

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

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Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at  
7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Campbell, Foster and Jackson, County Councillor Quinn  
(in part) and 2 members of the public.

Before the meeting proper started, Professor Michael Norton arrived with the defibrillator which the Parish Council had ordered. He gave a brief demonstration of the machine and will forward his invoice to the clerk shortly. Cllr Jordon thanked him on behalf of the Parish Council.

1. The resignation of Cllr Bryan was noted and minuted.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Gray and MacDonald.
3. No declarations of interest were received.
4. The minutes of the last meeting, having previously been circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.
5. Following the previous resignation of Hazel Chalmers, the Clerk had officially notified County Council and the relevant notices were in place in the village. Unless an election is called by electors, the Council will be able to start the co-option process after 27<sup>th</sup> October. However, as a further notice will have to be issued following the resignation of James Bryan, it was agreed that no steps will be taken to co-opt until that notice had also been served.
6. County Councillors' Report: County Cllr Quinn reported that she had been monitoring the Piper Road development site. Cllr Jordon commented that the contractors have been very helpful – roads are kept free from mud. County Cllr Quinn had noted the submitted requests for the Local Transport Plan (LTP) which will be considered in due course. Cllr Jordon queried why the Parish Council were not notified when decisions are made or when other requests for Ovingham, not submitted by the Parish Council were placed on the LTP. County Cllr Quinn will check. She also confirmed that the 20mph outside schools is gradually being rolled out and road repairs were continuing. Cllr Jordon responded that when she met with Andrew Olive, NCC, reported pot holes were attended to the following day. County Cllr Quinn also informed the Parish Council that she wanted to fund the defibrillator from her small grants scheme. Cllr Jordon thanked her on behalf of the Parish Council and the village. Cllr Quinn left at 7.35pm.
7. Matters arising: -
  - i) **Traffic Issues:** There had been no response yet from Neil Snowdon, NCC, with regards the yellow lines by Pear Tree Cottage. Cllr Foster asked if a traffic enablement mirror could be considered for

the exit from Dene Close onto Piper Road due to parked vehicles and contractors traffic. However, Cllr Jordon stated visibility issues was not because of construction traffic but residents' vehicles and suggested it be looked at again once the site had been developed. She also pointed out that residents could consider paying for a mirror.

- ii) **Defibrillator for Village:** Following delivery that evening, the Cllrs were delighted to have the defibrillator. Cllr Campbell had not been able to speak with the White Swan but will ensure this is done as quickly as possible. Alternatively, the defibrillator will be placed on the Reading Room side wall.
- iii) **Storage of ride on mower:** Councillors had looked at the area behind the pavilion for storage of the mower and proposed a lean to shed with double doors. Cllr Campbell will obtain a "budget quote" from a local contractor. Cllr Foster had also drafted a Risk Assessment for the use of the mower, which was required for insurance and she circulated this at the meeting. It was a very comprehensive report and the Cllrs will look at it in more detail for the next meeting. Meanwhile, Cllr Jordon will have a word with the resident who does most of the grass cutting on a voluntary basis to check what he already does.
- iv) **S106 funding for new play equipment:** Despite delivery problems, the picnic tables and basketball backboards had now been delivered and will all be in place shortly. The Clerk will submit a claim for funding to Maureen Dixon, NCC before the end of the month.
- v) **To consider AOB as a future agenda item:** This had been discussed briefly at the previous meeting as it was considered best practice **not** to include on the agenda. It was agreed that AOB will only be included as "To consider any other business as, in the opinion of the chair, should be considered as a matter of urgency".

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

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Sept)	£304.91
Sports warehouse (basketball backboards & nets)	£227.96
SLCC (Annual subscription)	£103.00
Ovingham Reading Room (2 meetings in Sept)	£32.00
Came & Co (extra insurance cover for play equipment)	£309.57
Ovingham Drama Group (funding towards stage)	£1000.00
RBB Recycled furniture (picnic tables)	£888.00
A Jackson (prep work for picnic tables)	£182.00
D Jordon (plants, tel calls etc.)	£124.73

The Clerk had to pay for the basketball equipment upfront and therefore needed to be reimbursed for the sum above. She also advised that extra cover for play equipment had to be included and it appeared that this had not been part of the policy for some years. The long-term agreement with Came & Co was expiring in 2018 and she will compare prices with other insurers then as the premium seemed high. She also reported that no progress had been made with Lloyds Bank to change the type of account yet and she hoped to arrange a meeting with the local branch shortly.

**9. Planning Application: 17/02385/Ful Bridge End Inn: refurbishment of**

existing closed down pub with new pitched roof to replace flat roof details – **Granted.**

10. **To consider Budget/Precept for 2018-2019:** The Clerk had circulated figures but advised no decision was needed at this meeting. Usually a response had to be submitted to NCC by mid/end January so therefore it was best practice to agree figures before the January meeting (i.e. in November). Cllrs Jordon and Foster queried some figures including income received from Nwl and Jumble sale which had not been recorded (for replacement trees and garden projects) and a nil figure against tree maintenance when work had been done on Allotment trees during the current year. The Clerk will amend, and update before the November meeting.
11. **OPPFUG – new management agreement:** Cllr MacDonald had attended the meeting of OPFFUG and reported back verbally to Cllr Jordon. Members of OPFFUG were not happy with the proposed financial details in the agreement. Cllr Jordon was aware of some issues which could arise from this including insurance, the lease and annual Play Inspection. As Cllr MacDonald was not present tonight, she felt the Parish Council could not comment further until a written report from the meeting was received. This was agreed.
12. **Village Tour/Action Plan:** Cllr Jordon had updated and circulated the action plan following the previous meeting. A lot of progress has been made but there were still areas to be followed up although she did comment that a lot of the weeds on the verges had been dealt with. Cllr Jordon also advised that the initial funding promised of £5,000 for the path down from the chalets was unlikely to be sufficient so she had asked NCC to obtain quotes for a path down the full length and also a quote concentrating on the most dangerous part – i.e. round the bend on the road. Cllr Jordon also asked for suggestions for village projects. Cllr Campbell put forward a suggestion from a resident – a metal fence round the basketball court for 5 a side football which would make better use of the playing fields. Cllr Jordon suggested this could be put forward for future S106 funding – the resident is going to suggest this to OPFFUG. Cllr Foster thought more use could be made of the playing fields and it required something for everyone. Fencing around the basketball court will also be considered. Cllr Campbell also suggested using an alternative warning sign on the current interactive units as he felt some were more effective than others. Cllr Jordon also proposed to plant crocus bulbs on Horsley Road.
13. **To consider a Facebook page for Ovingham Parish Council:** Cllr Jackson had checked to see if other Parish Councils had their own Facebook since the last meeting. Those which did, generally used it just for information – comments could only be allowed if approved by the administrator. She thought it could also be used to promote local events and would only require a few photos to start up. Information will be sent to Cllrs Gray and Macdonald for their comments as they were absent. From the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Jackson set up the site for Parish Council approval.
14. **Village Environment:** Cllr Jordon queried possible access problems for residents once the proposed closure of the Riverside surgery at Wylam takes effect (moving to Prudhoe). Whilst a bus (686) goes from Ovingham

to Prudhoe, it does not take passengers past the surgery at Oaklands and she felt this could cause problems for some residents who had no transport and/or were less mobile. It was something to monitor. Cllr Jordon reported that the drains and road sweeper had been in the village. Usually this is every 16 months but they will attend if there are problems with drains. She asked for village maintenance job suggestions to give to Peter Hind. The Clerk had had some feedback following correspondence with regards the peafowl. NCC, environmental officer, will monitor it and they also reported that they had received data of incidents from residents. RSPCA had also provided advice but no response had been received from the owner.

15. **Committee Reports:** Cllr Jackson had attended a recent meeting of the East Tynedale Forum. Updates had been given by Corbridge Parish Council with regards the works carried out to alleviate future flooding. It had been suggested that the Forum collate information about interactive signs in the area which may result in reduced costs for maintenance etc. The Forum had agreed that overall grass cutting had been better this last year. Cllr Jordon reported that the Reading Room were already planning for next year's Goose Fair. This is to be a low-key event, involving as many local organisations as possible and avoiding commercial stalls. They were also looking for help from other organisations within the village. A Xmas Cheer was organised for 3<sup>rd</sup> December and the disabled ramp access was in place. Cllr Jordon had met with Phil Holden with regards the recent mower service. This had been based on the number of hours used rather than a period of time. Damaged blades had been replaced although Phil Holden did not know how they had been damaged. He also advised that a football team had folded and he confirmed that he was looking at projects for S106 funding. Cllr Jordon reminded the meeting that following the resignation of James Bryan, another representative was needed for OPPFUG.
16. **Correspondence:**
  - a) NCC had circulated an update regarding the LED rollout across the county. Problems had arisen with a contractor which was being sorted. Cllr Jordon commented that it had been mentioned at a meeting in Corbridge attended by officers from NCC and they would report further on the matter.
  - b) The Clerk had circulated some information about proposed General Data Protection Regulations for 2018. This was being monitored by NALC but there could be an annual fee of £35 as councils may have to register as a data controller.
  - c) Cllr Jordon had also been contacted by a resident with regards the frequency of HGV's in the village and if they could be banned from the area. Whilst sympathetic, it was felt that this was not something the Parish Council could follow up.
17. Distribution was still being circulated but Cllr Jordon had given play equipment brochures to Phil Holden.
18. Any other business: Cllr Jordon suggested holding a Parish Council "surgery" every other month and asked that this be put on the agenda for November.
19. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at

7.15pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm