

OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Ovington Social Club on

Monday 08th September 2025 at 7.00pm

Present Councillor Anne Hudson (Chair)
 Councillor Fiona Maidwell (Vice Chair)
 Councillor Lisa Leggatt
 Councillor Geraldine Shaw
 Mr Christopher Snowdon (Clerk)
 Also attending:
 County Councillor Anne Dale

Absent Councillor Barbara Goodfellow

2025/030 Item 1 Chair's opening comments and Public statements

The Chair welcomed those present. The Chair confirmed that there was a quorum and the meeting would proceed. There were no statements by, or questions from, the Public.

2025/031 Item 2 Adoption of Agenda

The draft Agenda was adopted without amendment.

2025/032 Item 3 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Councillor Goodfellow.

2025/033 Item 4 Declarations of interest

None.

2025/034 Item 5 Confirm Minutes of Meeting, Monday 12th May 2025

Having been circulated following the last meeting, the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 07th July 2025 were confirmed and a printed copy was signed.

2025/035 Item 6 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Dale reported that:

1. School transport. The Chair and CClr Dale met up with NCC school transport who explained the changes to the schools' bus service and forwarded a copy of the new timetable.

2. Roadlink A69 Ovington turnoff. CClr Dale met with Roadlink and drawn their attention to the turnoff. CClr Dale followed this up with an e.mail with a copy to the M.P. Joe Morris. Roadlink are looking at the signage in this area and will report back.

3. NCC Highways officer. The Chair and CClr Dale met with Neil Snowden from NCC Highways. Work is to be undertaken on the gateways into the village and signage. Other issues discussed were highways maintenance issues. An e.mail has been sent to NCC with the Parish Council's signage requests. Speed traffic reports have been forward to the Parish Council.

4. *NCC Highways Maintenance Officer. CClr Dale met with David Robson and walked the village with him. The road outside the club and down the BOAT are adopted highway. It was acknowledged that this area required resurfacing. There were various potholes and blocked gullies which required attention. The footpath close to the pub requires attention.*

NCC asked if the PC could arrange for residents to cut back their hedges overhanging the footpaths.

NCC has requested that the trees at the rear of 1,2, 3, etc. Greenrising are removed as they are overhanging the highway. Requests have been made to NCC to remove them.

5. *Springfield. The overhanging branches have been cut back.*

6. *The caravan was removed from opposite the play park following numerous requests by NCC.*

7. *Field House Certificate of Lawfulness: No application for planning permission had been submitted yet.*

8. *Meeting with Monday group at the pub. Margaret Williams had invited Cclr Dale to join the Monday group. However a weekly bus service to Prudhoe and Field House was discussed together with issues about work undertaken by Karbon Homes. Cllr Maidwell asked whether there had been any discussion about lighting for the footpath between Green Rising and The Green, as the path was poorly-lit and the steps were a hazard after dark. It was noted that the path was close to an electricity sub-station, and that independent solar lighting was an option.*

9 *Overdene/outcome of appeal for siting of caravan. The Appellant had won their appeal, but the appeal had been about access to the site, rather than about the caravan.*

The Council thanked CClr Dale for sharing examples of village and neighbourhood plans from other communities in the county. The Chair reported that informal discussions about revising the village plan suggested an initial focus on planning, with concerns about the sustainability of extending beyond current boundaries due to limitations on capacity of existing sanitation pipes. The community at Ferry Landing depended upon a freshwater spring and any accidental sewage discharge risked contaminating this. The Council noted that a meeting was being held at The Hearth, Horsley, at 1800h on Thursday 11 September to discuss the development of plans and NCC's consultation about land-banking for housing, which was open until 30 September.

County Councillor Dale departed the meeting at 1930h, with the thanks of the Parish Council.

2025/036 Matters Arising

The Clerk had asked the Clerks of Ovingham and Horsley PCs about any plans regarding future website hosting, but no decisions had been reached yet.

2025/037 Item 8 Expenditure Authorisation

Nil to authorise.

The Clerk reported that HMRC had issued a notice for late filing of PAYE returns. The PAYE system was meant to be set for quarterly reports, not monthly. Clerk to investigate.

2025/038 Item 9 Committee Reports and Other Groups' Updates

Joint burial Committee: The Chair reported that building works were being undertaken at The Lodge, to permit future use for two tenants. Previous concerns had been amicably resolved. There was an application for change of use for one of the chapels and there were general concerns about overall tidiness of the site.

East Tynedale Parish Councils Forum: The Chair reported that there had been a meeting about “repair hubs”. Examining examples in Hexham and Haltwhistle, although Ovington could not support a hub itself, discussion with representatives from other villages suggested the possibility that a hub could be established in a venue in Prudhoe and the surrounding villages could act as “spokes”, providing individuals with particular expertise in repairs.

Ovington Trees: As Project Manager, the Chair reported making presentations to U3A and to Haltwhistle Garden Club, for which donations of £50 had been received in each case. Steve Pardue will design the waymarker posts for the Arboretum route, including wildlife which the Trees project officially records. Three quotes have been obtained for the provision of the posts, and Barry Hindmarsh will be asked for a fourth. The posts must be in the ground by 30 November as grants are time-limited. A fund-raising event is planned for half term, in conjunction with OCG.

Ovington Community Group: The open garden event, “The Start of Peace”, had involved eight gardens and some £260 had been raised. £200 was being donated to the Red Cross, whilst £60 would contribute to the repair of the village lawnmower. The Summer Fete had been a success due to a combination of good weather and the hard work of the volunteers, and it was estimated that approximately £1,000 would have been raised after costs were cleared.

2025/039 Item 10 Village environment

Clr Leggatt suggested that any unsold plants from the plant stall could be added to the planters in the village. Clr Shaw also stated the need to maintain the planter at the entrance to Springfield Close, adjacent to the eastbound bus-shelter.

Clr Maidwell reported complaints from villagers about full dog-waste bins. Clr Maidwell also reported that upon her own investigation, one bin had been found to contain items including nappies, food waste and empty bottles. Clr Maidwell will report with photographs.

There was a general discussion about the maintenance of the triangle of grass and bushes behind Dene View. Ownership was unclear, NCC’s maintenance was irregular, and it was no longer reasonable to rely upon Eva’s continuing energy and goodwill in volunteering. The Council agreed to ask whether Martin Goodfellow would be able to quote to add this to his general maintenance work on behalf of the Council.

2025/040 Item 11 Correspondence

Nil.

2025/041 Item 12 Next meetings

Future meeting dates were confirmed as Thursday 13th November, Thursday 15th January 2026, 12th March 2026 and 14th May 2026.

2025/042 Item 13 Any other business as deemed urgent by the Chair

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 08:08pm.

Drafted: (Clerk) _____

Signed upon Approval: (Chair) _____