

**Ovington Parish Council**  
**Notes of meeting held at 6.30pm on 3/05/2022**  
**Ovington Village Hall**

**Councillors present:** Peter Levett (Chair), Shaun Hanson, Nigel Parkes, Jo Harper, Henry Johnson.

**Clerk:** Julie Parkes

**1 Apologies:** none

**2 Declaration of interests:** none

**3. Correspondence:** Two items of correspondence from residents via Hugo Fox:-

**3.1:** A request of where to locate OPC minutes that reference discussion about the potential conservation area on Hugo Fox. The clerk directed the resident to the relevant documents on the web site.

**3.2:** Communication raising concerns about the diversion signage in relation to Whorlton Bridge that have not been maintained and the condition of the grass triangle at the junction between Girlington bank and the road to Wycliffe. Contact was made with Paul Towney (Hutton Magna and Wycliffe PC) who contacted DCC re signage. Further discussion required with DCC re the triangle and the condition of drainage: albeit outside OPC boundary.

**4. Notes of previous meeting:** confirmed as accurate record of discussion.

**5. Matters arising:**

**5.1:** SH tabled a letter sent by EP to residents further to a meeting with them on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022: letters embedded below.



Letters from Eddie  
Peat-compressed[454

EP also confirmed a tree survey is arranged for 16/5/22

**5.2:** RFO confirmed precept had been submitted and paid

**5.3:** JP resigned as councillor and formal process implemented via Durham County Council Electoral Services to advertise vacancy. In line with process Henry Johnson co opted onto OPC. The Chair took the opportunity to welcome Henry to his new role.

**5.4:** A number of examples of policies have been collected from other Parishes and N Parkes to attend a zoom session hosted by DCC specifically related to the maintenance, upkeep and legal issues affecting village greens, this session will be led by Roger Taylor from Wellers Hedley Solicitors.

**5.5 :**No further progress has been made to establish ownership of the access road over part of the green to the west; N Parkes to send a specific question to the organisers of the training event to see if further clarification can be sought in terms of risk to OPC if no action is taken to maintain this area.

**5.6.** A meeting has been held with the Village Hall Committee and an outline plan for the day agreed. OPC were successful in obtaining a small grant of £315 towards the jubilee event this will be matched by village hall funds.

## **6. Finance Report**

**6.1:**The RFO confirmed the following: at the end of the financial year OPC had a total reserve of £4624.14; this included the £315 jubilee small grant and money allocated for future work/maintenance.

**6.2:** OPC received a precept of £2028.00 from DCC on 6/5/2022

**6.3:** The AGAR return will be completed in accordance with the due process and the accounts will be displayed on the notice board and Hugo Fox.

## **7. Planning Application Update:** no further information

## **8. Conservation Area Update:**

**8.1** Further to a request for an update from OPC, DCC have released the results of the recent public consultation exercise on the proposed Conservation Area. The results are available in a short report which will be added to OPC's website under 'Documents For Information'. A summary of the results are as follows –

- A total of 62 responses were received (approximately half the electorate of the Parish)

- A total of 74% of respondents agreed with the proposal to designate Ovington as a Conservation Area
- A total of 73% of respondents agreed with the proposed boundary of the Conservation Area
- A total of 71% of respondents agreed with the proposed introduction of additional planning controls within the Conservation Area

**8.2** In the light of this supportive outcome, members of the Parish Council unanimously agreed to continue with the designation of the Conservation Area and to liaise closely with Durham County Council to progress the next steps.

**8.3** DCC have also advised that they are drafting the Conservation Area Character Appraisal to provide additional detail on the significance of the area and its proposed management. The document will also identify any revisions to the boundary following the first consultation and set out what planning controls will be put in place and where.

**8.4** The County Council intend to have this document ready for review and consultation with residents in June, ahead of the summer holiday period. As part of this, another drop in session will be arranged at the village hall for residents to come and discuss any queries.

**8.5** Residents will be fully informed of the above via an update in the next OPC Newsletter

## **9. Broadband Update:**

Some residents in the village have received letters from BT re broadband. OPC will speak to D Bottoms who is coordinating the work with DCC regarding any further update.

## **10. A.O.B**

**10.1 Annual Parish meeting:** this needs to be held before 1<sup>st</sup> of June: the date will be circulated in the OPC newsletter with some information about the purpose.

**10.2 Dog waste:** it was suggested that an additional 'ordinary' waste bin could be sited next to the grit box at Cliffords view; it was also mentioned that the bin adjacent to the telephone box is badly rusted and has no base. Chair to speak to DCC.

**11. Date of next meeting; 7<sup>TH</sup> September 6.30pm Ovington Village Hall**