

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 April 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, V Mennear, P Holden, P Macdonald, I. Heslop,
R Benjamin and J Jackson, Councillor Kelly (NCC) and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies None
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and accepted and signed
- 4.. Matters Arising
Grazing Land .

The Allotment Association had paid their rent until April 2012 and Mr J Hooley had paid his increased rent for the year 2011/12.

Fencing at village approach

The clerk had received a letter from Paul Turnbull who said that NCC saw no reason for the fencing to be there as it was no longer a barrier to the banking. The clerk to write to NCC asking that they remove the fencing if it serves no useful purpose.

Postbox

Bob Klotz had been in touch with the Bellingham Museum who would like to have the box for their museum. The clerk to contact Mr Klotz.

Clerk Vacancy

The position will be filled by Mrs Margaret Davenport

Blocked Gutter

NCC have not replied to the Clerk's letter

Pot Holes Horsley Road

No progress

Subsidence Castle View

NCC have not replied to the Clerk's letter

Mole Clearance

The moles had gone from the packhorse green but Councillor Holden was not certain whether those on the playing field had been treated.

Notice Boards

The clerk had asked for two estimates but had received no reply

5. Playbuilder

The grants have all, except NCC developers fund for £8,328, been received and the last invoice to Northumbrian Landscaping for £18,470.48 was approved for payment. Councillor Holden was arranging the opening of the field for 21 May. All the emergency organizations had been informed and a marquee had been loaned for the afternoon where various groups would be entertaining visitors. RoSPA had inspected the site and agreed that the site was a low risk. Councillor Jackson said that a Temporary Events Notice would be required for £21. She agreed to pass this to Councillor Holden..

6. Donations

A request for a donation had been received from Community Action Northumberland. It was proposed by Councillor Macdonald and seconded by Councillor Mennear that £100 be donated. This was carried by four votes with 2 abstentions.

7. Village Plan

Councillor Jordon had received three suggestions for the village plan, two of which were concerned with recycling and one with speeding. When selecting the questions to be asked she had compared the procedures carried out by Wylam, Bywell and Corbridge. She will continue with the questionnaire and when completed will pass it to Councillor Jackson and then to the rest of the Council for their comments. The plan will be reduced to 20 questions and then circulated to residents for their comments.

9. Planning Applications

An appeal against NCC's planning refusal has been made by Mr Stewart, Greengates Horsley Road..

10. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval was given to pay the following accounts:

P Holden oil, diesel and petrol £39.61

NCC Overpayment of VAT - £21.59

NCC Rates for Pavilion - £117.15

Reading Room Rent May

Npower electricity for pavilion - £85.48

11. Flooding Reports

The clerk had written to Northumberland Estates requesting information on their field maintenance, clearing of culverts etc. on the fields to Piper Lane. She had received a reply that the matter was being looked into.

13. Correspondence.

The collection of bins is to be changed. At the moment our area was not included but would be later in the year.

A meeting is to be held 16 May concerning affordable housing.

A letter had been received from Mr Good thanking the Council for providing the extra land for allotments and thanking Councillor Jordon for her hard work.

The Northumberland magazine is to be discontinued for general distribution. Some hard copies will be placed in libraries and information can be found on the web site.

14. Committee Reports

Councillor Kelly gave a report on the money which has been donated over the past two years for small schemes, which included lighting in the Community Hall at Horsley, road marking and in Wylam the roundabout by the war memorial had been remodeled and a toilet refurbished at Horsley. He reported that there was £90,000 open for bids.

There was to be a meeting the following day dealing with equal pay and bonus payments. 6,000 women are involved in the dispute which could mean many jobs may be lost.

Some schools are applying very quickly to be changed to academies, which could mean that schools who are still Council funded may be left behind.

Councillor Kelly reported that there was an outbreak of crime in Wylam and on the Piper Road estate. He asked that it be reported in the magazine and people asked to take great care with possessions left in cars.

Councillor Jordon reported that the crack on the lintel in the Blakett Room was to be repaired at a cost of £1,200. Funding for the heating was proceeding with a raffle, where 1000 tickets had already been sold. There was to be an event in the reading room on the following Saturday with a variety of stalls.

Councillor Benjamin reported on the East Tynedale Forum which will no longer receive funding from NCC. However, there was enough funding remaining to let them continue for another two years. He reported that Jeff Reid will visit all parish councils to gain information from them. It was thought that some smaller councils may meet together with him.

Wittingstall campaign against open cast mining is still proceeding and discussion had taken place

regarding participation in the Olympic Games. There has been discussion regarding group buying of gas etc

15. Green Ovingham

Debbie Reed suggested that for the Village Plan, Melanie Hall who was a member of the Community Action Committee could come and talk, either to the Parish Council, or a larger village event and give ideas of how the Village Plan could be helped. Debbie Reed thought that the village plan should be much more people involved. Councillors Jordon and Jackson thought that it would be preferable to carry on with the questions for the village plan as scheduled and should continue in the same format as other villages. Councillor Jordon did not think that the Big Society was appropriate and the Parish Council would be able to do what is required. Green Ovingham were very interested in the provision of better recycling but it was pointed out that the Council have tried to find places before and had suggested that recycling could take place at the Riverside Park but their suggestion had not been taken up.

Green Ovingham requested that reduced speed measures be provided on the Piper Road Estate. It was pointed out that this had been suggested by the Council on several occasions but had not been approved by the residents. Councillor Kelly reported that several pilot schemes were being undertaken at the moment. When these are finished and results available it would be possible to see how they could be used in Ovingham. Councillor Macdonald would like the speed signs coming from Wylam into the village to be moved back.

Any Other Business

Councillor Benjamin reported that the litter bin at the entrance to Riverside View had still not been replaced. The clerk to write to NCC

The next meeting will be at 7.15 on Thursday 14th May 2011 in the Reading Room This will also be the Annual General Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE APRIL 2011

EXPENDITURE

D Jordon - Environmental Project	58.30
NCC - Council Tax Pavilion	117.15
Npower - Pavilion electricity	85.48
NCC - Repayment of incorrect deposit	21.59
Reading Room - Rent March	15.00
P Holden - Diesel	39.61
Northumbrian Landscaping	10,000.00
Reading Room - Rent (2 meetings)	<u>30.00</u>

£10,367.1

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INCOME

Syntax Football Association	325.00
OYI - Refund television License	145.50
Allotment Association - Rent and fencing	300.00
J Hooley - Rent	100.00
OPFUG - donation to Playmaster	700.00
Precept	<u>7,500.00</u>

£9,070.50

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Opening Balance	15,237.01
Expenditure	10,367.13
Income	9,070.50
Closing Balance	13,940.38
Deposit Account	14,968.21
Grand Total	<u>£28,9085.59</u>

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VAT to be reclaimed this month £18.88