to progress this.
- **Cheviot Learning Trust** – the Trust have withdrawn the Consultation.
- **Precept 2026-2027** – Draft budget for 2026-2027 will be discussed following a review of the budget proposal. Members discussed the reserves held by Ovington Parish Council.

Resolved that:

- Clerk to return questionnaires to NCC
- Clerk to add Neighbourhood Plan to a future agenda.
- Clerk to inform Horsley Parish Council of working together decision.
- Clerk to prepare draft budget proposal for 2026-2027.
- Clerk to circulate draft reserves policy.
- Clerk to add reserves policy to the January agenda.

2025/50 Item 8 Expenditure

Members reviewed the payments. Members discussed membership of the East Tynedale Community Forum and the need for a volunteer to become Chair of the Forum. No member of Ovington Parish Council is available to volunteer

Resolved that:

- Payments are approved as follows:
 - Maintenance Contract - £800
 - Annual Audit Fee - £50
 - East Tynedale Community Forum - £30
 - Poppy Wreath - £24.49

2025/51 Item 9 Committee Reports and other group updates

- **Ovington Joint Burial Committee** – Members received an update.
- **East Tynedale Community Forum** – Discussed under item 8.
- **Ovington Community Group** – AGM was positive and well attended. The group have been asked to take over the Macmillan/Tynedale Hospice Coffee Morning. Members agreed the administration of Remembrance Sunday would be managed by the Parish Council Clerk for 2026. Members thanked Ovington Community Group for the continued hard work and dedication.

Resolved that:

- Clerk to inform East Tynedale Community Forum that no volunteers are available from Ovington Parish Council.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

2025/52 Item 10 Village Environment

- **Ovington Trees** – Members reviewed the discs for the way marker posts. Seven new posts have been agreed by NCC. Each post will have an artist impression of the area in which they are located. Deadline for completion of work is the end of November. VAT is to be reclaimed for project. Members discussed the account balance for the tree project. The funds required for 2026/27 will be covered by precept.
- **Village Planters** – thanks were given to Councillor Shaw for the work on the Springfield planting area. Members agreed to fund the purchase of winter plants for the village planters.
- **Handyman Update** – Members discussed the replacement of two swing seats in the play park. The work can be completed by the Handyman. Quotation for the work will be approved by the Parish Council. The larger climbing frame requires inspection and repair by Playdale. Members discussed the requirement of motor insurance for the lawn mower. It was agreed that the insurance should be renewed as the lawn mower is occasionally used on public roads.

Resolved that:

- i. Artist invoice to be submitted and paid ahead of deadline.
- ii. Clerk to investigate VAT reclaim.
- iii. Members to review and approve quote for swings repair.
- iv. Clerk to obtain quote from Playdale for inspection and repair.
- v. Lawn mower insurance to be renewed.

2025/53 Item 11 Correspondence

The Chair had been contacted by a resident regarding the replacement of signs on the green. Members discussed proposed areas for a Village sign, permission would be required by the land owner for the placement of the sign.

Resolved that:

- i. Chair to email County Councillor Dale regarding the resident request.
- ii. Clerk to add village sign to a future agenda.

2025/54 Item 12 Next Meetings

- Ovington Parish Council Ordinary Meeting 15th January 2026
- Ovington Parish Council Ordinary Meeting 12th March 2026
- Ovington Parish Council Annual Meeting 15th May 2026

2025/55 Item 13 Any other business

Members discussed the request received from a resident for permission to plant a memorial tree. Members discussed locations.

Resolved that:

- i. The Chair would request permission to plant the memorial tree in Millennium Park.
- ii. Councillor Leggatt to update resident on suggested location for memorial tree, pending permission.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8pm

DRAFT

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting