

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

---

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Foster, Jackson, County Councillor Quinn (in part) and 3 members of the public.

Cllr Jordon welcomed the residents to the meeting and a resident raised her concerns about the peafowls which are now in the western part of the village and roam freely. The resident felt they were a danger for motorists and their droppings were a health hazard. Cllr Jordon replied that a letter of complaint had also been received and the matter will be discussed on the agenda.

1. Joanna Jackson was officially co-opted to Council.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bryan and MacDonald.
3. No declarations of interest were received although Cllrs Gray and Jordon stated they were also affected by the aforementioned peafowls.
4. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
5. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn reported that, as far as she was concerned, it had been a relatively quiet period recently. Road repairs had been carried out in the area including outside the Schools. She had been looking at suggestions put forward for the Local Transport Plan but admitted that she needed to check whether proposals are automatically carried forward each year if not originally selected. Cllr Jordon reminded her that originally Ovingham were concentrating on speeding in the village for this year's proposals (20mph outside the schools, 20 mph throughout the village and moving current 30mph signs further out from their current locations) but the Cllrs were re-considering their proposals in light of the request for disabled parking space for Windsor Crescent which had been objected to by a resident. Parking was a problem in Windsor Crescent area and needed to be considered and if appropriate, added to the Local Transport Plan for 2018-2019. This request, plus parking in general for all residents would be discussed further under agenda item 10. Some time ago, the Parish Council had been informed that NCC were rolling out 20mph outside all schools and Cllr Jordon asked County Cllr Quinn if this was still going ahead and if so, when it was likely to happen. County Cllr Quinn will check.  
Cllr Quinn left at 7.30pm.
6. Matters arising: -
  - i) **Defibrillator for Village:** Cllr Jordon confirmed the defibrillator was on order and would be delivered the following week. Cllr Campbell had spoken to the White Swan to see if they would agree

to it being situated on their property but they were a bit dubious. Cllr Campbell had given examples but will show them the actual cabinet as this will give an indication of size and appearance.

- ii) **Storage of ride on mower:** Cllr Jordon had mentioned the possibility of storing the mower in an area at the back of the pavilion to OPPFUG volunteers. Cllr Campbell commented that there was going to be a time when it will need to be moved away from its present location. Cllr Gray had cleared a large patch which could be suitable for a shed especially as it had the advantage of being behind a gate. Cllr Jackson offered to look at prices once the size of the mower was confirmed.
- iii) **S106 funding for new play equipment:** The application submitted for new picnic tables with disability access and basketball backboards and nets had been successful. Funding will be received (£1388) once products have been ordered and must be by the end of October. Cllr Jordon was unsure if any further application was being submitted by OPPFUG for funding from the larger pot which was also available.
- iv) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon advised that a resident had received a parking notice for parking within the double yellow lines, by his property, beside Peartree Cottages at the entrance to Tyne Gardens. Whilst the area in question looked like a layby, as it was outlined by double yellow lines, parking is not permissible. Cllr Jordon said she would contact Neil Snowdon, NCC, for advice on improved markings.

7. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses July/Aug)	£369.86
BDO (external audit)	£240.00
Lloyd Ltd (mower service)	£340.72
Peter Hind (various maintenance)	£460.00
Ovingham Reading Room (room hire x 2)	£30.00
East Tynedale Community Forum (subscription)	£40.00
Trevor Bell (grass cuts)	£280.00
P Holden (petrol for mower)	£34.48
P Holden (paint for football posts)	£14.15
SSE (quarterly charge)	£39.45
NWG (Quarterly charge)	£36.28
A Jackson (hedge-cutting, climbing frame removal)	£635.00
Lloyds Bank (safe custody fee)	£15.00
D Jordon (refreshments, plants, supplies for Field)	£156.81

Unfortunately, the Clerk did not have enough cheques for all invoices but the Cllrs authorised all payments. Cllr Jordon was somewhat concerned at the large invoice from Lloyd Ltd for the mower service after only 4 months usage. Cllr Jackson offered to speak to the company.

- 8. **Planning Application: 17/02385/FUL Tudor Croft, Horsley Road –** demolish existing 3 bed bungalow and construction new 3 bed bungalow – Cllr Gray advised this had been the subject of a pre-app enquiry for which Ovingham Parish Council had no comments, and he did not recommend any further comments at this stage.

**17/02754/OUT Land south west Irving Place, Tyne Gardens** outline planning application for 3 bed single storey dwelling – **granted**  
**17/03289/FUL 24 North Meadow** – proposed single storey wrap around extensions & new gated vehicular access to rear yard. Cllr Grays’ only comments would be to ensure the proposed single storey wrap around extension did not have an adverse impact on the neighbouring property. The vehicular access was similar to a recent application granted for a neighbouring property in North Meadow for which there had been no objections from the Parish Council.

9. **To consider Insurance Renewal:** The Clerk advised this was the final year of the Long-Term Agreement with Came & Co. The premium was for £1543.94 and included backdated extra premium to include bus shelters and an increase in the value of mower which had been purchased during the last 12 months. However, the Clerk needed to also check the premium included playground equipment as the schedule did not allow for this. Cllr Jordon also suggested that a risk assessment be carried out for the ride on mower following previous advice from Came & Co that volunteers (aged 16-85) are automatically covered if a risk assessment was in place.
10. **Local Transport Plan (reconsider/include Windsor Crescent Disabled Parking:**  
As mentioned above, originally the 3 proposals to be put forward were all related to speeding. As the Clerk had not submitted this to NCC yet, Cllr Jordon had asked that the costings quote from NCC for a disabled parking bay and improved parking in Windsor Crescent specifically by numbers 60 – 64 be considered. Cllr Jordon pointed out that there was no guarantee that the disabled parking bay would be granted and that it was a large sum of money for 2 extra parking spaces; Councillors decided not to proceed. She reminded the Cllrs that after a site meeting in the area with NCC in April, a request was submitted by Neil Snowdon, NCC, for general improved parking in case the disabled parking space was turned down. She confirmed this was still in place on the Local Transport Plan. It was agreed that the submission for the LTP be as previously discussed at the July meeting and as outlined above (5). Cllr Gray would draft a response which would also be forwarded to County Cllr Quinn.
11. **To note conclusion of audit for financial year 2016/2017:** The Clerk explained that 2016/2017 was the last year for the accounts to be checked by an external auditor unless a spot check was made. As no comments had been raised by BDO, the auditors, this was unlikely. However, the Clerk also noted that when reporting on the accounts for Ovington, BDO had commented that the asset register was incomplete. In fact, this was not the case (and had not been a requirement to forward to BDO) and although no such comment had been made for Ovingham, the Clerk felt the assets needed to be checked especially those held at the Pavilion. This was agreed.
12. **OPPFUG – new constitution draft and maintenance agreement:**  
Since the last meeting, a new constitution had been drafted and approved by OPFUG at their meeting on 5/9/17. The maintenance agreement still needed finalising and Cllrs Jordon and Gray thought the proposed draft was too complicated. Cllr Jordon had circulated a revised agreement and had also included figures to cover annual costs (£2500) together with an

“emergency” fund of £500. This was based on averages from previous years. The Cllrs were happy with these proposals and Cllr Jordon confirmed that a copy had been sent to OPPFUG via Cllr Bryan.

13. **Lane down from the Chalets (Horsley Road):** As part of former County Cllr Kelly small funds scheme, a path was to be made leading up to the chalets. Cllr Jordon had checked that this would be completed this financial year but had not been given a date. It was also linked with the surface water proposals and resulting works scheduled especially around Dene Garth.
14. **Cycle for St. Mary’s:** This was taking place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September and was primarily a community event with varying routes for participants. Cllr Jordon noted that it coincided with the “Tynedale 10” which started from Ovingham Middle School but should not cause too much confliction. It was hoped several school children will be taking part.
15. **Village Tour/Action Plan:** Cllr Jordon felt there were some issues which needed addressing and asked that the Cllrs report back in time for the October meeting. She also advised that David Hunt, NCC, was willing to meet for a site visit so it was important that an up to date action plan was in place. Cllr Jordon suggested that each Cllr concentrate on a different area in the village and forward their comments before the October meeting. This was agreed.
16. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon reported that the Grazing Land had not been used for the last few months. Cllr Jackson will contact the lessee. The Handyman, Peter Hind, had been carrying out some maintenance and weeding; David Hunt, NCC, was happy for NCC to continue cutting the hedge behind Castle View twice a year, although he stated this was dependent on manpower and likely outside the grass cutting season. The Environment Agency had organised a meeting for 22<sup>nd</sup> September primarily concerned with surface water issues and Cllr Gray commented that there were a few queries to raise. He and Bob Klotz had planned to start painting the telephone box but as the Perspex panels were scratched, Cllr Gray had ordered some replacements. Once these were in place, the painting could be done. Cllr Jordon had planned to meet with NCC in the next 2 weeks regarding the footpath by The Terrace plus any other footpath or road repairs that the Parish Council raise. The Terrace footpath had not been included earlier in the year when work was carried out on many paths in the village as the machine was too large. A group of Councillors, residents and volunteers from ESH and MWH had spent a morning carrying out general ground maintenance jobs on the Playing Fields; painting play equipment, removing weeds and cutting hedges. This was very much appreciated and all were thanked for their time and hard work.
17. **Committee Reports:** Cllr Gray advised a new ramp had been installed by the entrance to the Reading Room.  
Cllr Jordon reported that the superintendent, Judith Hornsby, had attended a recent Burial Board meeting to give the Committee an update. An inspection of trees is to be carried out, including topple testing. The lease of the chapel is to be revised and the Drama Group are going to store their old stage in the chapel.
18. **Correspondence:**
  - a) A resident had written to the Parish Council complaining about a large campervan which appeared to be permanently

parked on Wheatfield Close/Piper Road. Kris Westerby, NCC Highways, was attending to it but the Clerk will ask for an update.

- b) A letter had also been received from a resident in Burnside, about the peafowls (mentioned above). The owners of the birds had apparently “gifted” them to the residential home, Wellburn, who when contacted by a different villager, had stated they were seen as a major contribution for the day to day welfare of the residents who would be upset if they were removed. The Cllrs were concerned about the birds on a number of points; safety, traffic, noise, droppings and responsibility and care for the birds. Cllr Jordon remarked that her husband had contacted NCC and he had been asked to submit a complaint form including data such as times and frequencies of noise, droppings etc. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the owners, Environmental Health, NCC and the RSPCA.
  - c) The Clerk had received forms from Guy Opperman, MP, for nominations to be considered for “A Community Champion” – people who voluntarily do a lot for their community. The Cllrs suggested that Marion Lewis be put forward for this.
  - d) The Clerk had also received notification that the MP was organising a meeting on 1 Dec for an update on the Flood Forum. Cllr Gray confirmed he will be attending.
19. No distribution this month.
20. Any other business: When Cllr Jordon attended a recent Burial Board meeting she noted there was no “AOB” on the agenda and was informed it was not a requirement. Although SLCC advised "Some councils like to include an item for ‘Any Other Business’ at the end of the agenda, but this practice is best avoided and should be discouraged unless it is purely an opportunity for information. Every substantive matter which requires a decision must be on the formal agenda." The Cllrs agreed this was the practice followed by the Parish Council but would decide later if it should continue to be listed as an agenda item.
- The Clerk reported that the Drama Group had been successful in their application for funding from the Lottery Fund for a new stage. Cllr Jordon queried recent information circulated on the “What’s on in Ovingham” Facebook page as she felt it would be more appropriate if such data was released by the Parish Council. The Clerk remarked that perhaps the Parish Council should set up its own Facebook page and Cllr Jackson agreed to look at options and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm