

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 18th January 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham.

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson, MacDonald and Foster, County Councillor Quinn (in part) and 1 member of the public.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn reported that the County were reviewing car parking in market towns (including Hexham) following studies/consultations last year. Post 16 transport was also being discussed. The budget for 2018-2019 was being finalised. Recent inclement weather had caused more potholes, just when the County Council had been getting on top of them – Cllr Jordon commented that Highways, West Area had been prompt in dealing with previous issues. Cllr Jordon asked about the recent query with regards the state of the hedges on local roads. Cllr Jordon advised that the hedge on the road to Wylam had been attended to and part of that to Ovington. The Clerk confirmed she had not heard anything from one owner who she had written to on behalf of Ovington Parish Council. County Cllr Quinn will find out the next steps to take. Cllr Jordon also advised that plans were being drawn up with regards the proposed footpath to the chalets on Horsley Road which County Cllr Quinn had agreed to support from her members allowance. Cllr Quinn left the meeting at 7.25pm.
5. Matters arising: -
 - i) **Traffic Issues:** Unfortunately, the campervan parked on Wheatfield Close, was still in place. Cllr Jordon had passed complaints on to the Police and felt that the Parish Council could do nothing further.
 - ii) **To consider co-option to Council (next steps):** Following official notice of ex Cllr Bryans resignation, the Clerk had been informed that the Parish Council can now co-opt. There are 2 vacancies and this had been mentioned in recent village publications.
 - iii) **Grazing land for rental:** No enquiries had been made following notice placed in the Church magazine (which had been delivered to every household. The Clerk has placed a notice in the forthcoming edition of the Oracle.
 - iv) **Facebook page for Ovingham Parish Council:** Cllr Jackson has set up a page and explained it will be for information only. Comments received will go directly to herself and cannot be viewed by other users. By promoting it via the existing "Whats on in

Ovingham” word will soon spread. She will also ensure that there is a link to the Councils website (northumberlandparishes.uk/ovingham) which will have details of meetings, minutes etc. Cllr Gray raised his concerns about the recent notification that the previous website had now been bought by an unconnected business – selling shoes! Although the Council had intended to run down the old website, it had not been aware that an expiry date was forthcoming and did query how easy it had been for this company to purchase the domain.

- v) **Storage of ride on mower:** Cllr Campbell had discussed options with a local contractor and it was hoped that a shelter utilizing the gate can be constructed shortly. He did not expect costs to exceed £500.
- vi) **Training for use of the Defibrillator:** This was now in situ but Cllr Foster mentioned that whilst undertaking checks she had noticed the defibrillator light was not always on. It was discovered that the electric supply was connected to a circuit in the White Swan which was switched off overnight. Cllr Jordon will contact the electrician to check the circuit. Cllr Foster had also been in touch with the North East Ambulance Service and arranged a training session for Saturday 17th February, 10am-12 noon in the Reading Room. This will be mentioned in the village Oracle and the Clerk also advised that Cllrs and hopefully some residents from Ovington may wish to attend. Details will also be placed on the notice boards.
- vii) **Data Protection:** New legislation will come into force this year and a talk had been arranged for a recent Clerks meeting which the Clerk had attended. However, the legislation was not geared towards small councils and the Clerks had agreed that they will follow advice from either NCC or NALC.

6. Accounts to pay/be paid:

| | |
|---|----------|
| M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Nov/Dec) | £597.11 |
| Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in Nov) | £15.00 |
| Turfcare (linemarking powder) | £36.00 |
| Best Electricians (fitting defibrillator) | £192.00 |
| Cardioproof (defibrillator) | £1100.00 |
| A Jackson (tree work & beam removal) | £240.00 |
| SSE (quarterly charge) | £73.03 |
| Nwater (quarterly charge) | £19.46 |
| D Jordon (trees for Windsor Crescent) | £39.99 |
| J Swinburn (mole control playing field) | £15.00. |

7. **Planning Application: 17/04119/FUL 21 Windsor Crescent** – demolition of outbuildings & construction of rear 2 storey extension. The Parish Council had not objected to this application although had some concerns about impact on neighbouring properties. However, the planning application had been **REFUSED**.

17/02385/Ful –Tudor Croft, Horsley Road – demolish existing 3 bed bungalow and replace with new 3 bed bungalow - **GRANTED**.

17/04566/PRUTPO – Byway (top of Horsley Road) – removal/pruning or low branches. This was for various trees and was submitted by NCC. The Parish Council had no objections.

8. **To consider Budget/Precept for 2018-2019:** The Clerk had again circulated updated figures to the Cllrs. Cllr Jordon remarked that the matter had only been put over from November due to the low number of Cllrs present and that she proposed the precept remain at £15,300. This was unanimously agreed.
9. **To review all Parish Council Policies:** General advice (from NALC) was that many policies were not applicable for small parish councils. Cllr Jordon remarked that The Code of Conduct was being updated and asked the Cllrs to specifically concentrate on the Standing Orders which were reviewed on an annual basis. Some areas needed updating such as order of business at meetings and a discipline and grievance procedure for employees. The Clerk will update and circulate for adoption at the next meeting. A review of the assets will also be undertaken, especially that at the Pavilion, by Cllrs Jordon and Jackson. Cllr Jordon also proposed that rents for the Allotments and Village Gardens (x3) remain at £100 and £15 respectively but that of the Grazing Land be increased to £150 which would partly cover field maintenance. This was agreed.
10. **OPPFUG – new management agreement:** Cllr MacDonald and Cllr Foster had attended recent meetings with OPFUG. Cllr MacDonald confirmed there had been no progress with regards the management agreement. The stumbling block was still how funds would be administered with OPFUG wanting control of an agreed allocated amount. After much discussion, the Cllrs agreed that this would not be possible as in effect it was giving public money funds to a private body. The Cllrs agreed that the Parish Council propose up to £2500, with £500 as contingencies, be available from the Parish Councils annual budget, but ultimately, financial control remained with the Parish Council. A meeting was scheduled for next week and Cllr Jordon asked that Cllrs MacDonald and Foster attend as it was important an agreement be reached soon.
11. **Banking arrangements/new signatories:** A new Treasurers Account with Lloyds Bank was now opened with Cllrs Jordon and Gray as signatories together with the Clerk. The Clerk will be a paper signatory only and therefore at least 2 other Cllrs needed to be included. Both Cllrs Campbell and Foster have accounts with Lloyds and it was felt that to simplify the process, they will be included as signatories. The Clerk will arrange for the necessary forms to be issued.
12. **Parish Council Diary:** Cllr Jordon had circulated an updated schedule of jobs/requirements and asked the Cllrs to look at it for the next meeting.
13. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon reported that drains by The Terrace had been attended to but as it was an ongoing problem, a team from NCC will be sent out to investigate. She asked that Cllrs report potholes to the Clerk who will then inform NCC. Ongoing work by NWL at Piper Road entrance and changes to the original pipe line plan, had unfortunately meant that the planters had to be moved, plus equipment storage on the grassed area causing damage to the spring bulbs planted in the area. NWL have apologized and offered to pay for replacements. Some issues still remained with street lights although this was gradually being attended to. Cllr Jordon also reminded the meeting that she had some paving stones which she hoped could be laid at the Playing Field – the handyman will be asked to do the work.

Cllr Gray had met with David Green, NCC, regarding matters related to the Surface Water Project. NCC reported that matters were progressing. At Dene Garth NCC/NWL have obtained a quotation to replace the overhead line at the back of the houses with a buried cable which would enable the catchment pond to be erected in the original desired location. Discussions with the two landowners are ongoing. Possible locations for the 2 water level gauges were reviewed; one at the entrance to the pipe in Cooksfield and the other at Bleach Green. NCC/NWL will take this forward.

14. **Committee Reports:** Cllrs Jordon and Campbell had attended a recent Burial Committee meeting and Cllr Jordon reported that following some complaints, Tom Martin, Chair of the Burial Board, had met with the current contractor on site to discuss. A winter/spring work schedule is to be set up. The committee had agreed that the budget will remain the same for 2018-2019. However, they were also looking at estimates for refurbishment of the 2 chapels and as this will likely be very expensive, asked for quotes for each wall in case it was decided to carry out work over a period of time. Cllr MacDonald queried if 2 chapels were needed and wondered if other options could be considered.
- Cllr Gray advised the village quiz was being held on 16th February in the Reading Room.
- Cllr Campbell had attended a meeting at SCA which included local businesses as well as other councils. Concerns had been raised about some proposals being put forward for Prudhoe and resulting access problems.
15. **Correspondence:**
- a) Nominations to be considered from chairpersons to attend the Royal Garden Party. This was an annual request and aimed at past chairs who had not previously attended such an event. The Cllrs agreed it was not relevant to Ovingham.
 - b) Being active matters – Sport England. The Clerk had suggested a joint meeting could be held with Ovington and Ovingham Parish Councils, Ovington Community Group and OPPFUG to find out more about available funding. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting to be held in Ovington Social Club.
 - c) North of Tyne Devolution. Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland County Councils were behind the proposal and invited comments to be submitted. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not comment as a body although Cllrs could on a personal basis.
16. Distribution was still being circulated.
17. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair: Cllr Gray asked the Clerk to confirm his attendance for a forthcoming planning session at Hexham. The Clerk requested that the extra basketball backboards recently delivered be stored at the Pavilion. Cllr Foster circulated an updated risk assessment for the ride on mower to which Cllr Campbell replied that the resident volunteer, had completed.
18. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7.15pm. Cllrs Jackson and MacDonald will be available for the surgery.

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