

OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held at Ovington Social Club

Thursday 15th January 2026

Present: Councillors Anne Hudson (Chair), Fiona Maidwell (Vice-Chair), Barbara Goodfellow and Geraldine Shaw.

Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale, David Newman (Clerk) and Tracey Wood (Interim Clerk)

2026/01 Questions from members of the public

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

2026/02 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Anne Dale reported that:

- The public session of the meeting should have timings to allow for questions from members of the public to the County Councillor and Councillors.
- **Gateway Signs** – An update on the timescale for the new gateway signs has been requested from Officers at Northumberland County Council.
- **Damaged Ovington Sign** – All items should be notified to NCC via Fix My Street. This allows the relevant team to have an audit of the work to be completed. Outstanding items can also be seen by the County Councillor.
- **Parking** – Since the introduction of car park charges by Network Rail, there had been an increase in parking in the NCC car park and overflow car park in Prudhoe. This has resulted in an increase in parked cars in Ovington. The situation is being monitored. Northumberland County Council are looking into the possibility of extending the car park at Prudhoe.
- **NCC Enforcement** – The planning application for Field House was turned down, it is unknown if an appeal will be received. Active officers are in post and working closely with County Councillor Dale on issues raised.
- **Local Transport Plan** – The Local Transport Plan Capital Programme has moved to a three year programme from 2026-2029. The bridleway and slip road from A69 are on the list for review. The hedges have been cut back.
- **EV Chargers** – County Councillor Dale will provide further information when available.
- **Village Sign** – members discussed the possibility of placing a village sign in the flower bed on the land which is owned by Karbon Homes. A request will be sent to Karbon Homes and County Councillor Dale will support.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

- **Northumberland County Council Budget** – Budget discussions are ongoing with an expected increase in Council Tax.

Members thanked County Councillor Dale for her continued hard work and support.

Resolved that:

- Clerk to add timings to public session of the agenda.
- Clerk to report damaged Ovington sign on Fix My Street.
- Clerk to contact Karbon Homes regarding placement of Village Sign.

2026/03 Item 1 – Apologies for Absence

Councillor Lisa Leggert.

2026/04 Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

Councillor Barbara Goodfellow declared that the village handyman is her husband. Councillor Anne Hudson declared she is the project manager for Ovington Trees.

2026/05 Item 3 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2025

Resolved that:

- The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th December 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2026/06 Item 4 - Finance

Members reviewed the receipts and payment and budget update to 31st December 2025 and the bank reconciliations up to 31st December 2025. The Interim Clerk had prepared a new budget report and members agreed to use the new format going forward. Members discussed the budget forecast outturn to 31st March 2026 and the budget and precept demand for 2026/27. Despite an increase in the precept demand the budget for Ovington Parish Council remains below average for Councils in Northumberland. Members discussed the new format of the Asset Register which was agreed. Ovington Parish Council website was discussed. There are a number of options available. The Clerk will circulate options to members. Members discussed and approved the Clerk attendance at the Society of Local Council Clerks Regional Conference on 11th March 2026.

Resolved that:

- The payments detailed in document A be approved.
- The budget update to 31st December 2026 detailed in document B be approved.
- The bank reconciliation to 31st December 2026 detailed in document D be approved.
- The budget outturn forecast be approved.
- The budget and precept demand be updated and circulated to members.
- Clerk to send Precept Demand to Northumberland County Council.
- Clerk to book Society of Local Council Clerks Conference place.
- Clerk to add Asset Register to March agenda.
- Clerk to arrange asset inspection.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

- x. Clerk to circulate website information.

2026/07 Item 5 – Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Anne Hudson and Geraldine Shaw had met with the Chair of Wylam Parish Council to discuss the process of a Neighbourhood Plan. Following research members agreed to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for Ovington.

Resolved that:

- i. Councillor Geraldine Shaw to be the project lead for the Ovington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan.
- ii. Clerk to contact NCC Neighbourhood Plan team to progress Ovington becoming a designated area.
- iii. Clerk to add Neighbourhod Plan to the March agenda.

2026/08 Item 6 - Committee Reports and other group updates

- **Ovington Joint Burial Committee** – Members received an update.
- **East Tynedale Community Forum** – The request for a Chair of the East Tynedale Community Forum had been unsuccessful. This may result in the closure of the Forum, and a refund on membership fees for Ovington Parish Council.
- **Ovington Community Group** – Councillor Fiona Maidwell updated members that a review of events had taken place. A fuller update will be given at the March meeting.

2026/09 Item 7 – Rural Heating Solutions

The Clerk had circulated the information (detailed in document F). Councillor Anne Hudston gave an update on the survey and members discussed asking residents to support the survey. Members agreed to advertise the survey on the Village noticeboards, and request that the information is circulated via the Community Group mailing list. Members also discussed an Ovington Parish Council Facebook page.

Resolved that:

- Councillor Anne Hudson to design a poster to be displayed on notice boards.
- Councillor Barbara Goodfellow request the circulation of information via the Community Group mailing list.
- Clerk to set up an Ovington Parish Council Facebook page.

2026/10 Item 8 - Village Environment

- **Ovington Trees** – Members received an update on the waymarkers which is the next project to be completed. A launch event will be arranged once the posts are installed.
- **Strimmer** – Members agreed to purchase a strimmer from Councillor Anne Hudson for £90. The strimmer would be used by the village handyman.
- **S106 Funding** – Members discussed the signs that would be purchased with S106 Funding and agreed that a play area safety sign and dog waste signs would be purchased. Councillor Barbara Goodfellow will provide examples and costings.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting

- **Play Area** – Members discussed the play area repairs and maintenance. The inspection report from The Play Inspection Company had been received and would be circulated to members for information. The outcomes of the inspection would be discussed at the next meeting. Members discussed monthly play area inspections which would commence following inspection training.

Resolved that:

- Payment of £90 be approved for the purchase of the strimmer.
- Clerk to add strimmer to the Asset Register.
- Design and costings of signs to be circulated to members.
- Clerk to circulate play area inspection report to members.
- Clerk to add play area inspection report to the March agenda.
- Clerk to circulate play inspection training information to members.

2026/11 Item 9 - Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

2026/12 Item 10 – Appointment of Clerk and RFO

Interviews had taken place during December for the appointment of a Clerk and RFO for Ovington Parish Council. David Newman was successfully appointed as Clerk and RFO and commenced his role on 5th January 2026. Members welcomed David to his role.

Resolved that:

- The appointment of David Newman as Clerk and RFO for Ovington Parish Council was approved by members.

2026/13 Item 11 – Quotations Received

Members reviewed the quotations received detailed in document G. Members discussed the options available for the waymarkers.

Resolved that:

- The quotation of £600 for waymarkers be approved.
- Councillor Anne Hudson to inform contractor.

2026/14 Item 12 – Minor items for the agenda of a future meeting

Discussed throughout the meeting plus, IT Policy.

Resolved that:

- Clerk to add items to March agenda.

2026/15 Item 13 Dates of next meeting

- Ovington Parish Council Ordinary Meeting 12th March 2026
- Ovington Parish Council Annual Meeting 15th May 2026

The meeting closed at 8pm

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of Meeting