

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017  
at Ovington Village Hall**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

None

Nine village residents

The minutes of the last meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Ian Guest outgoing Chairman.

**Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**Matters Arising:**

i) Broadband - Digital Durham have confirmed that Phase 3 will be starting in September and feedback will be provided in autumn. The CFP has put forward our interest and request to be part of the scheme to Openreach for costing. Simon Robertson will call a village meeting to discuss. Historically; OPC has expressed an interest, via registration, in the Community Fibre Partnership (CFP). BT has indicated that the baseline costs are in the region of £90k to upgrade the exchange and a further £20-30k to install a cabinet in the village. Ovington Parish Council (Maureen Begg) now in liaison with BT ref. costing and possible issues regarding the Community Fibre Partnership scheme. Update; Ovington Edge is included in the proposed upgrade but nothing else East of this dwelling. An initial survey will be taken to provide a preliminary costing, followed by a more detailed survey. This detailed survey will include a proposed location of the new cabinet, this is not envisaged to be located on the Village Green but more likely on the roadside. **Action: Mrs Begg**

iv) Maypole: The new Maypole has now been supplied and installed. It has been proposed that the VAT refund of £818 should be spent on a plaque inscribed with a short history of the Maypole Village. Ashley Bye has kindly agreed to investigate the history and report back in due course, some of this history has been recounted on previous Parish Newsletters – Maureen to provide back copies to Ashley. **Action: Ashley Bye and Mrs Begg**

v) Britain in Bloom – funding of £1000 has been granted to Ovington Parish Council to purchase a stone trough and wooden planters, 13 No. pots and 1 No. trough has now been procured, filled with compost and positioned around the village. Margaret Towler has agreed to annotate a map of the village to indicate who has agreed to adopt which pot, the Clerk will circulate to the Parish Council for information. OPC to find out when we have to submit entry to take part in next year, 2018, Northumbria in Bloom competition. **Action – Margaret Towler (map) and Julie Parkes (NIB Competiton)**

vi) Monitoring BT service into the village – Village resident Dot Jones has offered to compile a record of any issues raised to her by village residents regarding British Telecom's service into the village, none to date. **Action – Monitor**

**vii) Village Green** – All Councillors agreed that the Village Green should be registered under Ovington Parish Council. Following this suggestion OPC to seek some advice as to how or if to proceed. Update; It was unanimously agreed, following some investigation, that the Village Green will be registered to The Parish Council with the Land Registry at a cost of £40. Paperwork completed and submitted, waiting to hear from DCC – **Action: Maureen Begg**

**viii) The Four Alls Inn** – The Four Alls Inn has been registered as “an Asset of Community Value” as advised by Peter Howson, Accommodation Strategy Officer, Durham County Council letter ref. AM/PEH dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 addressed to Ovington Parish Council.

### **Consideration of any current Planning Applications**

Fairview Garage – Demolition of 2no. existing industrial buildings and construction of private 3-bedroom family dwelling, including associated amenities. On review of the plans, no objections were raised and it was agreed that we should record this opinion on Durham County Council Planning portal. **Action: All monitor**

### **Financial Report:**

Mrs Begg as the outgoing Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been seven bills paid since the last meeting: £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 351 dated 24/04/17), £40.00 to Land Registry (Cheque 352 dated 24/04/17), £108 to Mill Gardens (Cheque 353 dated 24/04/17), £108 to Mill Gardens (Cheque 354 dated 02/05/17), £942.45 to Ian Guest – Tough and Planters (Cheque 355 dated 02/05/17), £107.97 to Ian Guest – Planters (Cheque 357 dated 04/05/17) and £48 to Gordon Towler – Compost (Cheque 358 dated 06/05/17).

Receipts – £27.73 on 06/05/17 BT Wayleave.

As of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 the Parish Council had £28.73 in the current account and £5,003.07 in the savings account (this includes Maypole Fund - £727.00, BT Refund £199.58 (£1,000 to be added after receipt of grant and £30.42 VAT refund, this will take it to £1,230.00, with £20 spent on ? ) and Transparency Fund £819.00).

Invoices to pay - £257.60 – Zurich Insurance – due 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, £10 Ovington Village Hall, £tbc Mill Gardens (grass cutting w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017)

All invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.  
Total VAT to claim as at 06/05/17 - £96.51

### **Correspondence:**

Durham County Council ref. AM/PEH dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 from Peter Howson ref. The Four Alls registered as an Asset of Community Value (2 pages).

### **Any other Business:**

- a) Annual Return of Accounts 2016/17 completed and to be handed over to Julie for displaying on the notice board and Hugofox by 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. **Action – Maureen Begg**
- b) Annual Insurance needs paying. Cover limits to be reviewed. **Action – Julie Parkes**
- c) Mill Gardens public liability insurance to be checked. **Action – Julie Parkes**
- d) Separate meeting to be held to discuss Britain in Bloom 2018 following receipt of marked up map showing pot location and ownership – see previous notes. **Action – Amanda Wilson/Nigel Parkes**
- e) Grass cutting around road signs questioned, no official cutting just as and when by volunteers. Nigel offered to do a general tidy up. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- f) Hedge to LHS heading towards Winston needs cutting back as it is now encroaching on the road reducing visibility. Highways to be contacted to come out and cut it. **Action – Shaun Hanson**
- g) Litter build up a concern around local roads, to be discussed in forthcoming Britain in Bloom meeting. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- h) Flag – Ian Guest would like to continue to put up and lower the flag. Thank you!
- i) Annual Parish Meeting required before the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017, agreed to set it for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 8.00pm – **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- j) 1988 book/record of OPC Meeting Minutes handed over to Nigel Parkes for safe keeping.

## **AGM**

The new councillors were duly elected into the following Parish Council positions;

**Chairman:- Nigel Parkes** Proposed by Peter Levett, Seconded by Shaun Hanson

**Vice Chairman:- Patricia Hanson** Proposed by Nigel Parkes, Seconded by Shaun Hanson

**Responsible Financial Officer:- Julie Parkes** Proposed by Patricia Hanson, Seconded by Shaun Hanson

**Declaration of Interest** – all forms duly completed and returned

**Outgoing Chairman Report** – Ian Guest summarised the last year's successes and point of interest eg. No parking on the Green, Procurement and placement of flower tubs and trough, Protection from removal of the Public Phone Box, Wayleave Compensation, Planning Application involvement, Grass Cutting etc

**Review of Standing Orders and regulations** – Agreed and still current.

**Frequency of Future Council Meetings** – Quarterly – Proposed by Nigel Parkes and agreed unanimously.

## **Any Other Business**

A proposal from a village resident of public "thanks" was offered for all the hard work and dedicated service over, in some cases, many, many years (19 years Maureen and 26 years Ian) provided by the outgoing Councillors and for the kind and generous donations for the replacement of the village Maypole. All present agreed and a round of applause was sincerely given. Thanks to all.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 7.45pm (Hall booked with Mrs Levett).**