

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

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Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson, Foster, Cairns and Swinburn, County Councillor Quinn and 2 members of the public.

1. No apologies for absence were received.
2. Cllr Jackson declared an interest in items 10 & 11.
3. Resignation of Keith Kirkland was minuted. The Clerk advised notice will be given to NCC and displayed on notice boards and put on the website. Co-option cannot be considered until notified by NCC.
4. The minutes of the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
5. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn advised the proposed closure of the doctors' surgery in Woodcroft Road, Wylam will go ahead. All services will be conducted from the surgery in Prudhoe. This affects many residents from Ovingham. She also confirmed that the current service of dispensing will not be available at Prudhoe. Cllr Jordon reminded County Cllr Quinn there was no further updates regarding the path to the chalets and there were various potholes to report. Parking by the schools was still an ongoing issue – the Parish Council had recently received data from NCC which included locality of current pupils and numbers who could be expected to walk instead (5-10 minutes taking into account young age) of being taken by car. Cllr Jordon also reported that NCC will have to undertake repairs caused by the developers of the new housing on Piper Road. County Cllr Quinn made a note and asked if a date had been set to install the new play equipment. Cllr Jordon confirmed this will be week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> January.  
County Cllr Quinn left the meeting at 7.30pm
6. Matters arising: -
  - i) **Traffic issues:** The Clerk had obtained quotes from the supplier of the interactive units (Solagen) to service the unit on Castle View. However, it was agreed that it was more cost effective for all three units to be serviced at the same time. The Clerk will liaise with Solagen.
  - ii) **Small Schemes Fund:** Cllr Jordon confirmed that the new play equipment is being installed week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> January.
  - iii) **Recycling facilities/options:** Cllr Foster gave an update; the first school confirmed what they can accept for Terracycle such as bread bags, crisp packets and pringle cartridges. A resident will also collect foil pet pouches, which must be clean, and these will be donated for a different Terracycle facility which supports Brain

- Tumour research.
- iv) **Donation to Church for gravel path:** Cllr Jordon had not heard anything further from the church with regards the costings.
7. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| M Davenport (Sal & Exp November/December) | £596.38 |
| Ovingham Reading Room (Room hire Nov)     | £15.00  |
| SSE (quarterly charge)                    | £49.15  |
8. **Planning Application:**  
There were no current applications and Cllr Gray had no updates on those previously mentioned. A Tree Preservation Order had been submitted for Wellburn Care Home but this was in the Parish of Ovingham. Cllr Gray had looked at the application online and stated there were no concerns.
9. **OPPFUG – the way forward:** Cllr Jordon had circulated the current constitution for OPPFUG together with an alternative draft which she felt would be more appropriate and proposed a change of name to Ovingham Playing Fields Association (OPFA). Cllr Gray thought this amended document was a good start. Cllr Jordon reminded the meeting that she has spoken to some who were on the OPPFUG committee and a few are keen to continue. She also pointed out in the future a contractor will do most of the ground maintenance of the Playing Field funded by the Parish Council and the main aim of this new group would be to raise funds and promote the use of the facilities. Cllr Jackson thought a new name may attract different volunteers. Cllr Jordon will draft an article for the forthcoming Oracle which is delivered to every resident and depending on outcome, will arrange a meeting.
10. **Grass cutting tender and Playing Fields annual Maintenance Tender:**  
It was agreed that these be discussed at the end of the meeting.
11. **Public Footpath Annual Maintenance Tender:** This will also be discussed at the end of the meeting.
12. **Review Rental agreements (allotments, gardens):** Existing agreements had been circulated for consideration together with considering rental increases. The agreements for the gardens (3 plots rented by 2 residents) did not need to be amended. However, it was agreed to increase the rent from £15 to £20 per annum. Cllr Jordon queried the wording for Allotment Association which did not specify that allotment holders must be residents of Ovingham unlike that of the agreement for the gardens. It was agreed that this needs to be checked and raised with the Allotment Association. There will be no increase in the annual rent for the Allotment Association.
13. **Review Standing Orders and policies:** The Cllrs had looked at these and Cllr Jordon suggested an addition be made to the Standing Orders incorporating a new section about disorderly conduct at meetings. The Cllrs agreed this should be included. Cllr Gray commented that there were 2 copies of the Standing Orders Policy on the website and that not all the other policies had approved date and/or review date. He also pointed out the retention policy needed to be amended with reference to the period of retention chart – annual council and committee minutes being deposited and stored at Woodhorn. He queried whether this was necessary as these are on the NALC website which is to be maintained in perpetuity. Clerk to amend the policies.
14. **Flood water issued and surface water scheme update:** There was

nothing further to report with regards Phase 2 of the surface water scheme – a revised design for the local landowner to review will be “pegged” out once it is agreed. The intention was to start work before the Summer. Cllr Cairns reported on progress since the last meeting, regarding flooding at the new Piper Road development. The relevant parties had agreed that a field drain should be installed and this was now in place.

15. **Parish Council Surgery/Village Action plan updates:** Cllr Jordon noted that the NCC road sweeper had been in the village but unfortunately not everywhere. Road repairs on the Piper Road Estate had still not been done; or the road markings at the entrance to the cemetery and bus stop markings. The drain at Castle View had been inspected. Cllr Jordon asked the Cllrs to consider long term projects. Cllr Jackson will check prices for a village entrance sign (probably about £500). Cllr Jordon suggested a bench by the Reading Room which will cost £200 approximately and Cllr Foster wondered if more lamp post poppies could be purchased for next year and possibly soldier silhouettes? The Cllrs will count the lamp posts and the Clerk will make enquiries as to costings.
16. **Village environment:** There were various pot holes to report including one at the back of the Church and 2 by the Terrace. Litter behind Bewick Lane/Castle View had been reported. Cllr Jordon had informed Glen Harrison, NCC, that road markings at the entrance to the bridge were very faint. Cllr Gray noted that the cycle sign had been turned around – he has turned it back. Cllr Jordon noted jobs due in the January planner included the tree inspection. She queried that which Ovington had undertaken recently which included areas not owned by the Parish Council. It has been a very comprehensive report but expensive. Cllr Gray commented that Cllr Smith, Ovington, had spoken about the survey at the Forum meeting last night and it had been well received. Part of the survey was identifying trees which will need to be replaced in the coming years due to age or disease. Cllr Gray thought this was something to monitor.
17. **Committee Reports:** There had been no recent meeting for the Reading Room Committee nor that of the Burial Board and Essity. Cllr Gray had attended a meeting of the Forum last night which included a talk from Tyne Rivers Trust regarding the ongoing problems of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. Some funding was being made available to the trust from NWater but this would not be sufficient and it was hoped that those members of the Forum will be able to offer financial support. The Allotment Association elected a new chair and vice chair. Cllr Campbell confirmed that the committee do check the allotments to ensure all members adhere to guidelines in looking after their plot. Cllr Jordon commented that feedback was needed from a Councillor with regards the Orchard Group and noted that as part of the agreed constitution, the Parish Council also need to inspect the Orchard annually. It was also noted that a “wassailing” day was being held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.  
OPPFUG had been discussed above and Cllr Swinburn advised that the pavilion was being cleaned on a regular basis by herself and Cllr Jordon. Cllr Jordon reminded the meeting that the monthly inspection of the playing field was due although it was unlikely there would be much to report at this time of the year. Cllr Jackson said that unfortunately her

contact would not be able to make a cover for the mower so it was agreed that the Clerk refer back to the initial option sourced by a resident some months ago to buy a cover from the USA.

18. **Correspondence:**
  - a) NCC – Briefing on Libraries Consultation: This was a consultation which any resident could complete if interested.
19. **Distribution:** This was still in circulation.
20. **Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair:** Cllr Jordon advised that she has booked the Reading Room for 16<sup>th</sup> May to hold a jumble sale to raise funds.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

Two residents and Cllr Jackson left the meeting at 8.40pm to enable the Cllrs to discuss items 10 & 11 above (tenders).

After a long discussion it was agreed that some further information was required before making a final decision. The Clerk will ask for more information, to be received by 24<sup>th</sup> January, and this will be discussed before the end of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm