

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 2nd March 2017 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

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

Apologies:

None

Two village residents

The minutes of the last meeting on 26th January 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Ian Guest.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

Chairman – As a result of the recent resignation of the position of Chairman, Ian Guest, as Vice Chairman, was proposed and seconded by the other Councillors as Chairman until the forthcoming elections in May.

i) BT Way Leave Compensation – BT Legal have submitted a new agreement and have increased the offer to £1,250. The Councillors accepted the new wording and the document was signed and returned to BT. Monies have now been received by Ovington Parish Council. **Action: Complete**

ii) Ovington Bridge – Historic England, whom have previously emailed DCC ref. the bridge wall having been left 2 m short following extensive repair, advised the Parish Council that they have done all that they can and that the Parish Council should now contact DCC directly. DCC still maintain that wall has not been left short and will not progress the issue further. OPC agreed that the bridge wall is still 2m short but that without the direct support of Historic England, little headway would be achieved. Agreed that a final contact with DCC should be made expressing our continued concerns that the wall is still short. **Action: Mrs Begg to follow up with Durham County Council.**

iii) 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. **Action: Mrs Begg**

iv) 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.

v) 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)**

vi) 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.

vii) Fairview Garage for sale with particulars mentioning potential of usage as a 'depot' subject to relevant consents: Concerns raised re more heavy traffic using roads within the 7.5 tons weight

restriction if the garage was sold with this intent. The Councillors agreed to monitor the situation.
On going.

viii) Britain in Bloom – funding of £1000 has been granted to Ovington Parish Council to purchase planters, a stone trough, gardening equipment etc and enter the national Britain in Bloom competition, date tbc at the next meeting. 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 to be confirmed that the offers of plants, compost etc is an acceptable alternative to cash. **Action – Margaret Towler**

ix) Grass Cutting Contract has been let, once again, to the most competitive quotation, Mill Gardens on a one year contract commencing 1st March 2017.

x) Public Telephone update; Maureen Begg spoke to DCC ref. Ovington's poor mobile coverage and this was supported by DCC. DCC objected to the removal and the decision has been made by BT to "put on hold" the removal of the phone box and any future decisions will include consultation with OPC through DCC. **Action – Maureen Begg (monitor)**

xi) 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 on the village notice board to this effect. **Action – Maureen Begg**

xii) Field – since planning application has been withdrawn following a large number of oppositions at the proposed construction of 5 houses, the Parish Council is to take no further action, this will also be articulated in the newsletter, however the Council will also assure village residents that they will be kept informed if there is anything else to report.

xiii) 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. – **Action: Maureen Begg/Margaret Towler**

xiv) Parish Council Vacancies x 2 Councillors yet to be filled. A notice has been posted on the village board and in the recent newsletter to try and attract some interest.

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

The Four All's – Planning application to downsize the Public House and convert the rest of the building into 2 dwellings has now been approved with restrictions. Refer to DCC Planning Website for further information.

Financial Report:

Mrs Begg as the Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been three bills paid since the last meeting: £24.51 to Amanda Wilson – Stationary (Cheque 345 dated 06/02/17), £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 347 dated 06/02/17) and £10 to Maureen Begg – Flowers (Cheque 346 dated 06/02/17).

Receipts – £1,250 on 10/02/17 BT Way Leave Compensation.

To date the Parish Council had £35.51 (cheque 345 not cleared as of 2/3/17) in the current account and £5,251.68 in the savings account (this includes Maypole Fund - £818.00 and Transparency Fund £819.00)

Invoices to pay - £10 Ovington Village Hall

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

Correspondence:

1) 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 and agreed to respond in support via email. **Action – Amanda Wilson**

Any other Business:

a) The Four Alls – see under correspondence ref. registering the village pub as a community Asset, the Council’s representations must be made by the 13th March 2017. **Action – Amanda Wilson**

The next Parish Council Meeting was arranged for Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 7.45pm. (Hall booked at meeting with Mrs Levett).