

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 27th November 2018 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

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

Apologies:

Julie Parkes - Councillor

One Village Resident

The minutes of the last meeting on 25th September 2018 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

All present as above.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

Broadband - Update as of 27th November 2018 – Phase 3 still not progressed and they are not sure when it will start. Open Reach cannot start until they receive funding from Digital Durham (DCC) who keep putting it back. Nigel Parkes agreed to write to the Chief Executive of Durham County Council and also write to the local MP and relevant government department to highlight this on going issue.

- Update as of 25th September 2018 – Nigel Parkes spoke to Alli Walker, Digital Durham in mid August who confirmed that Ovington would be included in the next phase but when challenged as to when the next phase would commence, she did not know when the starting date would be but hoped to provide us with an update by the end of September.

- Update as of 3rd July 2018 – It is hopeful that a decision will be made in June as to whether Ovington will be included within the next phase, Phase 3 which will also commence in June 2018. Alli Walker of DD strongly advised against entering into the Community Broadband scheme and paying around £50k for this. Both Digital Durham and BT have offered to come to a village meeting to explain the latest news on progress. No major progress or answers OPC to continue to make contact and push this forward. **Action; Nigel Parkes**

Background;

Alli Walker of Durham County Council / Digital Durham (DD) emailed Nigel Parkes on 19th January 2018 – content in summary;

a) Given numerous processes that need to occur – we hope to have a better understanding between April and June 2018, at which time we will look to provide OPC with an update.

b) Funding and existing fibre infrastructure will form part of the decision making process as to whether Ovington will be included in the upgrade plans... see above.

c) Ref BT Community Fibre Partnership (CFP):- Although not quoted in this particular email it is understood that CFP option would cost circa £50,000 to provide High Speed Broadband into the village. CFP is usually delivered within 12 months and given they (DD) don't yet know if Ovington is to be included in any plans through the Digital Durham Programme, Alli suspects CFP would be a quicker route.

d) Alternative Technologies in the meantime? Mastband and 4G, Satellite Broadband, Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme – www.digitaldurham.org/better-broadband/

ii) Maypole Plaque: No change as of meeting of 27th November 2018 although they will aim to get this completed by the end of January. A possible location has been cited within the committee who will now go and take a closer look to decide i.e. next to the existing seat opposite the Four Alls. 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 "Maypole Village" entrance signs to replace existing. At the latest meeting it was agreed to concentrate on the plaque and not the village entrance signs. Ashley Byes history of the Maypole is to be condensed for inclusion on the plaque. Update as of 3rd July 2018 – John Stroud has kindly offered to build a wall and possibly mount the above suggested plaque and flowers as an integral part of the retaining wall. **Action: ALL (wording Julie Parkes) Ongoing**

iv) Village Green – Maureen Begg confirmed via email 22nd January 2018 that the Village Green is now registered with the Land Registry under Ovington Parish Council. Maureen also confirmed that this would have no impact on the agreement between DCC and OPC re maintenance of the trees both on the Green and on all public land in the village. She went onto the clarify that The Village Green has been registered with the County Council 's since the 70's as a Village Green in ownership of the Parish Council and the registration with the Land Registry was just to record this more formally and also digitally. OPC has requested that this tree maintenance agreement be forwarded to the Parish Council for their records. Update as of the 27th November 2018 - OPC has now received a copy of an email from Maureen dating back to 2015 regarding the responsibility of looking after the trees. It was agreed on the back of this email to clarify the current position with DCC. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – Following on from the incredible success of our village's first entry in the Northumbria in Bloom competition 2018; winning the coveted Gold Award for Small Village category, best new entry and Ashley Bye's fantastic result of Individual Gold Award, a resounding 100% agreement voted to go ahead and enter Ovington in Northumbria in Bloom in the 2019 competition, cost of entry £35.00. The original certificates and awards are displayed for all to see and enjoy in The Four All's pub. The Four All's have also confirmed they are going to enter the Public House section. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

vi) Christmas Decorations – Very large "Baubles" were spotted by Nigel Parkes hanging from the branches of trees in Staindrop, Nigel thought that might be nice for our Village Green for Christmas 2018. Prices to be obtained, on going. Prices are astronomic at £7,000 each individually designed this isn't a sensible option. It was therefore proposed we shop around and what we can get for a budget of around £200. It was suggested we have a look to see if we can establish if there are any grants we can get, initially trying to find out where Staindrop got their funding from. **Action – Shaun Hanson (funding) and Peter Levett (Decorations)**

vii) Village Green Residents Access Road – Flooding concerns; Update as of 25th September 2018; Nigel Parkes visited Jean to understand the problem and advise her whilst the Parish Council are sympathetic it is not a Parish Council matter as the road is private and unadopted. Nigel once again as a neighbour offered to help alleviate the problem by offering to dig drainage but reiterated it was not a Parish Council matter.

Both Nigel and Patricia offered to visit Jean again to check she was ok and offer to help as neighbours.

Letter from Jean Dauber regarding the concern over possible flooding into her cottage on the Village Green should proposed perimeter track improvements go ahead. A letter has been sent to advise that this is not a Parish Council matter but the Parish Council would be happy to provide support should any issues arise. As a gesture of goodwill the neighbours have also offered to install some

drainage to hopefully alleviate the problem. **Action; Nigel Parkes/Patricia Hanson Ongoing – Before Christmas**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

Ovington Edge – Update as of 27th November 2018 – The perimeter wall has been replaced and was only ever used as temporary access during building works.

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been six bills paid since the last meeting: Cheque 377 VOID, £20.06 to CDLC (Cheque 378 dated 10/09/19), £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall for hall rental (Cheque 379 dated 19/09/18), £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall for hall rental (Cheque 380 dated 25/09/18), £220.01 to Mill Gardens for Grass Cutting (Cheque 381 dated 22/10/18), Cheque 382 VOID, £324 to Nigel Parkes for Saltbins (Cheque 383 dated 18/10/18), £37.99 to Nigel Parkes for Spring Bulbs (Cheque 384 dated 18/10/19)

Receipts – £50 Britian in Bloom Prize

As of Tuesday 25th September 2018 the Parish Council had £453.11 in the current account and £3746.26 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – One £10 to Ovington Village Hall

1No. Invoice were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Future expenditure – Maypole Plaque, Christmas Tree for outside The Four All's (Dave Nixon to install) and some Decorations for the tree.

VAT claim form to be completed and the Precept for 2019/20 to be discussed and agreed by the 25th January 2019 in another meeting to be scheduled after Christmas.

Correspondence:

a) Letter from Raymond Swales of The Hawthorns, regarding the large tree on the perimeter of his garden boundary. Mr Swales considers this tree to be a potential danger to "property and personnel" and requests that the Parish Council "give consideration to a drastic pruning". OPC to visit site and take a look. **Action – Nigel Parkes/Peter Levett**

Any other Business

1) Jerry Appleyard (La Casita) has brought to the attention of the Parish Council that a street light is out on the corner heading out of the village towards Hutton Magna, although it is thought it might well have been repaired by now. Whilst contacting DCC a question will be raised if it would be possible to upgrade all the village streetlights to modern less intrusive standards. **Action – Peter Levett**

2) A request has also been received from a village resident requesting that the tree be trimmed at the entrance to Cliffords Lane as it's currently blocking the street lamp. OPC will visit the resident who's garden the aforementioned tree grows in. **Action – Shaun Hanson / Patricia Hanson**

3) A village resident has requested the council be contacted to come out and fill in the potholes down Cliffords Lane as they turned their ankle in one. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

4) Two new salt bins have been delivered, installed and are now full of grit-salt. Each bin has a phone number and reference which must be quoted when you call to request a refill.

5) Statutory Documents for Public Display - The Clerk has requested an electronic signed off copy of the following statutory documents are forwarded to her for uploading onto the Parish Council webpage hosted by Hugo Fox as follows; 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 – Annual Accounts, Internal Audit Report, Internal Audit, Explanation of Significant Difference (if applicable), Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement – **Action – Nigel Parkes**

6) Nigel Parkes raised the possibility of progressing a casual suggestion made many months ago, by a village resident, of compiling an informal "register" of village residents who are happy to offer their time and services free of charge for the benefit of the whole village community e.g lifts to places when a resident cannot access any transport for whatever reason, pet and/or house visits when a resident is on holiday or away for any reason, shopping for odds and ends occasionally if a resident cannot get to the shops for any reason, plant/garden watering during summer holidays – to name a few suggestions. This would obviously be a totally voluntary, good will offering by those who would like to take part and would in no manner be a professional service for financial or material gain of any sort. Thought will be given to the best way to progress this. **Action – Amanda Wilson**

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 8th January 2019 @ 7.45pm

The Hall has been booked with Mr Levett