

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Chalmers, Bryan and Shield and 2 members of the public.

The meeting opened with a resident commenting that weed killer appeared to have been used on a wild flower bed. Cllr Jordon did not think the handyman would have sprayed the flower bed as she had pointed the bed out to him on a site visit – more likely County Council but she would check.

The same resident also raised concerns about speeding particularly on Horsley Road by the bends, and wondered if the official 30mph speed limit could be moved further out of the village. Cllr Jordon replied that now the bridge had re-opened, a further traffic speed survey had been requested and once completed, the Cllrs would review the situation.

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Kelly.
2. Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Gray (item 8i) and Cllr Chalmers & Shields item 6i (Horsley Road)
3. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, approved and signed.
4. The resignation of Ian Heslop due to ill health was accepted. The Clerk would begin formal procedure notifying County Council and displaying the relevant notices.
5. County Councillors Report: As County Cllr Kelly was unable to attend the meeting, he had circulated reports to the Parish Council. These included meeting with Martin King, NCC, in Ovingham and looking in particular at the parking on Horsley Road, obscured road signs, worn road markings and overgrowth on upper section past the bends. County Cllr Kelly has held back £20,000 from his small schemes to help fund a parking scheme on Horsley Road which would involve a 2 metre wide tarmac strip all the way up on the eastern side (for parallel parking) and renewing driveways on public land. Although the cost would likely be in excess of this amount, Highways Dept. suggested they could fund the balance.
6. Matters arising:-
  - i) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon confirmed she had contacted NCC regarding a new speeding survey in the village. It will be carried out as soon as possible in the same 4 areas as last time (3 main entrances to the village and mid-way on Castle View). Following County Cllr Kelly's confirmation that he had allocated funds towards proposed parking scheme for Horsley Road, Cllr Jordon advised that a new letter needed to be sent to the residents outlining

the proposals as she thought not all would welcome it. The Parish Council raised the issue originally due to the state of the grass verges caused by the parking and they needed to be certain this was the best way forward. Cllr Shield noted some people parked on Horsley Road but then used the station to commute and any letter had to be clear on the issue – was it the parking, or the volume of traffic. She also felt the parking on the grass was not an issue for all of Horsley Road and generally was limited to the areas by numbers 1 - 4. Cllr Gray was concerned when the Bridge End Pub re-opens it would further increase the parking problem. It was agreed that a letter be sent to residents on both sides of Horsley Road and subject to responses, a decision would be made at the next meeting. Cllr Jordon also reported that the Police were monitoring parking outside the schools on the double yellow lines and zig zag markings and also parking on the grass verges.

- ii) **Bridge Closure update:** The Bridge had finally re-opened on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Scaffolding continued to be dismantled and the tidying up of the land had started. The bank side by the Reading Room would be replanted. Comments had been received from road users that visibility, especially approaching from the south, was a concern. Cllr Jordon advised that Jemma Reay, NCC, would monitor it but Cllr Gray proposed a letter from the Parish Council be sent to the chief engineer (Jemma) with a suggestion that road markings be considered e.g. “stop”. This was agreed.
- iii) **Village projects:** Although it had been agreed at the last meeting, that a date be arranged for initial consultations with village group members, such as The Village Trust, and Green Ovingham, it had not been forthcoming due to holidays and other meetings. Cllr Jordon queried whether looking at potential projects was the way forward as it appeared more and more likely that Parish Councils would have to take over some responsibilities currently undertaken by County Council and therefore budget accordingly. Cllr Gray commented that if this was the case, the Parish Council would have to take great care as spending on village projects could mean an increase in council tax as a result of increasing the precept. Cllr Jordon proposed an article be placed in the Oracle. This would then ensure all residents had been contacted rather than a few. Cllrs Chalmers and Shields would put together an article ensuring that emphasis was placed on the fact that it is ideas only at this stage.
- iv) **Lane to the rear of Castle View:** Nothing further to report. Planings still on order.
- v) **Bus Shelters for the village:** As reported at the last meeting, a resident had contacted the Parish Council about possible donation of a shelter. The resident was going to discuss with family members but unfortunately, the Clerk had not been contacted with a decision as yet. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the resident again and if appropriate, an order would be submitted before the next meeting.
- vi) **Wall by Old Vicarage/River View:** Iain Mason from County Council had inspected the wall and reported that he had no

- concerns. The wall has since been repointed by the owner.
- vii) **Playing Field Inspection follow up:** An engineer had inspected the zip wire on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September and a report would follow. Cllr Bryan advised that where possible, he had attended to small items and was gradually working through the report. Cllr Jordon thought the overall appearance had improved. Adrian Jackson had carried out some ground maintenance. A recent meeting in August had resulted in a resident, Dean Bowen, carrying out an inspection of the Pavilion and he had reported accordingly. Phil Holden had also submitted some items for attention. Some issues had been attended to but it was noted that the changing room floors and kitchen cupboards especially needed attention. Debbie Reed, attending the Parish Council meeting, advised the Cllrs that the management team on the Playing Fields Committee were aware that they must take over much of that which is currently being undertaken by Phil Holden. Cllr Shield advised that now that she and Cllr Bryan were on the Playing Field Committee they will be monitoring the upkeep but she emphasized that it was still very much dependent on volunteers. Cllr Jordon again suggested that the committee look at the example of Wylam Playing Fields who run independently of the Parish Council although they are funded to a specific amount each year. This required sufficient numbers on the committee to ensure it could be managed efficiently. Ideas were being looked at for increasing the usage of the Pavilion and Debbie Reed advised existing monies held were being earmarked for young people.

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

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses July/Aug)	£588.90
P Holden (Corner Flags)	£14.03
Phil Holden (Web domain)	£36.00
Phil Holden (Diesel for Mower)	£44.95
Southern Electric (quarterly charge)	£51.74
NWater (quarterly charge)	£20.20
Lloyds Bank (Safe custody fee)	£15.00
A Hardon (fence repair at Pack Horse Green)	£100.00
P Hind (various maintenance)	£350.00
A Jackson (various maintenance)	£365.00
Reading Room (room hire x 2 July)	£34.00
A Jackson (balance of previous invoice (above))	£45.00
BDO (annual audit)	£120.00
Hags-Smp Ltd (zip wire inspection)	£360.00

8. **Planning applications:**

**16/02589/FUL Old School House** – rear dormer to roof of house & construction of garage - **Objections**

**16/01933/PROTPO – 2 Nunnykirk Close/The Terrace** – TPO to crown lift trees – **granted**

**16/02013/LBC – Mounty Huly Farm** – install patress plates to tie east gable wall back to roof structure - **Granted**

9. **To Consider Insurance Renewal:** The Clerk had received notification of insurance renewal which was due from 1<sup>st</sup> October. The new premium was £1451.74, an increase of about £80 on the previous year but this was due to

an increase in the level of Insurance Premium tax levied. The Clerk reported that the proposal included a cost of living increase in values etc. and that the Parish Council should accept it. This was agreed.

10. **To note conclusions of Audit for Financial Year 2015/2016:** The external auditors, BDO, had returned the audit and had no comments to make.
11. **To review revised conditions for hiring Ovingham Reading Room:** The revised conditions did not impact on the Parish Council and they were therefore accepted.
12. **Village Environment:** The Clerk had again, reported potholes outside Ovingham Middle School. Cllr Jordon advised numerous complaints had been received regarding horse fouling, including on the Pack Horse Bridge. Unfortunately, there was not much the Parish Council could do. The Clerk would send another letter to local stables. Peter Hind had attended to some maintenance whilst the promised trim/cut of hedges by County Council had not been carried out. Cllr Jordon had contacted them again. She also reported that the road sweeper had recently been in the village. ISOS had advised Cllr Jordon that they would attend to that part of Castle View rear lane which they agreed to maintain. Cllr Gray referred to the recent report regarding the potential effect of the bridge scaffolding during the floods at the end of last year and the subsequent findings. Questions will be forwarded to the Environment Agency regarding assumptions/assessments used but it will be difficult to change the results advised by EA. The Flood Group had met with a researcher from Durham University who was looking at the value of communication during flood events (rather than the cause) and analyzing what happened in towns and villages in the Tyne Valley. The Flood Group had also met with NCC/FCERM team – an update on their flood option proposals for Dene Garth area, Playing Fields and Piper Road were discussed. The proposed work by Northumbrian Water in the Dene Close area should alleviate risk of future flooding. All these matters are ongoing. A letter had also been received from Northumberland Estate regarding the Piper Road works which refers to work on the Playing Fields. Cllr Gray agreed to review this and draft a proposed reply.
13. **Committee reports:** There was nothing to report from the Burial Committee, Reading Room or East Tynedale Forum. Playing Fields Committee had reported above.
14. **Correspondence:**
  - a) **Public Space protection Order for control of dogs:** The Clerk had queried this correspondence which had been received from NCC as it referred to Newbiggin by the Sea. However, she was informed that all Town and Parish Councils had to be notified.
  - b) **Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre opening arrangements:** Recent cuts to these centres had been announced by NCC. However, they did not include Prudhoe, which would remain open 7 days a week.
  - c) **Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse (Northumbria Police Commissioner):** The Clerk had displayed recent posters received detailing who to contact.
  - d) **Flood prevention works – Pipers Hole – Piper Road –**

**Northumberland Estates.** This had been covered under item 12 and Cllr Gray would draft a response.

15. Distribution was still being circulated.
16. **Any other business:** The Clerk having previously circulated, read out a small article for the Oracle with regards to residents maintaining their property boundaries (weeds etc.) which was approved. Cllr Chalmers reminded the Cllrs that “Safeguarding vulnerable adults” was a proviso of organisations and groups and Cllr Gray confirmed the Reading Room Committee had begun to review it. Cllr Jordon reported that 5 people had expressed an interest in taking on the mantle of “Village News” for the Hexham Courant but unfortunately, no-one had been contacted by the paper. The Clerk would write to the editor expressing dismay at the delay. The Clerk asked that Cllr Campbell replace Ian Heslop as a bank signatory which was agreed. Cllr Jordon reminded the Parish Council that Eric Lewis would be retiring soon – his last service being on Harvest Festival. A card would be arranged.
17. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm