

Ovington Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Ovington Village Hall

6.30 pm

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees: Cllr Peter Levett (Chair), Cllr Nigel Parkes (RFO), Cllr Shaun Hanson, Cllr Jo Harper.

Additional attendees: 2 members of the public.

1.Apologies: no apologies

2.Declaration of interests: no declarations of interest

3.Minutes of previous meeting: confirmed as accurate and signed by Chair

4.Matters arising: covered in agenda items

5.Finance Update:

5.1 The RFO presented the accounts and confirmed £1013.87 in the current account. Anticipated further spend identified; village Christmas tree, and monthly instalments to Hugo Fox. The forecast for the current account at the end of the financial year is £800. There remains £3,370.01 in reserves. (Appendix 1) The RFO has applied for a VAT refund estimated at £700 (£500 allowed in forecast).

5.2 Precept: OPC are required to submit the precept requirement for the coming financial year to DCC. The RFO provided a breakdown of anticipated costs. (Appendix 2) There is an anticipated increased requirement of £100 (£2460) in the year 23/23 representing a 4% increase. OPC approved the precept increase and the RFO will submit the request to DCC prior to the January deadline.

6.Planning Updates:

6.1 It was noted that Fairways had instigated a householder appeals process in relation to the recent refusal by DCC in relation to the building of a fire escape. The appeal documents

are on the DCC planning portal. It was noted that this process does not allow for any statements from local residents in relation to the appeal as DCC will provide a pack of information from the original submission. Cllr Hanson has read the documents and raised a concern with the accuracy of the questionnaire submitted and suggested an e mail to the appeals service merely to point out the identified inaccuracies and highlight the need for a site visit.

7.Conservation Area

7.1 Cllr Hanson has attempted to gain a further update from Brian Harris (DCC) both by e mail and telephone but as yet has had no response. OPC agreed the whole process has become very frustrating. OPC agreed that if no update has been received by January concerns will be escalated to the CEO of DCC

8.Broadband

8.1 Alli Walker has provided the following update:

‘Discussions between BDUK and a supplier around the award of the second Project Gigabit contract that is expected to benefit County Durham and potentially Ovington are still in progress. DCC have previously made enquiries with BDUK around extending the existing contract with Go Fibre to encompass Ovington, however it is not possible at this moment in time as delivery to your community is currently being considered under the second contract that is under negotiation. BDUK are mindful of the need in Ovington and we are ensuring to keep reminding them. They plan to consider all available options under Project Gigabit for Ovington at the earliest possible time.

Once discussions around the second contract have been concluded we will be in touch with Ovington parish Council with an update.’

The clerk advised that a resident had sent her a useful link: a short summary of a national report ‘Digital divide between rural and urban area is growing – the Rural Services network’ this has been e mailed to councillors

9.Grass cutting:

9.1 It was confirmed that the contractor has now procured a new machine that will hopefully produce better results. OPC will monitor the quality of the grass cutting in the spring.

10.Village Waste Bins

10.1 Cllr Levett provided a summary of the process of obtaining the new bins the location advised by DCC as part of a site visit with Cllr's Levett and Hanson. The response from DCC within a matter of days had been excellent and OPC have sent an e mail commending their service.

10.2 Cllr Levett confirmed:

The previous style of bin was obsolete therefore the black and gold option was chosen

DCC installed one bin next to the seat on the green, one near the phone box (DCC moved it slightly and OPC have been advised that this may pose an issue to the farmer who maintains the hedge – if so it can be moved, OPC will monitor as also it was queried if the bin was required). DCC suggested the location of the bin at Clifford's view as the only location for installation as it needs to be located on a verge belonging to DCC. (confirmed by viewing DCC map of public footpaths)

10.3 OPC acknowledged some concerns had been raised relating he bin at Clifford's View as to the potential smell from the bin affecting residents. A resident had observed a 'poo bag' dropped next to the bin and that it was quite full. OPC will monitor for issues raised. Cllr Levett to contact DCC to confirm schedule for emptying.

10.4 Of note: OPC have received a letter welcoming the installation of the bin at Clifford's view and other residents have made positive comments.

11.Telephone Box

11.2 The Clerk updated OPC as to the response from B.T (Mandy Greenslade) in regard to the adopt a kiosk scheme. Mandy advised that the kiosk was not on the current rationalisation programme for removal but is likely to be so in the near future and advised enquiring again in 6 months.

12.OPC Vacancy

12.1 The vacancy has been advertised on the village notice board and the DCC website with no response. DCC have advised OPC can co-opt a councillor if someone is interested.

13.AOB

13.1 The clerk advised she had received an e mail re a residents issues with Northern Power electricity supply to her property and the technical issues identified by Northern Power. The e mail has been shared with OPC councillors to raise awareness as there may be other properties affected

13.2 A resident attended the meeting to raised concerns regarding water egress onto the lane leading to Clifford's View from The Paddock . The resident had contacted DCC in April this year to raise concerns and the hazard it presents as there is no footpath – a particular issue in winter. The resident was directed to highways but received no response; discussion ensued if it was building control or highways responsibility.

Resident asked if OPC could follow this up: Cllr Parkes asked if the resident could provide a case reference number and he would follow up with building control in the first instance and report back any progress.

13.2 North Yorkshire historical signage: OPC have not heard from the representative and will follow up in the new year.

13.3 The issue of parking in the village was raised: particularly near road junctions making it difficult to see oncoming traffic: agreed to make a note in the next newsletter regarding considerate parking.

13.4 A resident attending suggested reaffirming in the next newsletter who OPC councillor were and reminding resident of the OPC website on Hugo Fox.

14.Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 26th March 6.30pm , Village Hall.

Appendix 2: Precept

[illegible]

Ovington Parish Council

Precept Requirement for 2024 to 2025

In the tax year 2023/2024 the precept was £2360

Forecast costs for 2024 to 2025

Hire of Village Hall for Council Meetings	40
Grass Cutting 12 cuts @130	1560
Insurance	300
CDLAC Subscription	40
Hugo Fox web site	120
Christmas Tree	200
Flower Tub Maintenance	100
Miscellaneous	100

2460

This will be an increase of £100 on the 2023 /2024 figure which equates to 4.2%

Our existing reserves are as follows

Forecast cash in current account at end of March 2024	800
Amount in savings account	3370
Interest due	50
Vat refund due	500
	4720

Reserves are required for the following

- Possible future clerk fees
- Maintenance of Maypole
- Maintenance of village trees
- Maintenance of road near Maypole cottage