

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 in the Garden of Greenacres

### Present:

Nigel Parkes--- Chairman  
Patricia Hanson – Vice Chairman  
Peter Levett – Councillor  
Shaun Hanson – Councillor  
Julie Parkes – Councillor  
Amanda Wilson – Clerk

### Apologies:

None

The minutes of the last meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

**All present as above.**

### Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

### Matters Arising:

**i) Broadband** – With no progress on the issue of getting a viable broadband service into the village from either Openreach or Digital Durham, our Chairman has now written to our new MP Dehenna Davison (email 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020) to express our frustration and concerns of this lack of service to our village with no end or resolution in sight. We await a response. None of the above have responded to date despite sending 3 emails to Dehenna and a reminder to Durham County Council. **Action - Nigel Parkes to continue writing to them.**

**ii) Maypole Plaque:** Still no progress has been made on this for over 2 years.

We have approximately £1,000 in the reserves that we could spend on it. Nigel Parkes has spoken to Sam / John and they are still prepared to build the small wall but are now on holiday until 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020. **Action: NP to contact again on their return to progress and contact DCC to see if a) they will contribute or pay for the plaque and b) if we need planning permission for this**

### **iii) Maintenance of trees on village Green**

No progress to date. As far as we are aware DCC have not checked the trees for 5 years. NP has secured a grant of £150 from DCC (As part of National Tree Week) for the purchase of trees for the village and on receipt of these monies he will attempt to find out who is responsible for this. **Action - Nigel Parkes to chase DCC**

**iv) Northumbria in Bloom** – Cancelled for 2020 due to Covid 19 Pandemic, full refund has been received. **No Action Required**

**v) Conservation Area Classification** – Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 after initial meeting had to be delayed due to current Covid 19 Pandemic. This rescheduled meeting was attended by Brian Harris DCC Senior Conservation Officer, Shaun Hanson, Nigel Parkes, Julie Parkes and 1 village resident. It was a productive meeting and very positive. There has now been a good amount of information gathering and they have received an e-mail regarding the next steps. Progress to date has included a) Research and Information Gathering b) Pulling Together and Organising this information to underpin the submission. They are currently identifying the proposed boundary. The next stage in the process is the submission of the formal application complete with this supporting information.

Amongst this material there is a Colour Coded Age of Building Map of the village, Historical Features Map, Historical Landscape Setting Map and proposed Boundary Map – note this is not the same as the Parish Council Boundary.

There is to be one more public meeting to review and discuss prior to submission of application and subsequent DCC Public Consultation. **Action – Shaun Hanson**

**vi) Whorlton Bridge Closure** – Proposed reopening date to be February 2021.

**vii) Village Green Access Road** – Currently on hold due to Covid 19. Concern was raised that an increasing number of Pot Holes on the access road around the Village Green is becoming an issue, specifically in front of Maypole Cottage. Historically residents agreed

with the owner of this property not to place any chippings in the vicinity of this property due to the owner's concerns over increasing flooding potential. It has been agreed that both Nigel and Patricia will call on Maypole Cottage with the hope of finding a mutually agreed resolution to this concern. **Action – Nigel Parkes and Patricia Hanson**

**viii) Tree Planting** – Two of the trees purchased with the tree planting grant from DCC have been uprooted. They have both been subsequently located, retrieved and are awaiting re-planting. It was decided that a letter be sent to all residents of Cliffords View seeking their thoughts and wishes for the re-planting location of the two trees. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

#### **Consideration of any current Planning Application**

- Land to the north of Moor View – planning submission for an additional 3 houses submitted and subsequently refused. Five main reasons for refusal were listed as; 1) Unsustainable location 2) Adverse Impact on a Listed Building, namely Ovington Edge 3) Encroachment into open countryside outside of the village boundary 4) Unsuitable access to the site and 5) Lacking in Bio-Diversity in the planning proposal. It was expressed that particular thanks should be extended to Shaun Hanson for his time & expertise afforded on an excellent submission to Durham County Council Planning Authority on behalf of Ovington Parish Council. **Action – Monitoring on-going ALL**

#### **Financial Report:**

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been two bills paid since the last meeting: £45.00 to Northumbria in Bloom (Cheque No. 397 dated 22/01/20), £20.00 to Ovington Village Hall for room rental (Cheque No. 398 dated 01/02/20), £68.98 to Sam Turner for trees? (Cheque No. 399 dated 06/02/20), £212.99 to Nigel Parkes for Printer (Cheque No. 400 dated 09/03/20), £38.99 Sam Turner for trees? (Cheque No. 401 dated 18/03/20), £264 to Mill Gardens for grass cutting for March & April (Cheque No. 402 dated 23/04/20), £19.61 to CDALC (Cheque No. 403 dated 13/04/20) and £257.60 to Zurich Insurance (Cheque No. 404 dated 13/04/20).

*Receipts* – £150 from Durham County Council Grant for Trees, received on 23/01/20, £45 from Northumbria in Bloom refund due NIB cancellation – Covid 19, received 13/05/2020, £1,968.00 Precept 2020/2021, received on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

As of Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 the Parish Council had £2,250.69 in the current account and £3,442.26 in the savings account.

*Invoices to pay* – none

0 No. Invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

*Future expenditure* – Display Board rental - £50,

*Future income* - £0.00

VAT claim form completed and submitted by NP on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2109. Hopefully we'll reclaim approx. £685.00? TBC

#### **Correspondence:**

a) None

#### **Any other Business**

- A) Easter House – Hedge** – OPC has received 3 complaints about the state of the hedge outside Easter House. A local resident has offered to tidy it up, failing that OPC members have also offered to help.
- B) Draft, for comment, Code of Conduct for Parish Councils** – received via email on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 for review and comment.
- C) Cotherstone Parish Council** – CPC have approached OPC to see if we know of anyone who can repair or replace the old village entrance signs, these being of the same design and age as Ovington's. Unfortunately we don't although it was suggested that Newsham Forge may be able to help.

**Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 @ 6.30pm**

**The Hall has been booked with Mr P Levett**