

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 April 2009 at 7.15 p.m in the Reading Room.

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, P Macdonald, P Holden, J Jackson, V Mennear, M Morton, Councillor P Kelly (NCC), one member of the press and one member of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor R Benjamin
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read with two amendments and signed.

Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

It was agreed that the light would be moved to the Horsley Road pole

Foliage at Bridge End The clerk had received a letter from Mel Richardson who has arranged for the foliage to be cut back but because of the nesting season only to improve the visibility on the entrance. The clerk to write requesting as much as possible be cut back and as soon as possible.

Double Yellow Lines

Councillor Kelly had informed the clerk of the proposals for the addition of double lines from 42m to 35m. This was approved by the Council.

Village Map

Councillor Holden produced the finished village map and photographs as a full size print. He was thanked by the Council for the excellent work he had carried out. He will arrange for the map to be laminated and put on the board. Councillor Jackson asked if copies could be produced in time for the Goose Fair.

Tenancy Agreements

Copies of these had been circulated for Councillors' comments. The agreements for the Parish Gardens needed no amendments. However, because one tenant was allowing hens to be kept on his leased field concern was expressed. It was thought that a clause in the agreement limiting the keeping of hens to 20 could be allowed providing they belonged to the lessee. Councillor Kelly pointed out that the restrictions on the keeping of animals could have been made in an effort to prevent cross contamination. The clerk was asked to write to David Francis requesting guidance for more up to date agreements.

5. Village Action Plan 2008/9.

Councillor Jordon had met with Ian Brown of Home Housing who promised that the cutting back of the hedges would be carried out within 2 weeks. Bewick Lane had been swept and the contractor had cut back some of the hedgerow and some litter had been removed. However, the area was still covered with rubbish and Home Housing were to write to residents requesting they remove their rubbish. Council Jordon will watch the situation

The road cleaners had been in the village and amongst other areas had cleaned Bewick Lane and the road at the back of the Church. Councillor Holden reported that the stretch of Main Road past The White Swan had not been cleaned. The clerk to write to report this.

It appeared that the ivy had been treated and died but was still in place. The clerk to ask if it can be removed.

6. Allotment Association Request

The Allotment Association was happy with the Council's decision not to allow greenhouses.

Councillor Jordon had noticed a lot of waste wood lying around but this has been removed. There had been a misunderstanding concerning the cutting back of the hedge. The Allotment Association had only contacted the Council for permission to cut back the hedge. This will now have to wait until the Autumn

7. Ovingham/Wylam Road – Proposed Safety Barrier

The clerk had received correspondence from Alan Bawn with copies from Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police, listing accidents which had occurred on the Wylam/Ovingham Road and requesting that the safety barriers be lengthened. This request had been received some time back and the Council, as had Wylam, objected to the proposals because it made it more dangerous for pedestrians. The clerk to write to Alan Bawn stressing that the footpath should not be shortened. They had no objections to the safety barriers providing that the footpath is maintained at its present width. They requested that a study should be made of the footpaths from the pumping station and footpaths be put in place wherever possible.

8. Donations

The decision to donate £1,000 to Ovingham Reading Room to help with their roofing repairs was proposed by Councillor Mennear, Seconded by Councillor Macdonald and agreed.

9. Planning

Councillor Kelly outlined the new procedure for the submission of planning details. These would, in future, be submitted by Northumberland, through County Councillors who would, if they followed the necessary criteria then send them by e-mail to the Parish Clerks. Councils would be able to object.

10. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval to pay was given to:

R Scott – Rolling football pitch £30.00

P Holden – Diesel and grease cartridge £17.67

TV License - £139.50 (reimbursed by OYI)

Reading Room – Rent March £15.00

P Holden for D Dixon – Mower Repair £22.08

D Dixon – call out for mower repair £97.80

11. The Audit

The documents had been received and Mr Hepple had agreed to carry out the internal audit. It was agreed to pay him £50.

12. Insurance

Aon Village Hall Scheme – Insurance for the pavilion £866.89 (last year £824.65)

Allianz – Council Insurance £927.34 (last year £849.40)

13. Committee Reports

Councillor Jordon reported that the Reading Room boiler had been inspected and was considered safe for a few more years. The roofing repairs for £3,500 will be done. Users had been requested they make sure that all lighting and heating be turned off when leaving. Part of the kitchen doors had been damaged and required a repair of £150.

Councillor Kelly had met with two Prudhoe Councillors regarding speed limits on the Prudhoe By-Pass. The speed limits would have fitted in with national criteria but nothing was done because SCA objected. There had been pressure from Prudhoe residents that the speed limits should be enhanced and Alan Bawn is to check.

Councillor Kelly gave an account of how the Boundary Commission had arrived at their grouping for the new boundaries. There are 67 councillors in Northumberland and there will be no alteration for 4 years. There is an electoral register which works out at 3,799 electors per councillor. Prudhoe North and East have been worked out but there were problems with Prudhoe West which will now include Ovingham and Ovington. The decision had been arrived at on purely numerical grounds and no thought seems to have been given to natural boundaries (The Tyne) or community identity. The clerk to write

to The Chief Executive of Northumberland stressing strong objections to this decision. And also objecting to the short time allowed for any comments – objections have to be made by 1st May. Councillor Holden reported that there had been objections from the public on the language expressed by some footballers. Councillor Holden will draft a letter for the clerk.

14. Any Other Business

At the commencement of the meeting Councillor Jordon requested that draft minutes be circulated before the meeting in order that errors could be corrected. Councillors thought that this could cause confusion and any mistakes could be corrected at the meeting.

The Chairman complained about the parking on the grass verges on Horsley Road which were churning up the grass. The clerk will write to Mel Richardson.

Complaints were again received concerning dog fouling and the clerk will write again to the Dog Wardens requesting they patrol the village.

There were several cases of graffiti throughout the village. Councillor Jackson will look into it.

There has been an average of 90 unique visitors each month to the web site.

The clerk gave some details of the training day she had attended.

The next meeting will be at 7.15 p.m. Thursday 21 May in the Reading Room and will include the Annual General Meeting at 8.00 p.m.

There being no further general business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. and followed by a private meeting of Councillors.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st-30th APRIL 2009

EXPENDITURE

Reading Room – Rent March	15.00
Tynedale Sports Council	25.00
Reading Room	1,000.00
David Dixon – Mower repair (transport)	22.08
David Dixon – Mower Repair	97.80

£1,159.88

INCOME

Precept	£7,500.00
Refund on TV Licence OYI	139.50

£7,639.50

Opening Balance	£17,462.08
Expenditure	1,159.88
Income	7,639.50

Closing Balance	£23,941.70
Deposit Account	14,944.33

Grand Total £37,886.03

VAT to be claimed this month 15,64