

Ovington Parish Council
Notes of meeting held 14/09/2021
Ovington Village Hall

Councilors present: Peter Levett (Chair), Nigel Parkes, Julie Parkes, Shaun Hanson, Jo Harper

Members of the public present: John Brannen, Robert Green, Mary Green, Eddie Peat (representing Trustees of Wycliffe estate)

1. **Apologies:**
Amanda Wilson (Clerk)
2. **Declaration of interests:** none
3. **Notes of previous meeting:** meeting notes confirmed as accurate record.
4. **Matters arising:**

Village green access road; PL has pursued with both land registry and Durham County Council (DCC)- unable to establish any detail regarding ownership.

Inspection of Trees in village under preservation order: e mail response from DCC confirms the trees are in good condition.

5. **Trustees of Wycliffe estate represented by Eddie Peat:** issues raised by the Trustees regarding the disposal of organic and non organic waste on woodland owned by Wycliffe estate from properties on the north side of the village, occurring over a number of years. EP has spoken to residents and has made two subsequent visits; he confirmed most of the non organic waste had been removed within a week. EP reminded the meeting of the service provided by Rotters and requested the Parish Council support the prohibition of both organic and non organics waste disposal. The Council fully supported this.
EP advised if residents had any issues relating to Wycliffe estate land to seek advice from EP. SH to liaise with EP regarding the question of the areas status as ancient woodland. SH to send the heritage report compiled to support the conservation status of the village.
6. **Planning Application Update:** Although the PC and residents objected, DCC approved the application and work has commenced. DCC highlighted however, this decision did not set a precedent about possible future development and because there has already been a variation to the development no more “permitted’ development will be allowed without seeking further planning approval.
7. **Conservation Area:** PL and SH have made numerous attempts to contact the responsible officer at DCC with no response: The Chair subsequently

sending a strident letter to David Sparkes. DCC have responded confirming they are back on track, apologised for the delay and within the next 4 weeks will progress the process of public consultation. They will use a number of methods and will publish information on the DCC portal. They will look at both designated and non designated assets, settlement study and good design aimed at protecting the heritage of the village. SH to confirm with DCC that consultation will involved a public meeting.

8. **Broadband update:** The PC has been liaising with Ali Walker from Digital Durham and David Bottoms who is representing the villages. The responsible government department has asked for additional requirements that potentially place the project at risk within the timescales originally set out. Dehena Davison has responded to NP that she has written a letter to the responsible Minister requesting his support to progress as soon as possible. Winston Caravan Park has installed broadband to the site at their cost.

9. **Any other business:**

9.1 Dog waste bins: concerns have been raised regarding the increase of dog waste around the village, there has been a request from a resident to consider dog waste bins with some objection raised re potential odour, emptying etc.

PC agreed to re establish signage, it was also suggested that signs are placed upon litter bins to the effect they are not to be used for dog waste. PL to speak to DCC

9.2 Wedding in the village: agreed that the Maypole ribbons will be put in place to mark the occasion.

9.3 Flag: PL to slightly lower the flag before the weather turns to avoid any contact with the weather vane.

9.4 Memorial Bench: The PC have been approached by a resident to place a memorial bench on the village green opposite the Four Alls. Discussion commenced further with a member of the public raising concerns in relation to the potential number of future requests leading to too many benches around the green and the setting of a precedent. There was further discussion that planting a tree was an alternative option. It was then agreed that PL would talk to DN (the applicant) at an appropriate time to suggest that the parish council were concerned about setting a precedent and that it was felt that planting a tree would be more appropriate for the village green.

9.5 Finance Report presented by NP: forecast cash in bank current account by end of year £484.00 (including £286.00 reclaimed VAT), balance in savings account £3,865.00 (copy of spreadsheet attached).

10. Date and time of next meeting to be confirmed: 11th January 2022 at 19.00 hours.