

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 15th January 2019 at Ovington Village Hall

Present:

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

Apologies:

None

No Village Resident

The minutes of the last meeting on 27th November 2018 were approved and subsequently signed by Nigel Parkes Chairman.

All present as above.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Matters Arising:

i) Broadband – No progress whatsoever. OPC not at all happy with the situation and will write to the Chairman of Openreach, M Tighe and copy into our local MP – Helen Goodman to express our concerns about the lack of progress after all these years. **Action – Nigel Parkes**

ii) Maypole Plaque: Update - Cost of Aluminium Black & White sign, similar to that recently installed at Ovington Edge, to be obtained with the inclusion of a brief history of the maypole and the winning of Northumbria in Bloom 2018. A possible location has been cited within the committee i.e. next to the existing seat opposite the Four All's. 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. Ashley Byes history of the Maypole is to be condensed for inclusion on the plaque. John Stroud has kindly offered & continues to offer to build a wall and possibly mount the above suggested plaque and flowers as an integral part of the retaining wall. **Action: ALL (wording Julie Parkes) Ongoing**

iv) Village Green – Maureen Begg confirmed via email 22nd January 2018 that the Village Green is now registered with the Land Registry under Ovington Parish Council. Maureen also confirmed that this would have no impact on the agreement between DCC and OPC re maintenance of the trees both on the Green and on all public land in the village. She went onto the clarify that The Village Green has been registered with the County Council 's since the 70's as a Village Green in ownership of the Parish Council and the registration with the Land Registry was just to record this more formally and also digitally. OPC has requested that this tree maintenance agreement be forwarded to the Parish Council for their records. Update as of the 27th November 2018 - OPC has now received a copy of an email from Maureen dating back to 2015 regarding the responsibility of looking after the trees. It was agreed on the back of this email to clarify the current position with DCC. **Action: Nigel Parkes Ongoing**

v) Northumbria in Bloom – Ovington entered for 2019 at a cost of £45. As such we have been invited to a Spring meeting in mid March. Nigel Parkes is attending and will ask if any one else would like to join him in the next newsletter. **Action: Nigel Parkes**

It was also suggested that we may like to consider replacing village signage and waste bins as part of the Northumbria in Bloom efforts, this will be considered in a subject specific meeting later in the year.

vi) Village Green Residents Access Road – Flooding concerns; Update as of 25th September 2018; Nigel Parkes visited Jean to understand the problem and advise her whilst the Parish Council are sympathetic it is not a Parish Council matter as the road is private and unadopted. Nigel once again as a neighbour offered to help alleviate the problem by offering to dig drainage but reiterated it was not a Parish Council matter.

Both Nigel and Patricia to visit Jean, she was unavailable at the last visit, to check she was ok and offer to help as neighbours. Since the last meeting gravel has been laid with a little still left to complete.

Letter from Jean Dauber regarding the concern over possible flooding into her cottage on the Village Green should proposed perimeter track improvements go ahead. A letter has been sent to advise that this is not a Parish Council matter but the Parish Council would be happy to provide support should any issues arise. As a gesture of goodwill the neighbours have also offered to install some drainage to hopefully alleviate the problem. **Action; Nigel Parkes/Patricia Hanson Ongoing**

vii) Street Lighting – following on from an enquiry to DCC, Ovington will not receive new LCD lighting as the street lights are too far apart. The light on the corner heading out towards Hutton Magna is now working.

The tree has been trimmed at the entrance to Cliffords Lane as it was blocking the street lamp, although it was suggested that this could be improved and will be tackled again at some point.

Action – Shaun Hanson / Patricia Hanson

viii) Statutory Documents for Public Display - The Clerk has requested an electronic signed off copy of the following statutory documents are forwarded to her for uploading onto the Parish Council webpage hosted by Hugo Fox as follows; 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 – Annual Accounts, Internal Audit Report, Internal Audit, Explanation of Significant Difference (if applicable), Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement – **Action – Nigel Parkes**

ix) Offers of Help Register - Nigel Parkes raised the possibility of progressing a casual suggestion made many months ago, by a village resident, of compiling an informal “register” of village residents who are happy to offer their time and services free of charge for the benefit of the whole village community e.g lifts to places when a resident cannot access any transport for whatever reason, pet and/or house visits when a resident is on holiday or away for any reason, shopping for odds and ends occasionally if a resident cannot get to the shops for any reason, plant/garden watering during summer holidays – to name a few suggestions. This would obviously be a totally voluntary, good will offering by those who would like to take part and would in no manner be a professional service for financial or material gain of any sort. Thought will be given to the best way to progress this. **Action – Amanda Wilson**

Consideration of any current Planning Applications

Ovington Hall – Planning submitted for an extension and additional parking, to date OPC has not studied the plans, Peter Levett to review and report back. **Action – Peter Levett**

Field to the North of the village – Over 20 objections have been lodged on the Durham County Council planning portal. Not sure when a decision will be made, Shaun has agreed to make contact with the planning department to see what the current status is. **Action – Shaun Hanson**

Financial Report:

Julie Parkes as the current Responsible Financial Officer informed the meeting that there had been six bills paid since the last meeting: (Cheque 385? tbc) £85.00 to Dave Nixon for the Christmas tree (Cheque 386 dated 19/12/18), £10.00 to Ovington Village Hall for hall rental (Cheque 387 dated 19/12/18)

Receipts – None

As of Tuesday 15th January 2019 the Parish Council had £358.11 in the current account and £3746.26 in the savings account.

Invoices to pay – Two £20 to Ovington Village Hall & £45 for Britain in Bloom

2No. Invoices were agreed and authorised to pay by the Councillors.

Future expenditure – Maypole Plaque

Precept 2019/2020 – Set at £1,968 unchanged from last year. Precept application to be completed and returned. **Action – Julie Parkes**

VAT claim form to be completed? – **Action – Julie Parkes?**

Correspondence:

a) Update as of 15th January 2019; This is NOT an OPC issue. Either DCC or The Hawthorns are responsible for this tree. Raymond Swales has been verbally advised and this will be followed up by letter. Letter from Raymond Swales of The Hawthorns, regarding the large tree on the perimeter of his garden boundary. Mr Swales considers this tree to be a potential danger to “property and personnel” and requests that the Parish Council “give consideration to a drastic pruning”. OPC to visit site and take a look. **Action – Nigel Parkes (Letter)**

Any other Business

None

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 2nd April 2019 @ 7.45pm

Date of the next Parish Meeting – Wednesday 3rd April 7.00pm

The Hall has been booked with Mr Levett