

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 5th December
2017 at Ovington Village Hall**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Peter Levett

One village resident

The minutes of the last meeting on 5th September 2017 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) Broadband - Update; There has been no response to emails sent by Nigel Parkes to Simon Roberson of BT. It has been acknowledged that high speed broadband has now been delivered into Whorlton. Nigel will continue with his attempts to invite Simon to the village to hold an open Q & A meeting. NP will also contact Alli from Digital Durham / Durham County Council by both phone and letter to try and establish what the current situation is. Historically:- Nigel Parkes has contacted Simon Roberson, BT on 13th August 2017 who provided an estimated £50k cost to be paid upfront to install Community Fibre Partnership Broadband into the village, however this cost cannot be confirmed until fibre optic cable has been installed from Barnard Castle to Whorlton. Simon Roberson also advised that he would speak to Digital Durham to see if they could at least provide a service of 10 MB/Sec into the village however this could not be confirmed until mid September. He also offered to come along to meet the village to update interested parties in or around mid October. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

It was suggested that it may be useful to provide resident options of all available methods of receiving broadband into the village e.g. satellite, mast/receiver installation etc in the newsletter.

Action: ALL

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 Aalls. 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 "Ovington" village entrance signs to replace existing. **Action: Shaun and Patricia Hanson & ALL**

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 –All Councillors agreed that the Village Green should be registered under Ovington Parish Council. Following this suggestion OPC to seek some advice as to how or if to proceed. Update; It was unanimously agreed, following some investigation, that the Village Green will be registered to The Parish Council with the Land Registry at a cost of £40. Paperwork completed and submitted, waiting to hear from DCC – Action: Maureen Begg No update as yet, Amanda Wilson to contact Maureen to see what the current situation is ref Village Green and the on going responsibility for the tree maintenance. **Action: Amanda Wilson**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – A meeting prior to Christmas arranged to discuss NiB was well attended by Village Residents with positive feedback. A newsletter will be delivered around the village with a tear off strip to feedback commitment, interest and comments. With a further planning meeting to be held some time in January, date tbc but will be published in the newsletter. Money £1000 now received and the entry submitted. In brief it will consist of 2 visits by judges, one in April and one in July. We will be required to provide a minimum of 15 minutes presentation, provide tea, coffee and an umbrella! **Action – All**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

The Field down Cliffords Lane, Dorma Bungalow - Pending due to amended drawings and the necessity for a wildlife survey. Timescales unknown. **Action: Monitor**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been four bills paid since the last meeting: £36.00 to BDO (Cheque 364 dated 02/09/17), £10 to Ovington Village Hall (Cheque 365 dated 29/10/17), £324.00 to Mill Gardens (Cheque 366 dated 29/10/17) and £35.00 to Britain in Bloom (Cheque 367 dated ?)

Receipts – None

As of 5th December 2017 the Parish Council had £164.00 in the current account and £4,746.30 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – none declared.

No invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Correspondence:

None

Any other Business:

Precept due early in the new year.

Suspected closure of Winston Bridge for a few weeks but no detail, Durham County Council to be contacted and details displayed on the village notice board. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

An email circulated to all Parish Councils from DCC ref. Keeping Homes Warmer/ Free energy survey received and to be displayed on the village notice board **Action: Amanda Wilson**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be TBC (Hall must be booked with Mrs Levett).