

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 April 2010 at 7.15 in the Reading Room

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, P Holden, P Macdonald, V Mennear, Councillor P Kelly (NCC) and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor J Jackson
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read approved and signed as a true record.

A power point demonstration was given by the Fire and Rescue Service

4. Matters Arising

Shrubs and Branches in the Churchyard.

Adrian Jackson has cut back some foliage. The clerk had written to NCC that this had only been done by the Parish Council as a Health and Safety issue and NCC must take the responsibility of care of the Churchyard.

Paving Stones Bewick Lane

Notification had been received that the paving stones had been reported as faulty

Rubbish Clearing

Rubbish had been tipped behind the fence on the land behind Irving Place. This has been reported to Milecastle Housing who were dealing with it.

5 Play Equipment Refurbishment and Development Project

Councillor Holden has drawn up the final specifications and had met with Playdale, who may not be interested as they were more concerned with the sale of equipment. He had attended a meeting at Morpeth and was able to report that progress was on target. Playbuilder require confirmation that the Parish Council has planning approval, but there is doubt as to whether a planning application is needed. To find out whether it was needed will cost £100. The Council gave their approval to this expenditure if it was required and Councillor Kelly will find out from Planning whether this would be treated as a development project.

6. Approval to pay was given to the following

Sologen £206.30 for the moving of the interactive lighting

Ovingham Joint Burial Committee £2,250 Precept

The Chairman pointed out that Trevor Bell had not submitted a bill for the repair of the iron fencing at the war memorial. The clerk to write a letter of thanks.

7. Risk Assessment.

Councillor Macondald proposed and Councillor Mennear seconded that the risk assessment remain unchanged. This was carried unanimously.

8. Audit

The full documentation has been received and this year Ovingham Parish Council has been selected for a 5% internal audit.

9. Tenancy Agreements

Letters have been written but so far only A Armstrong had responded. He has signed the new agreement and paid his rent for next year

8. Donations

Councillor Macdonald proposed and Councillor Mennear seconded that £100 be donated to The Great North Ambulance. This was unanimously agreed. Other requests would be held and considered at a later date.

9. Annual Meeting

The end of year accounts were distributed and will be approved at the Annual Meeting on 27 May. The Meeting gave their consent for the clerk to put the notice in the Hexham Courant

10. Insurance

The documents have been received and were accepted by the Council. The increased fidelity guarantee has been applied for but was not included in these documents.

10. Correspondence

David Archer had written a letter to Northumbrian Water, copied to the Council asking that the Wylam Pumping Station be repaired and conserved, if possible as a museum. The Council supported this and the clerk will write to Mr Archer.

Ovingham Methodist Church. A letter has been received from the Minister who said that no plans have as yet been made for the building

Correspondence has been received concerning Parish Council Training. This had been circulated to all councillors but there was nobody able to take up the offer of training

“Meet the Funders” at Morpeth on 5 May. Councillors were unable to attend.

11. Council Tax

The clerk reported that the discretionary charitable relief had been removed and the ratable value of the field had been increased by 37%. The clerk was asked to write a letter of protest

12. Committee Reports

Burial Committee

The North perimeter fence has now been finished. The boiler at the lodge may have to be replaced. The Superintendent’s contract is to be reviewed. Some thought is to be given to the provision of flowering shrubs and suggestions are awaited.

Reading Room

A new tent for the goose fair had been purchased. A folk group were providing entertainment on 27 April and the film club will be held on 26 April.

A heating survey is being carried out and following that a public meeting will be held.

Leaflets had been distributed for the Show which will be held 2nd week of September

Councillor Kelly reported that NCC had won five national awards. He gave a detailed report on restructuring of senior staff from the Chief Executive downwards. Many staff would be taking advantage of good redundancy agreements and it is hoped that half a million pounds will be saved. Councillor Kelly reported that the transport budget had been increased from eighteen million pounds to 21 million. The road from Wylam to Ovingham is to have some repairs and a new treatment for potholes, which had been experimentally used in the North of the County will be used. This was more expensive but should last longer. It is hoped to make some improvements to the bends on the road. He had missed the meeting concerning the community chest on 1st April and ?12,000 has already been allocated to the West of the County, so he advised any organization requiring additional funding should apply as soon as possible.

Councillor Kelly reported that an alliance may be formed between North Country Leisure and Blyth Valley Leisure to develop the house on the South end of Ovingham Bridge.

Any Other Business

A resident of Dene Garth had complained about the children playing on the greens at Dene Garth.

Councillor Macdonald pointed out that little could be done because it is the government’s policy that children should be allowed the freedom of all green places. They should have the same freedom as dog walkers etc. Councillor Holden said he would speak to Ian Lowry concerning the children of the

village and it is hoped that the situation will improve. The clerk will write to the Dog welfare officers and see if they can concentrate on stopping dogs fouling the recreation grounds. Councillor Jordon reported that there is one dog who is let out on the gardens to the front of the bungalows on Tyne Gardens.

Councillor Jordon asked that the clerk mention in the Parish Magazine that many people throughout the village are removing litter . They are to be named as Village Champions

It was reported that somebody has been using a chain saw and chopping down trees near Jordan's Well. The clerk to write to John Alderson asking that he investigate

The clerk to write to Dave Coul asking that the lampposts on Tyne Gardens and also those from Welburn Court down to Burnside be repainted.

The mower which is being repaired is due back this week

Mr Ed Clegg from Green Ovingham reported that the organisation is meeting regularly. The carbon footprint survey is being carried out by Newcastle University across the village and a garden share scheme is being introduced and leaflets will be distributed. The Group will be active at the Goose Fair, hoping to have pond dipping and junk sculpture. There will also be a stall giving energy saving ideas.

Mr Heppell reported that the noise and speed on Ovingham Bridge is extreme and the clerk was asked to request an inspection.

Councillor Macdonald had attended a meeting with SCA and reported that they were working hard to improve their impact in the community. SCA are recognized as a good worldwide company and want to improve their image. They have plans to upgrade Prudhoe station.

Councillor Jordon wished to record how quick was the service received during the recent flooding. After reporting the flooding at the Packhorse Bridge they had been on site within half an hour. It was also reported that the village gulleys had been swept.

The next meeting will be at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday 27 May and will contain the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1ST MARCH – 31ST MARCH 2010

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	
Reading Room – Rent February	15.00	
SLCC Membership	72.00	
Northumberland Estate – Rent	250.00	
G Harper – Expenses	35.45	
Salary	503.00	
P Holden – Pavilion Heater	21.14	
P Holden – Brooms for Pavilion	11.98	
Reading Room – Rent for March	15.00	
Northumbrian Water Rates	21.67	
		<hr/> 945.24
<u>INCOME</u>		
OYI – Reimbursing TV Licence	142.50	
Toddlers’ Group – Rent Jan/March	18.00	
A Armstrong Rent 2010/11		55.00
		<hr/> 215.50
Opening Balance	23,500.10	
Expenditure		945.24
Income		215.50
Closing Balance	22,770.36	
Deposit Account	14,956.29	
Grand Total		37,726.65

VAT to be claimed this month £4.93

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st APRIL 2009 – 31 MARCH 2010

EXPENDITURE

£

General Administration	2,362.59
Clerk's Salary	2,020.00
OPFA	2,709.30
Grants	1,325.00
Environmental Project	164.73
Grass Cutting	949.98
Village Maintenance	348.99
Village Improvements	525.00
Burial Committee	2,250.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	423.18

13,078.77

INCOME

Rents	245.00
Precept	15,000.00
OPFA	1,238.00
Wayleave	44.31
VAT Refund	1,859.74

18,387.05

Brought forward from 2008/9	£17,462.08
Expenditure	13,078.77
Income	18,387.05
Balance at Bank Current Account	22,770.36
Balance at Deposit Account (Interest for 2009 ?11.96)	14,956.29
Total	£37,726.65 =====