

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper  
Clerk

51 Piper Road  
Ovingham  
Northumberland  
NE42 6AZ

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 December 2007 at 7.30 p.m. at Rosemount (the home of Councillor Jordon)

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, M Morton, P Holden, V Mennear, R Benjamin, P Macdonald and Councillor P Kelly NCC and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor J Jackson
2. Declarations of interest, if any - None
3. Minutes of Last Meeting Having been circulated were agreed and signed.
4. Matters Arising

Forward Planning - Street Lighting The clerk had received a request from C Bolt for a date during January when he could meet with the Councillors. The Clerk will arrange a meeting for the end of January on either a Friday or Saturday..

Land Registration: Councillor Holden had no further information

Interactive Speed Signs Councillor Macdonald was in touch with Alan Bourne who was aware of our request for the lights. It was possible that the Safety Partnership will pay for maintenance

Village Web The Web site was progressing but Councillor Holden was not satisfied with the design. The meeting was urged to make the web site address known wherever possible.

War Memorial Railing The clerk had received an estimate for the work of £64. Plus VAT The meeting agreed to this quotation and asked if a lock could be placed on the rail to secure it.

Parking at Riverside The work was now completed and seemed to be satisfactory. The contractors will return in March/April to rotavate. They will then tidy up any outstanding work on the green. It was noted that the mesh covering will protect the grass seeds.

Fencing on land let to Mr Hooley The clerk had written but had received no reply

Dropped Kerb The clerk had been informed the work at Burnside Close would be carried out 2008/9

Belonging Communities Both Councillor Macdonald and D Jordon had attended meetings concerning the grouping of Belonging Communities. Councillor Macdonald reported that nothing definite was happening at the moment and it was unclear as to how reorganisation was going to proceed.

Councillor Kelly reported that it was government policy to devolve power to the lowest level of organisation but it was unclear whether parish councils would control the whole of the relevant budget. There seems to be concern that smaller rural areas will be controlled by the larger towns as small rural units have not got the resources to undertake services. Councillor Kelly thought that each Belonging Community will have a regeneration officer for support. Nothing has been agreed at the moment and Councillor Macdonald thought it was necessary to watch and wait for final reorganisation..

Contract Procedure The clerk had prepared a contract procedure to be followed for the letting of all work costing more than £100. This was agreed by all Councillors

Graffiti The clerk had been unable to locate the graffiti in question but will look again and report to Milecastle Housing

Fencing Tyne Gardens The broken fencing at Tyne Gardens had been reported and will be repaired by Milecastle Housing

Irving Place Nameplate This has been ordered and will be put in place by Tynedale.

5. Precept The Budget for 2008/9 was discussed in detail and it was proposed and accepted unanimously to request a Precept of £15,000..

6. Parking at Horsley Road Councillor Kelly had received a complaint that a resident on The

Terrace had difficulty in exiting on to Horsley Road. The Councillors did not agree to the suggested hard surfacing of the area at the exit to provide parking. It was suggested that the double yellow lines be extended around the corner past this exit. Councillor Kelly agreed to deal with this.

7. Grant Request It was agreed to donate £50 to Age Concern

8. The following accounts were approved for payment:

Clerk - Salary and expenses	£489.52
P Holden - Diesel	5.66
Tynedale Council Parish Elections	271.50
Tynedale Council Emptying Dog Waste	293.97
Domain check - Statistics details Web Site	5.64

#### 9. Committee Report

Councillor Holden reported that the East End of the Recreation ground needed clearing of moles. The clerk to arrange

Councillor Holden reported that he had been having trouble with water pressure since Fast Flow had been working. The problem would be monitored.

Councillor Mennear reported that estimates were awaited for the provision of a new bathroom at The Lodge. Adrian Jackson had been granted the grass cutting contract for another year. Gravestones lying flat were to be re-erected.

Paul Kelly reported that Wylam Bridge is now open, three days ahead of schedule. Traffic flow will be monitored in the Spring. Ovingham Bridge will be refurbished in summer 2008 to a cost of £900,000. Wooden decking will be provided. The bridge will be no wider, but should be smoother.

Councillor Kelly reported that an application had been received from St Matthew's Roman Catholic School to become a primary school. There were other schools seeking Trust status.

#### 10. Any Other Business

Councillor Jordon reported on the amount of litter on the Castle View Back Lane. Councillor Macdonald has a bin he is willing to donate for litter.

Much discussion took place concerning various areas of tree cutting, principally the weeping willows on Piper Road. Councillor Macdonald had been advised that these willows could be a danger and it was advisable to cut them now. The Cedar Of Lebanon tree in the same area is also dangerous and will need action to save it.

Councillor Holden has arranged for the provision of signs to the entrance to the recreation ground.

The Clerk was asked to write to the White Swan requesting they make a permanent repair to the parking space wall.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 January at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room  
Councillor Jordon was thanked for her hospitality and there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30. p.m.