

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 8th November 2016 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

Nigel Parkes – Chairman
Shaun Hanson --- Councillor
Margaret Towler – Councillor
Maureen Begg – Councillor
Amanda Wilson - Clerk

Apologies:

Ian Guest --- Vice Chairman

Seven village residents

Teesdale Mercury Reporter

The minutes of the last meeting on 19th July 2016 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) BT Way Leave Compensation – Leslie Sheldon (BT) advised that she will be sending out new wording for the Way Leave Agreement for our approval. **Action: Mrs Begg to follow up with BT/Leslie Sheldon.**

ii) Ovington Bridge – Historic England, whom have previously emailed DCC ref. the bridge wall having been left 2 lm short following extensive repair, advised the Parish Council that they have done all that they can and that the Parish Council should now contact DCC directly. DCC still maintain that wall has not been left short and will not progress the issue further. OPC agreed that the bridge wall is still 2m short but that without the direct support of Historic England, little headway would be achieved. Agreed that a final contact with DCC should be made expressing our continued concerns that the wall is still short. **Action: Mrs Begg to follow up with Historic England.**

iii) Broadband - OPC has expressed an interest, via registration, in the Community Fibre Partnership. BT have indicated that the baseline costs are in the region of £90k to upgrade the exchange and a further £20-30k to install a cabinet in the village. Simon Roberson from BT has offered to come and meet the residents from Ovington to provide an update on progress and look at options, OPC to contact Simon and agree a date to meet with the village. **Action: Mrs Begg**

v) Transparency Code – Internet Access – £819 cheque received for hardware i.e. printer, scanner, computer, router and also MS Word Licence etc, to be sourced and purchased. Funds still available for expenditure. **Action: Mrs Begg**

vi) Damage to Village Green Oak tree - Mrs Begg informed the meeting that she had been advised that the tree would try to repair itself by scaring over the damaged area however that the Council would have to risk assess the potential weakness in the tree. As DCC had agreed to take over the maintenance of the trees on the Village Green DCC would have the responsibility. It was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor and review the situation next year. Mrs Begg to contact Durham County Council to get their opinion. **Action: On going - Mrs Begg**

vii) Parish Notice Board – Mr Parkes advised the meeting that he would install a latch on the notice board. **Action: No progress - Mr Parkes (on going)**

ix) Maypole: The new Maypole has now been supplied and installed. It has been proposed that the expected VAT refund should be spent on a plaque inscribed with a short history of the Maypole Village. **Ongoing awaiting receipt of monies.**

x) Fairview Garage for sale with particulars mentioning potential of usage as a 'depot' subject to relevant consents: Concerns raised re more heavy traffic using roads within the 7.5 tons weight restriction if the garage was sold with this intent. The Councillors agreed to monitor the situation. **Ongoing.**

xi) Britain in Bloom – funding is available, on application, for a project or idea and the purchase of planters and gardening equipment. A short discussion concluded that the current half barrel planters have seen better days and could do with being replaced and some ideas could be researched for planting around the village boundary nameplates. **Action – Margaret Towler**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

Copy received;- Formal planning application notification letter Durham County Council Ref. DM/16/03432/FPA dated 3rd November 2016, for the construction of 5 No. detached dwellings to the Land to the East of Moor View Cottage, Ovington DL11 7DA for J & J Partnership.

Any comments should be forwarded, to DCC, within 21 days from the date of the letter.

A village meeting is to be arranged for Tuesday 15th November 2016 @ 7.45pm to openly discuss the above planning application. James Rowlinson and George Richardson, DCC Area Councillors will be invited to attend.

Financial Report:

Mrs Begg as the Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been four bills paid since the last meeting: £40 to Land Registry (Cheque 339 dated 26/08/16), £3,344.40 to Kilgvaney Sleepers – Maypole (Cheque 340 dated 20/09/16), £306.00 to Mill Gardens – Grass Cutting (Cheque 341 dated 20/09/16) and £1,188.00 to Utility Services NE Ltd (Cheque 342 dated 30/10/16)

Receipts – 07/09/16 £1000.00 from Ovington Village Hall – Maypole Donation (thank you)

To date the Parish Council had £1.11 in the current account and £3,211.46 in the savings account. (this includes Maypole Fund - £62.60 and Transparency Fund £819.00)

VAT claim submitted 31/10/16 £913.94 (still to receive) – (includes £755.40 VAT Maypole)

Audit returned as complete 09/08/16 – no issues raised. Notice displayed from 04/09/16 to 30/09/16.

The annual return including certificate has been approved and accepted by the Council.

Thank you to Maxine Martin for undertaking the Annual Internal Audit.

1 No. Invoice was received from Mill Gardens Ltd for £102.00 Grass Cutting

All invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Correspondence:

- i) Durham County Council ref. Traffic Assets/CKJ – FS7049508 dated 26th September 2016 – Road – C169 Ovington – Village Nameplate Signs, to Mr Green, The Cottage DL11 7BW ref future replacement of the village nameplate signs and a reassurance that there are currently no plans to replace the existing signs.
- ii) John R Wain ref. Application for five houses in Ovington dated 04/011/2016 FAO Nigel Parkes, Chairman - advisory letter that planning application has been submitted.
- iii) Durham County Council ref. Consultation on Implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control dated 19 October 2016.
- iv) Environment Agency ref. APP/EPR/AWSM dated 20th July 2016 Fao Mr William Brophy Clerk to Hutton Magna Parish Council – advisory notice of appeal made under the environmental permitting regulation 31 – AWSM Recycling Ltd – revocation notice of Public Enquiry.
- v) Durham County Council ref. DM/16/03432/FPA dated 3rd November 2016 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Planning Consultation . Copy of correspondence to The Owner/Occupier The Hawthorns, Ovington Lane. Notice of submission of planning application for 5 dwellings to Land East of Moor View Cottage.
- vi) Post Meeting – as e-mailed to the Parish Councillors on 12th August 2016 Durham County Council dated 03 August 2016 Medium Term Financial Planning and 2017/18 Budget setting.

Any other Business:

- a) Speeding wagons through the village raised as a concern. A PACT meeting is to be held in the Old Council Offices in Barnard Castle 7pm on Wednesday 23rd November. Nigel Parkes has offered to attend and represent OPC. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- b) Flag needs lowering and taking in for the winter. Nigel Parkes to contact John Brannan to action. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- c) Hedge needs chopping back by bridge – Shaun Hanson to action. **Action – Shaun Hanson**
- d) Grass Cutting Contract coming to the end of its 3 year period and needs to be sent out to tender again to renew. All agreed Mill Gardens Ltd have done a good job. Nigel Parkes to raise a Specification and Invitation to Tender and put an advert in the Teesdale Mercury. **Action – Nigel Parkes**
- e) Public Telephone update; Maureen Begg has spoken to DCC yesterday having received notification that BT are considering removal of the public phone box. MB advised DCC that Ovington does not have good mobile phone signal and this will be supported by DCC. DCC objected to the removal and the decision has been made by BT to “put on hold” the removal of the phone box and any future decisions will include consultation with OPC through DCC. **Action – Maureen Begg (monitor)**

The next Parish Council Meeting was arranged for Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.45pm. (Hall booked at meeting with Mrs Levett).