

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 17th October 2019 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Jackson, Foster, Kirkland, Cairns and Swinburn and County Councillor Quinn.

1. Malcolm Cairns and Irene Swinburn were officially co-opted to Council.
2. Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Campbell.
3. No declarations of interest were received.
4. The minutes of the last meeting on 19th September 2019, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
5. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn gave a brief update on local issues; she was still waiting for confirmation as to how much funding was available for new play equipment; she was chasing up issues with regards road markings and had quite a useful meeting concerning parking issues outside the schools. Cllr Jordon asked, that as recycling was an item on the agenda, County Cllr Quinn to check position with NCC. County Cllr Quinn will make enquiries but did confirm NCC were keen to encourage more. Cllr Jordon advised that due to lack of possible sites in the village some recycling was not viable.
County Cllr Quinn left the meeting at 7.25pm
6. Matters arising: -
 - i) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon advised plans for the bus stop markings and road markings by the cemetery had been received and sent to Highways for clarification but progress was still slow. Glen Harrison, NCC, was meeting with BT regarding the completion of the path to the chalets but he had not given any feedback yet. Meetings had been held with regards the 20mph restriction by the schools but both schools wish to discuss further together with parking options. One option was that a "drop off" area be put in the car park – pupils can then use the path to access the schools. The 20mph zone will likely restrict parking outside the schools. Cllr Gray commented that at least some progress was being made.
 - ii) **Small Schemes Fund:** Unfortunately, County Cllr Quinn had still not been able to give a figure to the Parish Council for new play equipment. Hopefully this will be confirmed shortly.
 - iii) **Terms and Conditions for hiring Ovingham Pavilion:** An amended draft copy including hire charges for the Pavilion had been circulated by the Clerk. It was agreed that payment for one off hirer must be made in advance, and by cheque/cash. The amended copy was subsequently approved.
7. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Sept)	£295.83
SLCC & ALCC (annual subscriptions)	£146.00
Ovingham Reading Room (Room hire Sept)	£15.00
Lloyd Ltd (mower service)	£431.65
New World Sports (Line marker for playing field)	£278.94
Pitch Care Sales (paint for line marker)	£34.20
Ovingham Joint Burial Committee (precept)	£2565.00
D Jordon (hedge cutter)	£80.10
D Jordon (plants etc.)	£69.96
A Hardon (fence repairs)	£100.00

The Cllrs queried the invoice from Lloyd for mower repairs which included labour charge of £202.50. Cllr Jordon advised next years' service can be carried out by a different company which hopefully will be cheaper.

8. **Planning Application:**
19/02181/Ful Model Cottage: construction of pitched roof dormers to existing roof, installation of flues to serve wood burning stoves and replacement of chimney stack, re-covering of garden room roof – **Granted.** Cllr Gray had sent a series of emails to NCC Planning and NALC and it transpired that the above had been subject to a pre application which had been approved. Unfortunately, Ovingham Parish Council had not been notified – some are kept confidential - but NCC advised in future they will send a pre-app report to the Clerk when a full application is submitted.
9. **Budget/Precept for 2020-2021:** The Clerk had circulated details of expenditure/income to date (including those listed above) and advised that whilst a decision did not have to be made at this meeting, it was preferable to agree figures before the January meeting. Some expenditure for the next year will probably remain much the same such as clerk's salary, insurance and precept to Burial Committee but income other than precept was difficult to estimate. Cllr Jordon asked the Cllrs to consider the figures carefully and raise any queries with the Clerk with a view to agreeing the precept at the November meeting.
10. **To consider installing CCTV at Pavilion:** Cllrs Jordon, Gray and Jackson had met CSN on site. To re-cap, Cllr Gray had obtained a quote from a different company for about £2900 plus extras so had approached CSN who quoted £2200 which will include 2 cameras, poles and electrics. Cllr Jackson commented that CSN had provided a more acceptable price and that the Cllrs had to decide either to install or not. Cllr Cairns asked if there had been instances of vandalism to justify installing CCTV – Cllr Jordon replied there had been some. Cllrs Foster & Kirkland were reluctant to install as it was encroaching on privacy and felt residents should be asked first. Some information had been included in the parish magazine and oracle recently but the Cllrs agreed to include an item for Facebook. Questions also arose as to who would monitor the camera – there was no wi-fi in the Pavilion. Cllr Gray will contact CSN again to check a few queries and the Clerk will also look into legal requirements.
11. **To consider recycling facilities/options:** The Clerk had received a request from 2 residents regarding increasing recycling options in the village including making possible use of the Pavilion/Playing Field and signing up to Terracycle which had many different types of recycling. Cllr Gray had looked at their website and confirmed it covered many areas. The First

School used Terracycle for crisp packets and bread bags for which they received some funding. Cllr Gray suspected a large number had to be collected before any significant income was raised. Cllr Jackson said recycling had been considered in the past but there were no suitable locations and if Terracycle was used, volunteers were needed who would be prepared to continue long term. Cllr Jordon agreed volunteers would be needed and the Pavilion was not ideal depending on type of recycling but felt that the Parish Council should offer support. She is meeting with the school shortly and will enquire how Terracycle operates and also will contact the 2 residents who had raised the matter and arrange to discuss further. Unfortunately, neither had been able to attend tonight's meeting nor the drop-in sessions beforehand.

12. **To consider cemetery charges:** Cllr Jordon, as a member of the Ovingham Joint Burial Board Committee had asked that cemetery charges be considered at full Parish Council meetings rather than just by those committee members at the OJBC meeting. Some committee members had asked that charges be increased at a recent OJBC meeting. Cllr Jordon quoted some examples of charges made by OJBC, Prudhoe & Hexham and stressed that although charges had not been increased since 2010, OJBC was not a profit making organisation – income received was sufficient to cover maintenance expenditure. Cllr Jackson felt it was morally wrong to increase prices just to be in line with other cemetery charges and the Cllrs agreed. Cllr Jordon will ensure their views are put forward at the next OJBC meeting.
13. **S137 applications:** Earlier in the year it was agreed to consider such applications for grants at the October meeting and the Clerk had therefore circulated details of requests received and also who had benefited last year. This year requests had been received from GNAA, Carers Northumberland, Sport Tynedale, Tynedale Hospice at Home, Northumberland AGE UK, CAN Northumberland and Brain Tumour Research. A figure of £500 was set aside in the budget and it was agreed to give £100 each to GNAA and Carers Northumberland and £75 each to Tyndale Hospice, Sport Tynedale, Northumberland Age UK and CAN Northumberland. A further application for a grant had been received from the volunteers who produce the Ovingham Oracle. This is produced 3 times a year and costs about £120 each issue. Some income is received from advertising but the Parish Council had been approached to consider a donation which will ensure the newsletter continues to be distributed to every household in the village. The Clerk confirmed the request did not fall within the scope of S137 but a donation could be considered. Cllr Jordon proposed that £200 be given to the Oracle and this was agreed.
14. **Flood water issues and surface water scheme update:** Unfortunately, the new bungalows had again experienced flooding. Karbon Homes were still in discussion with all the parties including Able Construction and cannot give any updates yet. Cllr Cairns wondered if a pipe across the field to join up with the stream at the other end was a possibility. Water from a spring or broken land drain by the Pavilion had also caused flooding in the area of the Pavilion and carpark. The water eventually flows into a drain in Windsor Crescent – residents are concerned this drain could become blocked and cause flooding issues in the area of

their properties. This is to be followed up by NCC and the local farmer. There are still issues to follow up with regards Phase 2 of the surface water scheme. Nwater have confirmed they will attend to the topping of the playing field before November. Cllr Jordon will discuss the maintenance of the swale and bund with David Green, NCC. Cllrs Jordon and Gray had met with officials regarding flooding of Whittle Burn and queried why the water level gauge was not situated at Whittle Dene Reservoir. It was agreed that it will be put in an appropriate place and will give alerts when the reservoir is high, rather than when levels reach the burn. Cllr Gray also commented that reports placed each week on the Kielder Reservoir website were confusing – data was not easy to understand.

15. **Parish Council Surgery/Village Action plan updates:** Cllr Jordon updated the meeting on various issues; the wooden fencing bordering pack horse green had been repaired; tree trunk across the burn in Dene House area has also been removed; the path leading to whittle Dene at the back of Dene Garth was overgrown as was the hedge but she was not sure whose responsibility it was. Cllr Swinburn confirmed the maintenance of the hedge had been a sore point some years ago and had been undertaken by NCC but Cllr Jordon will check with them and the landowner. The dropped kerb by 1 Piper Road was now in place and remedial road repairs had been carried out on Piper Road by NCC but Karbon Homes have been asked to undertake full repairs as soon as possible.
Cllr Jordon reminded Cllr Jackson that a cover was needed for the ride on mower and the Cllrs that various monthly jobs needed attending to.
16. **Village environment:** Cllr Jordon advised the overgrown hedge at Laburnum Cottage resulted in poor visibility at the junction of Horsley Road. She has spoken to the owner who will look at it. Garden rubbish had been tipped on Castle View, flower tubs on Piper Road needed attention (Cllr Campbell had attended to one but a second one still needed some maintenance). There were a number of mole hills on the playing field – Cllr Swinburn will ask the mole catcher to attend to it. Cllr Jordon also asked all Cllrs to report back at the next meeting with any issues from the village. She allocated areas to each Cllr.
17. **Committee Reports:** The Reading Room have a new Cttee and job roles have been agreed. An inspection of the building had been carried out resulting in some maintenance jobs. A quiz was organised for November. Cllr Jordon confirmed there had been no recent meeting of the Burial Board Cttee. The Orchard Group were organising a quiz in October to be held at the Old School House. The Allotment Association continued to hold their meetings in the Pavilion. Unfortunately, there had been little response following a request in the Oracle for volunteers to help OPPFUG to start up again. Cllr Jordon was disappointed as such a group was needed especially as they could apply for grants for new play equipment which the Parish Council could not.
18. **Correspondence:**
 - a) NCC – Northumberland Local Plan – consultation on scoping documents for affordable housing and planning obligations: A hard copy of this was still being distributed amongst the Cllrs.
19. **Distribution:** This was still in circulation.

20. **Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair:** Cllr Jordon reminded the Clerk to circulate the current contract for grass cutting tender which will be reviewed at the November meeting. She also reminded the Cllrs of the Remembrance Service on 10th November and that poppies including some lamp post poppies, will be displayed in the village. The Clerk confirmed there was a distribution issue with the lamp post poppies and a charge was also now being made for them. She would not be able to get any more in time.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room – Cllrs Jackson and Cairns will cover the Parish Surgery.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm.