

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, 18th May 2017 in the Reading Room.
Present: Councillors Jordon (Chair), Gray, Campbell, Bryan and MacDonald and 4 members of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the public.

1. The minutes of the last annual meeting held on 19th May 2016, having previously been circulated were read, agreed and signed as a true and correct record.
2. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
3. Chairperson's report: Cllr Jordon had previously circulated her reports and noted the last 12 months had been extremely busy and she felt it had been quite a successful year for the Parish Council. There were now two bus shelters in the village and many footpaths had been improved. County Council will begin work within a few months to incorporate a footpath down from the chalets on Horsley Road. Work on the NWL/NCC surface water scheme is planned to start in the Autumn. She had circulated a summary of achievements during the last 12 months together with issues and ideas which will be followed up in 2017/2018.
She concluded by thanking the Councillors, the Clerk and residents for their support during the year.
4. Annual Finance Report 2016-2017: The Clerk had circulated details of expenditure and income for the year ending 31/3/2017. Overall, the balance had reduced by about £2800 but the Parish Council continued to hold substantial reserves. Bus shelters had been purchased and a very generous donation from a resident of £2000 had been put towards it. A new ride on mower for the Playing Field had been funded by County Councillors funding scheme. VAT to be reclaimed this current year was in the region of £2200. However, the Clerk pointed out funds had been agreed to put towards a defibrillator and this together with ongoing handyman work and hopefully a village "story board" would reduce the balance further.
5. Reports:
 - a) Reading Room Committee: Cllr Gray's report had also been circulated and he noted that the success of the Reading Room continued due to a very active management committee for which, he felt, the village was very fortunate. Although there was no Goose Fair again this year, usage of the Reading Rooms remained high and finances remain in a healthy condition.
 - b) Ovingham Pavilion & Playing Field User Group: Cllr Bryan had also circulated his report. The facilities continued to be well used; Prudhoe Youth U13 football team use the football pitch as their permanent home; Krafty Kids has been set up and meets once a month in the Pavilion; preparations are well in hand for the summers field day in July which has been very successful in the past.

c) Ovingham Joint Burial Committee: Cllr Jordon reported during the last 12 months repairs had been carried out to the lodge; a new clerk had been appointed – Diana Carney (Clerk to Wylam Parish Council) following the resignation of Joanna Jackson; a new grounds maintenance contract had been agreed and future committee discussions will include storage facilities and applying for grants for chapel repairs.

6. Any other business: No other matters were raised and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.