

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at
Ovington Village Hall**

Present:

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

Apologies:

None

The minutes of the last meeting on 27th March 2018 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

Broadband - 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: 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**

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 – 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 on to 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. Nothing received from Maureen to date therefore it was decided to contact Durham County Council direct for confirmation of this arrangement. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – Judges attended on Thursday 19th April at 1.30pm for a 1 hour tour of the village and a 15 minute presentation in the village hall. The next visit will be the 19th July 2018. A note is to be put through the door to remind everyone and will include a message about picking up after your dog.

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. **Action – Peter Levett**

vii) 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/Shawn Hanson**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

"Field" Application - Nigel Parks to attend a committee meeting at 2pm on 19th July 2018 to discuss the current application for the "field". **Action – Nigel Parkes**

Ovington Edge – There have been concerns raised within the village regarding access to the road from the new garage buildings under construction within the grounds of Ovington Edge. As part of this the existing boundary wall has been breached to allow access to the South of the main building from the garden onto the main road through the village. It is unknown if this is a temporary access to facilitate the construction works or a more permanent solution. If permanent this may require retrospective planning permission and may be considered dangerous given the blind bend as you enter the village. It does look like access within the boundaries of Ovington Edge and the new garage and out buildings may be too tight to use the original access. Enquiries are to be made to establish the longterm arrangements. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been four bills paid since the last meeting: £10 to Ovington Village Hall for meetings (Cheque 370 dated 11/05/18), £110 to Mill Gardens for Grass Cutting (Cheque 371 dated 11/05/18), £257.60 to Zurich for annual Insurance (Cheque 372 dated 14/05/18) and £194.95 to Sam Turner for compost and tubs (Cheque 373 dated 25/05/18)

Receipts – £92.22 (cash) on 23/06/18 from Amanda Wilson as sponsorship donation from a local litter pick and £1968 from Durham County Council for Precept on 01/04/18.

As of 3rd July 2018 the Parish Council had £1858.21 in the current account and £3,746.30 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – one £500.02 Mill Gardens.

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

Correspondence:

None

Any other Business:

Police Dog Display – On the Village Green on Saturday 25th August 11.00am Wycliffe Church Council organised to raise funds for the church, followed by a talk in the Four Aalls. OPC raised no objections, this will be conveyed to the organisers. **Action – Peter Levett**

Bridge Inspection Hatch – Reported missing on the bridge. Durham County Council to be advised. **Action – Peter Levett**

Yorkshire “V” Durham? – An enquiry of the Parish Council has been made as to whether we should have a vote again, possibly for the last time?, to see if the residents of Ovington would like their village to be located in North Yorkshire OR County Durham. It was also proposed that this individual should be invited to come and give a talk to the whole village on this subject? It was agreed that in principle, yes, that might be something of interest. OPC to follow up and get more information. **Action – Peter Levett**

Yorkshire Day – Peter Levett asked if there would be any objections if the Yorkshire Flag was raised on the Maypole on August 1st which is Yorkshire Day. No objections were raised. **Action – Peter Levett**

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 25th September @ 7.45pm

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 25th September @ 8.15pm

The Hall has been booked with Mrs Levett