

## DRAFT

### Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting

Held on 20th October 2022

The Pavillion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

Attendance	
Representatives	Councillors: Doreen Jordon (Chair), Neville Gray (Vice Chair), Charlie Downing, Jonathan Neal, Joanna Jackson.
Officers	Paul Smith (Clerk & Notetaker)
Public	1 Member of the public was in attendance.

#### **Welcome & Questions from members of the Public**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A member of the public asked whether Ovingham Parish Council were seeking to apply for a Bylaw, in order to ban dogs from the Playing Field. The Chair replied that there were no such plans.

A member of the public also asked whether the Parish Council was planning to erect a permanent memorial, to commemorate the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II and if so, would public funds be used. The Chair replied that a memorial to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II was to be discussed at a later date.

#### **County Councillors Report:**

County Councillor Waddell reported that Northumberland County Council continued to experience financial difficulties and all staff had been offered voluntary redundancy, which was a concern with regards to the future provision of services.

Councillor Jordon raised the issue of speeding through the village. Despite there being 4 speed surveys in recent times, the resulting data did not fit NCC's criteria to introduce a 20mph speed limit. It has therefore been suggested that residents organise a petition, in order to show support for the proposal. Councillor Waddell commented that this was a good way forward.

With regard to the new proposed road markings, further discussion took place and it was pointed out the closing date for consultation is now 4.11.22.

Councillor Jordon stated that NCC were not willing to erect River Safety signs on the Ovingham side because it was not their land. Further discussion will take place with NCC.

Discussion then took place with regards to the Clean Tyne survey, which was circulated recently with a view to improving the cleanliness of the Tyne around Wylam and Ovingham, in order to encourage more safe bathing in the Tyne. It was agreed that (although efforts to improve the water quality are laudable) OPC should not be encouraging more people to swim the Tyne, especially given the lack of adequate signage and the recent tragic death of a young man in the river.

Councillor Jordon raised 'Warm Hubs' and whether NCC would be providing funding for Communities to set these up. Councillor Waddell did not think any funding would be made available. It was noted that the use of the Reading Room in Ovingham as a Warm Space is being looked into.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ford and Swinburn.

#### **2. Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Downing declared an interest in Agenda Items 11 & 14 as she knows one of the residents who has raised queries over parking.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022**

The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Update on Information / Story Board**

Cllr Gray & Cllr Jordon have given the designer information and photographs to be included on the Story Board, these will be used to produce a 'mock up' for approval.

**Dog Notices**

The wording and logo of the Notices had been agreed, however following a discussion, it was decided to wait 1 month before they are ordered. By then, it was hoped that the responsibilities of the proposed OPFA (with regards to monitoring the playing field) will be clearer.

**Waste Bins**

It was agreed that Option 6 would be taken forward, which is the supply and installation of a Locking Post and 240 Ltr. used bin at the Playing Field. The Clerk agreed to email Geoff Cairns to place the order.

**Action The Clerk**

**Climate Change Update**

Cllr Gray reported that the combined Ovingham and Ovington Climate Change Group is to hold an Open Evening at Ovingham Middle School on the 9th November 2022.

There will be speakers and displays by various organisations at the Open Evening.

**Village Appraisal - Community Open Evening**

Cllr Jordon advised that the Community Open Evening took place on Monday 17th October. Although it was well attended by Group representatives, only 4 Residents attended. Cllr Jackson agreed to feed back the ideas raised to the Reading Room committee.

**Action Cllr Jackson**

**5. Accounts to pay/paid since previous meeting - The following were all agreed:**

- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary July 22 - £299.48 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary August 22 - £299.48 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary Sept 22 - £299.48 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Expenses re purchase of printer - £99.99 (Paid via Cheque)
- T Bell - Grass Cuts & Hedge Trimming - Apr-May £415.00 (Paid via Cheque)
- T Bell - Grass Cuts June & July - £340.00 (Paid via Cheque)
- N Gray - Reimbursement re Paint bought for changing room door - £39.74 (Paid via chq)
- West Northumberland Community Buildings re PAT Testing - £32.00 (Paid by Cheque)
- Wylam Parish Council re OJBC - £2,520.00 (Paid via BACS)
- Richard Loughhead - Supply and fit changing room door -£380.00 (Paid via BACS)
- P Smith - Reimbursement re purchase of battery for Defibrillator - £204.00 (Paid by Chq)
- P Smith - Reimbursement re Employers PAYE - £190.20 (Paid by Chq)
- Tyne Valley Woodlands - Removing Rowen & Horse Chestnut Trees - £360.00 (Paid via BACS)
- Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy - Works following tree survey - £108.00 (Paid via BACS)
- Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy - Works following tree survey - £1248.00 (Paid via BACS)
- Play Inspection Company - Annual Inspection - £83.40 (Paid via BACS)
- Gallagher Insurance Brokers - Insurance Renewal - £2659.36 (Paid via BACS)

**6. Budget**

The Clerk gave brief details of the Parish Council Budget position.

#### **7. Draft Precept**

After discussion it was provisionally agreed to keep the Precept for 23/24 at £15,300 pa and use reserves to fund any additional expenditure required.

#### **8. Planning Applications**

Cllr Gray advised that the application re the Heritage Caravan Park extension was subject to an Ecology and Drainage Survey, as the soil on site may not be suitable.

Cllr Gray also reviewed the following application and stated he didn't envisage any major issues, no objections to the application were agreed by the Parish Council.

##### **Demolition of existing brick single garage and erection of new timber double garage**

1 Wheatfield Close Ovingham Northumberland NE42 6BA

Ref. No: 22/03374/FUL

#### **9. Review of Insurance**

The Clerk gave an outline of the Insurance Renewal procedure and stated that the annual Insurance premium had increased from £2,225 for 21/22 to £2,659 for 22/23. It was agreed that this was an acceptable increase.

#### **10. Audit Feedback**

The Clerk gave an outline of the annual Audit procedure and advised that no issues had been raised by the Internal Auditor or following the Certificate of Exemption being sent to the External Auditors (PKF). The Clerk again advised that the statutory Notice had been placed on the OPC website, with information that the public can inspect the Annual Audit documents and Financial records from the Financial Year 21/22 for a period from 13.6.22 - 22.7.22. No requests had been received.

#### **11. Parking Issues in the Village**

Issues were discussed earlier under County Councillor Report. Notices re the proposed increased double yellow lines in the Village were on display and the closing date for consultation was 4th November 2022. It was understood that (so far) one objection has been received by NCC.

#### **12 Village Environment and Action Plan Update**

Cllr Jordon reported the following:

- The annual Zip Wire Inspection was due shortly, Cllr Gray gave an update on his efforts to get quotes.
- At the Chalet Path, the cables have been relayed. NCC are still to lay the tarmac
- Work at the Bridge End Pub was progressing well
- Karbon Homes are responsible for maintaining the area of Swale and Bund behind Piper Road and Cherryburn Lane Estate. There has been some confusion on the exact areas and the contractor for Karbon has cut the wrong areas of grass in error. This is being followed up by Karbon Homes.
- Aileen Foster who inspects the defibrillator on a weekly basis has suggested a training session be organised on the use of the defibrillator
- There is a blocked gully on Castle View, which has been reported, there has always been a problem with this gully. NCC are to inspect the gully ASAP but as yet have not done so.
- Remembrance Sunday is on 13th November. Crocheted poppies are again to be placed in the Churchyard by volunteers and on some lamp posts in the village. Cllr Gray and Neal agreed to assist with the latter.

- Red Telephone Box - a resident had kindly donated £200 to have it repainted. However, it was apparent that further repairs to the glass etc were required at a total cost of approximately £1000. Cllr Jordon contacted BT who have agreed to put the repairs and repainting on their maintenance schedule. Therefore, it was agreed to place OPC's planned painting of it on hold. Cllr Jordon will advise the resident.
- Hedges, shrubs and weed growth overhanging footpaths - residents have mostly responded very well to the request to keep their properties maintained.

### **13. Committee Reports**

#### **Reading Room**

The AGM took place recently. There is to be a number of new Groups, including a Kids User Group, Taekwondo and the recommencement of Film Club.

#### **Essity**

A Community Engagement meeting was held and Cllr Gray attended. The environment officer has been invited to liaise with the Ovingham /Ovington Climate Change Group.

#### **Ovingham Joint Burial Committee**

The next meeting is Tuesday 25th October.

#### **East Tynedale Community Forum**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th October.

#### **Orchard Group**

An open meeting was held recently and was well attended.

#### **Allotments Association**

The last planned meeting was cancelled.

A request for OPC to contribute towards new equipment will be considered at the November OPC meeting.

#### **Playing Fields**

Cllr Downing reported that the proposed OPFA met on 27th September but there was no firm agreement regarding how the proposed Group should proceed. Cllr Ford had agreed at the OPFA meeting to investigate some options. Cllr Jordon pointed out that all the PC were asking for was a group of volunteers to work with the PC and assist the PC representatives in the running of the Playing Fields and the Pavilion. Cllr Gray stated that a draft constitution etc was already in place. Cllr Downing agreed to liaise with Cllr Ford.

#### **Action Cllr Ford & Cllr Downing**

### **14. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that OPC had received emails from residents regarding parking issues in the Village. Issues raised in the emails had already been discussed at Agenda Item 11. Councillors had no further comments to raise.

FOR OUR RECORDS one email complaint about parking had been dealt with in early September. This involved a resident with a pushchair having to move the pushchair onto the road as cars were parked on the narrow pavement.

Cllr Jordon had reported this to NCC Civil Enforcement who agreed to patrol the area but their resources were often stretched.

One of the residents had booked an appointment during Surgery to discuss the planned Road Markings but had not attended.

**15. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair**

The Chair advised that the contracts for grass cutting and maintenance in the playing field were due for renewal in March 23. She asked the Clerk to circulate the current contracts before the next OPC meeting in November.

The procedures for dealing with S137 Grants also needed to be circulated before the November meeting.

**Action The Clerk**

**16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 17th November 2022**

**- Agreed.**

Chair

Signature