

APPROVED

Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting Held on 16th November 2023 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

In attendance

Cllrs Jordon (Chair), Gray (Vice-Chair), Jackson, Ford and Paul Smith (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

County Councillor's report

The County Councillor was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Jordon advised that they had exchanged emails with regards –

1. Completion of Chalet path - work has been delayed and is now planned for December early January.
2. Query from a resident regarding speeding on the Chalet Lane – Parish Council will consider this further for their 2024 – 2025 LTP submission

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors Downing, Neal, Swinburn and County Councillor Waddell had submitted their apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest (if any)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 19th October 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

- **Dog Issues Update** - Cllr Ford reported that there were still a large number of dogs being exercised off the lead on the playing field. Consideration will be given to erecting another notice reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.
- **Follow up to Public questions** - Cllr Jordon had recently circulated an update on the actions she had taken, in response to the concerns raised by residents at the last meeting. Feedback from the residents was that they were very pleased with her efforts.
- **Speed Surveys** - The speed surveys have been completed, the data did not provide sufficient evidence to warrant further enforcement or a 20 mph zone being imposed. The installation of 'Dragons Teeth' or red countdown markings is to be considered. Cllr Ford expressed an interest in attending training to operate a speed gun. Cllr Jordon agreed to again forward details of the training. **Action - Cllr Jordon**

- **Solagen Flashing Signage** - The Clerk had received a quotation from Solagen for an operative to come out and assess the fault on the sign, however Cllr Gray reported that the sign is now working again.
- **Steps down to Riverside opposite Castle View** - Cllr Jordon reported she had recently met with Tim Fish of NCC who advised that he would arrange for improvements to the steps to be made.
- **Parking Issues** - Problems with parking continue around the Horsley Road area. Cllr Jordon recently spoke to a resident (on behalf of another resident) who agreed to stop parking in a particular spot.

5. Accounts to pay/paid since the previous meeting

The following payments were agreed.

- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary September 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary October 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk Reimbursement re Employers PAYE - £207.76 (Paid via Cheque 19.10.23)
- T Bell - Grass Cuts Aug-Sept, Riverside & Dene Garth, Repair ride on mower £857.50 (Paid via BACS)
- St Mary's Church re Donation from Barbour photoshoot - £50.00 (Paid via BACS)

6. Budget

The Budget sheet had previously been circulated by the Clerk who summarised the main points. A discussion on the Precept for next year took place and it was agreed to keep the Precept at the existing amount of £15,300 pa.

Action - The Clerk

7. Future maintenance of Playing Fields and football pitch

The Clerk had prepared a draft tender document and a discussion took place on the proposed frequency of grass cuts. The Clerk was asked to amend the tender and post an advert for the job on the PC website and Facebook.

Action - The Clerk

8. Donations

After discussion the following donations were agreed:

- Air Ambulance - £100
- Sport Tynedale - £100
- Ovingham Oracle - £100
- Age UK Northumberland - £100
- Ovingham Chat Club - £100
- Tynedale Hospice at Home - £100
- Poppy Appeal (re the Wreath) - £50

Action - The Clerk

9. Planning

Cllr Gray reported as follows:

- Tree Preservation Order application: T1 horse chestnut thin crown by 15% and reduce selected branches identified on photo by up to 2m. T2 sycamore crown thin by 10% 2 Nunnykirk Close Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6BP Ref. No: 23/04058/PRUTPO | Received: Tue 31 Oct 2023 | Validated: Tue 31 Oct 2023 | Status: Registered - **Cllrs Jordon and Gray will visit both sites.**
- Works to Trees In A Conservation Area:- T3 (Apple tree) - Reduce crown by 3 metres T4 (Apple tree) - Reduce crown by up to 3 metres 4 The Terrace

Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6AJ Ref. No: 23/04059/TREECA | Received: Tue 31 Oct 2023 | Validated: Tue 31 Oct 2023 | Status: Registered - **See above**

- Conversion of existing farm buildings into a single private dwelling house Bleach Green Farmhouse West Road Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6BL Ref. No: 23/03461/FUL | Received: Mon 18 Sep 2023 | Validated: Tue 26 Sep 2023 | Status: Registered - **Heritage statement is that the current plans are not suitable.**
- Proposed second storey side extension over existing store, rear extension, internal and external alterations Bleach Green Farmhouse West Road Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6BL Ref. No: 23/03458/FUL | Received: Mon 18 Sep 2023 | Validated: Thu 21 Sep 2023 | Status: Registered - **See above**
- First Floor extension above existing garage to form home office and bedroom 19 Dene Garth Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6AW Ref. No: 23/03433/FUL | Received: Thu 14 Sep 2023 | Validated: Wed 20 Sep 2023 | Status: Registered - **Now Approved**
- Removal of existing conservatory and construction of a ground floor rear extension with alteration to the internal arrangement of the ground floor, to form a utility and cloaks 19 Windsor Crescent Ovingham Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 6AS Ref. No: 23/03347/FUL | Received: Fri 01 Sep 2023 | Validated: Wed 25 Oct 2023 | Status: Registered - **No comment from OPC**
- Outline Planning Permission (With All Matters Reserved) for a three bedroom dormer style bungalow. Greengates Horsley Road Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6BG Ref. No: 23/03034/OUT | Received: Fri 11 Aug 2023 | Validated: Fri 11 Aug 2023 | Status: Registered - **No comment from OPC**

10. Flooding

Cllr Gray recently circulated a report re the recent flooding issues in the Village.

Cllr Jordon raised the issue of funding required for speed tables and amendments to the trash screen and suggested the PC contribute £5000 out of a total cost of £30,000.

Not all agreed to a contribution from our reserves being made, further details and discussion of the plans to be put in place were required before a decision could be made.

Action - Cllr Jordon

11. Village environment and action plan update

Cllr Jordon provided an update on various issues in the Village, a brief summary is below:

- Flooding around the Hermitage area – the site warden of the Hermitage Caravan Park has unblocked the culvert, the land owner and contractor are putting measures in place in the field to prevent the surface water run off.
- Cllr. Jordon has visited a number of households and requested gardens/hedges are tidied up. NCC Enforcement Officer has also visited one of the households and will be monitoring progress made.
- The PC have received a request from a resident that they be allowed to plant an acorn sapling at the playing field, in the long grass area. Cllr Jordon will meet with the resident to confirm our agreement and agree a location.
- The zip wire decking is damaged, the local handyman has been asked to repair it
- The music instrument play item is also damaged and will be removed
- The defibrillator at the Pavilion has recently been checked

- Network cabling is continuing in the Village. A resident complained that mud needs to be cleared off the pavements, Cllr Jordon has spoken to the works supervisor who has attended to this.
- There is a fallen tree on the Village green, which the local handyman has been asked to remove
- Cllr Jordon asked the Clerk to update the Action Plan (time permitting)

Action - The Clerk

12. Committee Reports

- Burial Board - The tenant had reported a gas leak but this turned out to be a false alarm
- East Tynedale Forum - There was a meeting recently on Wednesday 24th October at which Neil Snowden of NCC attended and spoke about speeding and parking issues
- Reading Room - Cllr Jackson was unable to attend the latest meeting
- Orchard and Allotments - No update
- Playing Fields - There are weeds in the bark chipping that need attending to and the topping of the fields needs doing
- Essity - Cllr Gray had attended a recent meeting and reported that Essity have their own Apprenticeship School. They also have large capital reserves for a heat recovery scheme

13. Correspondence -

Email from resident re Parish Garden - A resident wishes to cease the agreement to rent the parish garden. The PC will advertise that it is available to rent

Email from NCC re Survey of open spaces - the survey has been circulated to Councillors and comments received from Cllr Downing. Cllr Ford agreed to complete the survey

Action - Cllr Ford

14. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair

None

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 18th January 2024

Agreed.