

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 11th April 2017 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

Ian Guest --- Chairman
Margaret Towler – Councillor
Maureen Begg – Councillor
Amanda Wilson - Clerk

Apologies:

None

Three village residents

The minutes of the last meeting on 2nd March 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Ian Guest.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) Broadband - OPC has expressed an interest, via registration, in the Community Fibre Partnership. 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. costings 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**

ii) Transparency Code – Internet Access – £819 cheque received for hardware i.e. printer, scanner, computer, router and also MS Word Licence etc, to be sourced and purchased. Funds still available for expenditure and will be reviewed for expenditure after the May election.

iii) Parish Notice Board – Mr Parkes advised the meeting that he would install a latch on the notice board. **Action: No progress - Mr Parkes (on going)**

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. This too will be sourced after the coming election.

v) Britain in Bloom – funding of £1000 has been granted to Ovington Parish Council to purchase a stone trough and wooden planters (the money is not to be used for compost or plants). The Council agreed to the terms and conditions of acceptance of this grant. This took the form of a Neighbourhood Budget Application, Durham County Council – Ovington in Bloom ref. 16NB-TEES036 dated 23rd February 2017, with the requirement of match funding (£400) by the village residents in the form of monies and/or gifts of plants, compost etc. This match funding has been confirmed that the offers of plants, compost etc is an acceptable alternative to cash. Update; due to the impending elections, local and national, Durham County Council is currently “in purdah” and funds cannot be released during this period. DCC have confirmed this money is secure and will be passed over to the Council. The Councillors agreed unanimously given this confirmation they will go ahead and purchase the necessary materials and plants to ensure Ovington can enter Northumbria in Bloom, these monies will be replaced on receipt of the grant. **Action – Margaret Towler**

vi) Monitoring BT service into the village – 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. A notice will be put in the April newsletter to this effect. **Action – Maureen Begg**

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. – **Action: Maureen Begg**

viii) The Four Alls Inn - Letter incorrectly dated 3/3/2017 received by email on 20th February 2017 from Durham County Council – ref. The Four Alls Inn Ovington – Assets of Community Value Localism Act 2011. Notice of application for Inclusion on the County Council of Durham’s List of Assets of Community Value (“the list”) under the Localism Act 2011, informing and offering Ovington Parish Council the opportunity to “submit any representations on the nomination”. Ovington Parish Council agreed unanimously to respond in favour of this nomination. This support was confirmed via email on 3rd March 2017 to Peter Howson DCC. No news to date, DCC to be contacted to see if there is any news or progress. **Action – Amanda Wilson**

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: Amanda Wilson**

Financial Report:

The Responsible Officer Mrs Begg presented a statement of accounts in respect of the year ended 31st March 2017. This indicated that expenses during the year amounted to £5,948.02 of which £251.85 related to insurance; £50 cost of rent of room for meetings; £1,020 for grass cutting; £10 for flowers; £24.51 for stationary; £40 for Land Registry; £4,532.40 for the maypole; and £19.26 for the membership of the Association of Local Councils. Receipts during the year amounted to £8,625 of which £4.56 was interest on deposit account; £3,595 Maypole donations; £819 Transparency Fund; £40 Land Registry refund; £1,250 BT Compensation; £913.94 VAT refund; LCTSS Grant of £34 and Precept 2016 £1,968.50. The net balance in hand at 31.03.2017 amounted to £5,262.68. The Responsible Financial Officer’s statement was unanimously approved and accepted. It was agreed that the Council kept accurate records of all expenditure and receipts and that the accounts were available to be inspected by any member of the Parish. The Council could therefore approve the Annual Governance Statement of Assurance required for the Annual Return year ending 31st March 2017. The Council reviewed the Risk assessment and management (financial) for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Mrs Begg as the Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been three bills paid since the last meeting: £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 348 dated 10/04/17), £91.00 to Ian Guest – Flag (Cheque 349 dated 10/04/17) and £6 to Maureen Begg – USB Stick (Cheque 350 dated 10/04/17).

Receipts – £1,212.81 on 06/04/17 Precept.

To date the Parish Council had £1 in the current account and £6,367.49 in the savings account (this includes Maypole Fund - £727.00 (deducted Flag), BT Refund £1,250 and Transparency Fund £819.00) – at 11/04/17

Invoices to pay - £10 Ovington Village Hall, £40 Land Registry and £tbc Mill Gardens (grass cutting)

All invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Total VAT to claim as at 11/04/17 - £22.09

Correspondence:

None

Any other Business:

- a) April Parish Council newsletter to include the upcoming Car Boot Sale date and details
Action – Maureen Begg

The next Parish Council Meeting will be arranged in accordance with the constitutional requirements by the newly appointed Council after the forthcoming elections (Hall to be booked with Mrs Levett).