

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 5th September
2017 at Ovington Village Hall**

Present:

Nigel Parkes--- Chairman
Patricia Hanson – Vice Chairman
Julie Parkes – Councillor
Peter Levett – Councillor
Shaun Hanson - Councillor
Amanda Wilson - Clerk

Apologies:

None

Three village residents

The minutes of the last meeting on 22nd May 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) Broadband - Nigel Parkes has contacted Simon Robertson, BT on 13th August 2017 who provided an estimated £50k cost to be paid upfront to install Community Fibre Partnership Broadband into the village, however this cost cannot be confirmed until fibre optic cable has been installed from Barnard Castle to Whorlton. Simon Robertson also advised that he would speak to Digital Durham to see if they could at least provide a service of 10 MB/Sec into the village however this could not be confirmed until mid September. He also offered to come along to meet the village to update interested parties in or around mid October. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

It was suggested that it may be useful to provide resident options of all available methods of receiving broadband into the village e.g. satellite, mast/receiver installation etc in the newsletter.

Action: ALL

ii) 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. Ashley Bye has now kindly provided a history of the village Maypole. The content of this needs to now be condensed so it is suitable for inclusion on a plaque. The options for what sort of plaque, where it should be located and what it should say and/or depict needs to be explored and agreed. Suggestions to date; An A4 sized brass plate mounted on a rough-hewn piece of rock placed near the cherry tree, Ashley's research and history printed and available for sale in the village, The plaque and mount in place ready for our entry to "Britain in Bloom", Pricing also to be obtained for 2 No. Cast Iron "Ovington" village entrance signs to replace existing. **Action: Shaun and Patricia Hanson**

iii) Monitoring BT service into the village – Village resident 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, none to date. **Action – Monitor**

iv) 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. Paperwork completed and

submitted, waiting to hear from DCC – Action: Maureen Begg No update as yet, Amanda Wilson to contact Maureen to see what the current situation is. **Action: Amanda Wilson**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – Money £1000 now received and the entry deadline for 2018 Northumbria In Bloom is 30th November 2017. The cost for entry is £35 and agreement to enter was unanimous. In brief it will consist of 2 visits by judges, one in April and one in July. We will be required to provide a minimum of 15 minutes presentation, provide tea, coffee and an umbrella! It was agreed that a separate meeting would be arranged and advertised to deal with this separately. All these details will be provided in the next newsletter. This newsletter will be published at the end of September. **Action – All**

vi) Grass cutting around road signs questioned, no official cutting just as and when by volunteers. Nigel offered to do a general tidy up. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

vii) Hedge to LHS heading towards Winston needs cutting back as it is now encroaching on the road reducing visibility. Highways to be contacted to come out and cut it. **Action – Shaun Hanson**

viii) Litter build up a concern around local roads, to be discussed in forthcoming Britain in Bloom meeting. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

Ovington Edge – Retrospective planning permission for various upgrades and alterations all now approved.

The Field down Cliffords Lane, Dorma Bungalow - Pending due to amended drawings and the necessity for a wildlife survey. Timescales unknown.

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. Done. **Action: All monitor**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been five bills paid since the last meeting: £257.60 to Zurich Insurance (Cheque 359 dated 25/05/17), £10 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 360 dated 08/06/17), £19.41 to CDALC Subscription (Cheque 361 dated 08/06/17), £432.00 to Mill Gardens (Cheque 362 dated 06/08/17), £942.45 and Cheque 363 was declared void and destroyed.

Receipts – £1,000 on 15/06/17 DCC Ovington in Bloom grant.

As of 5th September 2017 the Parish Council had £569.00 in the current account and £4,746.30 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – none declared.

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

Correspondence:

DCC Medium Term Financial Planning and 2018/19 Budget Setting. Local Council Tax Precept for this period set at £24.79 per household.

Any other Business:

- a) Annual Return of Accounts 2016/17 completed although there was an error ref. Maypole expenditure, the Parish Council should have included the transport and erection costs with the supply costs in the asset register, also an invoice will be sent when the audit is complete so our cheque for £30 was returned and destroyed. **Action – Julie Parkes**

Any Other Business

- a) As of 2017 Durham County Council will carry out weed killing along the verges in April and September annually at no extra cost to the village.
- b) It was highlighted that as of May 2017 the Parish Council has new Data Protection rules that must be observed. CDALC Meeting to be held regarding this topic on 21st October. Shaun Hanson will attend if available. **Action – Shaun Hanson**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday 5th December 2017 7.45pm (Hall booked with Mrs Levett).