

Ovington Parish Council
Ovington Village Hall
28th March 2023 @ 6.30pm
Minutes of Meeting

Attendees: Cllr. Peter Levett, Cllr. Nigel Parkes (RFO), Cllr Shaun Hanson, Cllr. Jo Harper, Julie Parkes (Clerk)

Additional attendees: four members of the public re: item 7.

1. **Apologies:** no apologies
 2. **Declarations of interest:** no declarations of interest
 3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** confirmed as accurate and signed by Chair
 4. **Matters arising:** no matters arising that are not on the current agenda.
 5. **Letters and Correspondence:** Agar forms received from auditor; item will be covered by RFO under finance.
 - 5.1: **Finance report:** RFO provided a breakdown of the current position:
 - Funds to start @ April 2023 £4,366
 - Add anticipated precept of £2, 360 (will be confirmed and adjusted upon receipt)
 - Add VAT to be reclaimed (paid May/June @£400
 - Forecast Total funds for 2023/4 £7,126.77
- *Note reserves required for future election, pay for clerk if role not voluntary as current, felling of trees.

OPC approved the finance report and forecast.

- 5.2 **Agar return:** documents received and audit will be completed as per the required timescales and standards.

6.Planning Update

6.1 Two residents and two owners of property in the village attended for this agenda item

6.2: Paddock View: A resident attended to raise concerns in relation to the surface water draining from the new development, Paddock View. The resident explained that a significant amount of water was draining onto the public access lane. Two elderly residents had raised concerns for their safe mobility especially in freezing conditions. Also reported was that the adjacent verges were in a very poor state and that the owner had deposited concrete onto the verge adjacent to the drive to the property (owned by DCC).

The resident advised that they and another resident had contacted DCC planning who referred them to the highways department. It is thought that someone from the department has been to investigate the issue but no formal feedback has been received. The resident will contact highways for a response, if no response is forthcoming, they will refer the matter to OPC. Cllr Hanson agreed to pursue this matter in support of the residents concerned.

6.3 Resubmission for external fire escape Fairways: 1 resident and two owners of property in the village attended the meeting for this item.

Two owners and one resident attended the meeting to voice their concerns regarding the amended planning application in respect of properties adjacent to Littlebeck and Sunrae cottages particularly in relation to the inclusion of an external fire escape.

Concerns raised were lack of a rationale and motivation in relation to potential future use of the property.

OPC advised residents/owners to follow the guidance on the DCC planning portal where all documents were contained.

Particular issues of concern were:

- Although the fire escape had been redrawn it still directly looks over bedroom and bathroom windows of the adjacent properties; within? less than 2 -4m.
- Lack of rationale: the agents letter suggests that the age of the occupants is the main issue but the method of escape does not make sense causing residents/owners to question the rationale.
- How many domestic properties have an external fire escape?
- The fire escape is intrusive both in its construction and impact upon privacy.
- Why is no internal solution proposed
- What are the benefits – there needs to be a balance of benefit and need v likelihood and harm
- Planning -good planning needs to facilitate individual human rights to the peaceful enjoyment of your own property
- Potential review by fire brigade
- What is the precedent for an external fire escape?

- In response to the concerns raised two members of OPC agreed to review the drawings on the DCC portal as at first glance there appeared to be some inconsistencies

8: Green Waste Collection

8.1 Some residents have reported to OPC of issues in relation to the new green waste collection arrangements regarding receipt of bins and stickers. This issue now appears to have been resolved.

9.Tree maintenance and Grass Cutting

9.1 Grass cutting: The RFO presented information as to the contract extension to Mill gardens and related costs for approval by OPC.

OPC approved the extension of the contract at a fixed price for the next two years.

9.2 Tree inspection is due Spring 2023: the RFO will contact DCC to remind the authority that this is due.

10. Conservation Area

10.1 Cllr Hanson provided an update: the Article 4 Direction has been drafted along with the designation report and is with the team leader and legal team. The process has been delayed due to annual leave.

It is anticipated that this will be forthcoming in the next few weeks and residents will be notified with individual letters and a number of site notices.

11. Telephone Box

11.1 The Clerk will make further contact with BT and report back to OPC

12. Coronation Celebrations

12.1 OPC to work with the village hall committee to plan an event: a public meeting is planned for Sunday 2nd April. A newsletter and social media post will provide information for residents.

13. Clerks Update

Nothing of note

14. AOB

14.1 Date to be set for the Annual Parish meeting, this needs to be before 1st June and will be at 6.30 Ovington Village Hall. (Date to be confirmed)

14.2 The Chair raised the issue of vegetation growing through the bridge and pointing. He has contacted DCC. M Donaldson an engineer who has looked at the bridge and advised it is safe; he also advised that a full inspection is due in the near future. DCC will monitor.

14.3 OPC discussed the issue of the collapsed sewer serving those properties bordering the bridge. Northumbria water have taken immediate remedial measures and pumping the waste on a daily basis and removing from the site. Permanent measures to resolve the issues are currently out to tender.

15. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.