

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 16th May 2019
at 7.40 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, MacDonald, Jackson, Foster and Kirkland, County
Cllr Quinn and 3 members of the public.

1. The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair of Council. Cllr Foster proposed and Cllr MacDonald seconded Cllr Jordon, who took the chair.
2. Vice Chair – Cllr Gray was nominated by Cllr MacDonald and seconded by Cllr Foster.
3. Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Campbell (holiday).
4. Cllr Gray declared an interest in item 14 on the agenda.
5. Other Bodies representatives were agreed as follows:
 - a) Ovingham Joint Burial Committee – Cllrs Jordon and Campbell
 - b) Reading Room – Cllrs Gray & Jordon
 - c) OPPFUG – Cllrs MacDonald and Foster
 - d) East Tynedale Town & Parish Council Forum – Cllrs Gray and Jackson
 - e) Allotment Association – Cllr Kirkland
 - f) Orchard Community Group – Cllr Kirkland
6. The minutes of the last meeting on 18th April 2019, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
7. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn apologised for the recent problem relating to cancelled road works on Gallowhill Lane, Horsley Road and the road going west past the schools. She was not aware of the reason for this. Unfortunately, the bus companies had not been informed of the cancellation by NCC which resulted in no bus service for yesterday (15th May). Cllr Jordon was disappointed with the lack of communication between the various departments involved. The works on Gallowhill Lane and Horsley Road will commence in a few weeks, but no mention has been made of repairs to the road going west. Cllr Jordon requested this be followed up as the road is in a poor state of repair with numerous potholes. County Cllr Quinn advised weed spraying had started although she was not sure when this will be done in Ovingham, and grass cutting was so far on target having done 3 cuts to date. Cllr Gray queried the state of grass on the central reservation on the A69 turn-off to Ovington – its height caused poor visibility for drivers. Cllr Jordon remarked on the ongoing problem with parking by the schools and personally felt that the schools could provide more spaces on their grounds. Cllr Jordon also asked County Cllr Quinn if submissions can be made for new play equipment from the small funding scheme – this is possible, and County Cllr Quinn asked the PC to forward

details which will then be considered.
County Cllr Quinn left the meeting at 8.05pm.

8. Matters arising: -
- i) **Traffic issues:** Some issues had been mentioned above. Cllr Jordon had not received any response from Neil Snowdon, NCC, with regards other matters.
 - ii) **Tree Survey:** Recommendations from the tree surgeon had been circulated. The Cllrs agreed that the most pressing work was in the Parish Gardens (Castle View). A quote for the removal of ivy from a number of trees will be obtained from the tree surgeon.
 - iii) **Small Schemes Fund:** Cllr Jordon had obtained a quote for upgrading the car park by the Pavilion. At nearly £6,000 the Cllrs were agreed that the better option will be to ask for new play equipment. Cllr Foster had received numerous brochures and it was later agreed that prices be obtained for a range of equipment. Cllrs MacDonald & Foster to follow this up and report back as soon as possible.

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

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses April)	£292.28
P Holden (petrol for mower)	£36.11
P Holden (Belt for mower)	£70.80
D Jordon (Storage boxes)	£29.97
Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (annual subs)	£10.00
P Hind (Village Handyman)	£120.00
T Bell (Grass cutting)	£280.00
NALC (Annual subs & web hosting)	£297.39
J Jackson (photocopying reports etc.)	£5.00

Cllr Jordon also advised the meeting that £700 had been raised at the recent jumble sale and this will be put towards new play equipment.

10. **Planning Application:**
18/04268/FUL – 21 Windsor Crescent: This application had been refused by the Clerk confirmed she had now been notified that an appeal had been lodged.
Cllr Gray advised there was nothing further to report with regards the application for Glebe Barns (roof).
11. **Annual Governance & Accountability return for 2018/2019:** The Clerk had only just received the account back from the internal auditor. Although he had raised no concerns, the official approval of accounts will be put before the Cllrs at the June meeting. She did confirm that as turnover was again less than £25,000, return will be by a Certificate of Exemption.
12. **To consider any matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting:** No matters were tabled.
13. **To consider application for a grant from “The Oracle”:** The Clerk had submitted this recent request. Due to a recently adopted policy, the Parish Council agreed to consider applications at their October meeting. However, it was agreed that if the grant is needed to ensure the continuation of the village newsletter, the request will be considered before then. The Clerk will check with the applicant.

14. **To approve the use of the Village Green and Vicarage Haugh for the Goose Fair:** Cllr Gray, as chair of the Goose Fair Committee, had requested written confirmation from the Parish Council that the aforementioned sites can be used for the Goose Fair on 15th June. This was for insurance purposes. The Cllrs agreed, and Cllr Gray will also lodge a copy of the relevant insurance with the Clerk.
15. **Parish Council Surgery/Village plan updates:** Cllr Jordon had reported loose boards on the pedestrian bridge to NCC. The Chalet path is still to be completed. A Flood sensor (water level gauge) will be installed at Bleach Green/Cooks field. Bus stop markings had still not been painted, nor the Give Way sign from the cemetery. Cllr Jordon also advised of jobs which will require attention in May and June such as weed spraying and a Health & Safety check for the Pavilion. The annual play inspection will be due shortly – some issues had been attended to such as removing graffiti, bark chippings had been laid on the play area and the wooden structure in the willow structure had been removed. The football poles still needed painting and the zip wire track needed to be forked and cleared of weeds. A working party is to be organised to do some maintenance work before the inspection. The boundary hedge is due to be cut next month – Cllr Jordon will ask Adrian Jackson to deal with this. The Basketball nets ordered last year are the wrong size so new ones will have to be ordered. Cllr Jordon also stated that a notice re emergency contact is needed for both noticeboards.
16. **Village environment:** A complaint had been received that grass had not been cut by NCC in the Dene Garth area. Cllr Jordon advised this may have been left as a “wild” area until all Nwater works have been carried out. Tubs opposite the first school had been damaged by a vehicle and will need replacing. Furniture has been dumped in Bewick Lane, but she has reported this to the Home Group. The hedge re-instatement at the Playing Fields is still to be carried out by Karbon Homes. Cllr Jordon has also been informed by David Green, NCC, that with regards the surface water scheme and the queries with the local landowner and compensation, NCC are trying to get everything in order before making a written commitment. Cllr Jordon also advised the salt/grit box at the bottom of Horsley Road was damaged and needed replacing, hopefully by NCC. NCC have again looked at the tree by the Church gates. Roots have caused an uneven path and possibly damage to drains. The PCC will need to apply for a faculty to remove the tree and also for planning permission. Cllr Gray had met with the environment agency on 13th May together with Nwater. The survey of the Tyne had taken some time and the website (EA) still hadn’t been updated. A further drop in session was planned advising residents what can be done in the event of flooding. Cllr Gray had been given Flood Warden Vests which he thought should be distributed to the Cllrs in case of usage. Since the original SWAP plan had been drawn up, flood risks had lessened, and he now thought it was more appropriate for the Cllrs to be the volunteers in the event of a flood rather than those who had originally offered to help. This was agreed.
17. **Committee Reports:** Cllr Jordon reported that unfortunately, the AGM for the Ovingham Joint Burial Board Committee had been cancelled. Cllr Kirkland confirmed that the Allotment Association wish to hold their

monthly meetings in the Pavilion. Cllr Jordon proposed that as their meetings are invariably less than one hour, the fee should be £10. This was approved. Cllr Jordon reported that complaints had been received about youths congregating on the swings and causing some damage. Some dog owners had been using the zip wire to “exercise” their pets. The Cllrs agreed that a notice should be drafted and displayed. Cllr Gray also queried if CCTV should be considered. He will look at this for the next meeting.

18. **Correspondence:**
 - a) NCC – Housing strategy for N’land 2019-2021; a consultation. The Clerk had forwarded details of this which has asked for comments.
 - b) Climate Action Northumberland: An email from this group had been circulated asking for Parish (& Town) Councils to petition their County Councils to declare a climate emergency. The group concerned was not known to the Cllrs and they agreed that this was not something they would follow up on behalf of the Parish although accepted individuals may wish to do so.
19. **Distribution:** was still being circulated.
20. **Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair:** Cllr Jordon asked each Councillor to report any issues in their designated “patch” before the next meeting.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 20th June at 7.15pm.

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