

# Ovington Parish Council Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 at 5pm

Ovington Village Hall

**Attendees:** Cllr Peter Levett (Chair), Cllr Shaun Hanson, Cllr Nigel Parkes (RFO), Cllr Jo Harper, Julie Parkes (Clerk)

Two members of the public also attended.

1. **Apologies:** no apologies

2. **Declarations of interest:** no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting:**

3.1 Minutes of meeting signed by chair as an accurate account of the previous meeting.

4. **Matters arising:**

4.1 The clerk advised that Gareth Watchman from the Zetland Hunt had made contact to advise of hunt activity in the area: he had also contacted a number of people in the village to advise accordingly.

5. **Finance report**

**5.1 Setting of precept:** Cllr Parkes has made contact with GCH Gardens to ascertain the grass cutting costs for next year as grass cutting is the main driver of OPC costs. It was agreed that once obtained Cllr Parkes would calculate the precept and circulate an e mail to all Cllr's to seek approval for the revised precept. It was discussed that last year OPC made only a minimal increase significantly below the rest of DCC.

**5.2 Finance standing orders:** Clerk will complete the review and circulate to Cllr's

**5.3 Finance report:** There was £5400 in OPC's account last month; there are still some outstanding invoices to be received from GCH Gardens and the Christmas Tree to be paid for. It was discussed if the village hall could pay for the Christmas tree; Cllr Parkes will speak to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

The end of year finance forecast is £4800 – this includes reclaiming £400 of VAT.

Cllr Parkes advised of potential costs moving forward into 2025 as :

- The potential to require a new flag
- Replacement printer- the current printer is broken and it is questionable if it can be economically be repaired. (the clerk is currently using her own printer)
- Hugo Fox fees

## **6. Planning Issues:**

**6.1** DM/24/02718/VOC Variation of Condition2 (Approved plans), Condition 3(Hedgerow)Condition 6 (materials) and Condition 8(Access/driveway) re the Village Paddock. Yet another revision of the plans appears to increase the curtilage of the plot in two directions. In addition the applicant has requested a change in the hedging plan with concerns raised both in relation to privacy to Whispering Waters, the visual impact but also the potential of the revised plan to further adversely impact the stability of the boundary between the Paddock and Whispering Waters. (there is a significant height difference between the properties with a earth 'bank' between). It was noted that some residents had submitted detailed objections to DCC. It was of concern that DCC's neighbour notification had been limited and not circulated to for example Ovington Edge and no planning notice had been displayed.

6.2 Comments were also made regarding the adverse behaviour of the applicant towards some residents.

6.3 Concerns were also raised by members of the public present in relation to the unresolved issue of water draining from The Paddock into the lane and the potential safety issues in winter. It was discussed that the applicant had not resolved the issue of surface water drainage and that further information was awaited from Highways: as a public right of way it needs to be safe.

6.4 It was discussed as concerning that the building of the garage is well underway without permission for the modifications outlined in the application.

6.4 Cllr Hanson has attempted to contact the planning department in relation especially but not limited to the procedural issues raised and will draft a response from OPC for the Chair.

The closing date for comments is 6<sup>th</sup> November.

6.5 In relation to the building work at Fairways some residents have raised concerns regarding the skip on the highway and lack of cones and lighting. Cllr Parkes agreed to speak with the resident.

#### **7.Conservation Area:**

7.1 There has been no contact from DCC. Cllr Hanson will contact Brian Harris to gain a further update.

#### **8.Broadband Update**

8.1 Cllr Parkes reported that further to his correspondence with DCC and Cllr Rawlinson, DCC, CEO John Hewitt had written to BDUK. Andrew Field from BDUK has replied to Mr Hewitt and has confirmed that work is underway to include Ovington in the contract and Alli Walker has made contact to inform that GOFibre engineers will be conducting a survey in the village. Further contact has confirmed the contract is almost signed and that Go Fibre will be offering a public event, liaising with G Dodds at Hutton Magna re using their village hall. (Cllr Parkes has also offered Ovington Village Hall) Alli Walker will ensure OPC are updated: but at last there is a more positive message,

#### **9 Hugo Fox:**

9.1 Hugo Fox have contacted the Clerk regarding their ability to provide a gov.uk e mail account. It was agreed for the clerk to pursue this.

#### **10 AOB:**

10.1 A resident requested that GCH gardens be requested to remove grass cuttings at the entrance to Clifford view cul de sac; especially after the first cut when the grass is longer. Cllr Parkes to follow up.

10.2 Trees in the village: Cllr Parkes informed that it was two years since the last inspection by DCC- he will make contact with them

#### **11.Date and time of next meeting:**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 5pm Ovington Village Hall.