

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2010 at 7.15 in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, J Jackson, M Morton, V Mennear, P Holden,
P Macdonald, R Benjamin and P Kelly (NCC) and 4 members of the public

1. There were no apologies
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising

Interactive Lighting The lights are due to be moved week commencing 1st March. The clerk requested permission to move them every six months without further reference to the Council. This was agreed.

Wall Opposite School Paul Allen had received notice to remove the tree but to do so he had to apply for planning permission, which he would have to pay for. He was objecting. All was ready for the removal of the tree when this was agreed.

Trees North Meadow The clerk had received a letter from Mr Alderson, Tree and Woodland Officer agreeing that the trees in question were Council property but they did not need any work at the present time. The resident who had raised the problem was satisfied.

Overhanging hedges The clerk had written to the resident of 1 Castle View, requesting he cut back his conifer which was overhanging the pavement. An angry letter had been received. No reply would be made.

Litter Pick Arrangements had been made and the pick will start at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 27 February

Vandalism Councillor Macdonald reported that the palm at the entrance to Piper Road had been vandalized, but he had managed to stop the container being removed.

5. Shrubs and Branches in the Churchyard Councillor Jordon had been in contact with Paul Turnbull regarding the cutting back of overhanging branches in the churchyard. He was unable to carry out the work because there was not enough funding to pay for it and passed it to the Parish Council to do the work. It was agreed that Councillor Jordon would get a quotation from Adrian Jackson to do the work and if acceptable the work could be carried out. The Parish Council will write a letter to Paul Turnbull pointing out that Northumberland County Council have the total upkeep of closed churchyards and, therefore, this work was only carried out in this way as a health and safety measure and was not a precedent.

6. Playbuilder Fund Application and acceptance of lease Councillor Holden was congratulated on achieving funding of ?56,578 and prospective funding of a further 13,422, which totaled the ?70,000 required.

The following was proposed by Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Mennear and unanimously agreed.

Ovingham Parish Council agrees to accept the terms of the proposed new lease of Ovingham playing field, authorizes the execution of the lease by the chair and vice chair and completion of the lease and asks Councillor Holden to return the signed documents to Ovingham Parish Council's solicitors with

instructions to complete the lease on behalf of Ovingham Parish Council.

1.

7. Planning Applications

1 DeneGarth – First Floor Extension – no objections

18 Dene Close – Construct Front Porch – no objections, with the proviso the neighbours were in agreement and that the construction did not create parking problems

Construction timber chalet at The Hermitage – retrospective building approved.

8. Accounts to Pay – approval to pay:

Northumberland County Council – Grass cutting - ?1,116.23

Membership Renewal Society of Local Council Clerks - ?72.00

9. Rural Isolation

Correspondence had been received from East Tynedale Community Forum requesting data be collected concerning the availability of Broadband. The Council felt that this had been ambiguous and hard to give accurate information. It was presumed that everybody in Ovingham could, if desired, have access to Broadband.

10. Donations

Several requests had been received. As the approved funding for 2009/10 had been exceeded it was agreed to bring them to the next meeting, with a list of donations already made, and consider whether they should be held over to 2010/11

11. Correspondence

Request from Mrs Dougherty for an additional notice board. The Council considered this unnecessary as the notice board on Castle View was only a short distance away. Mrs Dougherty requested that a small group of trees be planted on the green on Windsor Crescent. It was pointed out that when the Council had tried once before to plant trees throughout the village they had been rejected and the plans had therefore been dropped

Mrs Lewis had submitted a letter with her ideas for clearing snow in future. She requested further bins for grit. The clerk will investigate. Mrs Lewis was concerned about the puddles on the lane behind Castle View. It was pointed out that this was unadopted and, therefore, she would need to approach the residents if she wanted to undertake work on the lane.

The paving stones at Bewick Lane were cracked and dangerous. It was pointed out that these have already been reported as dangerous.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy – this has been circulated to all Councillors

Letter from Mrs Petrie This letter followed telephone call last December where Mrs Petrie had been concerned because notices from Wylam had been removed and it appeared that this had happened for a second time. The clerk pointed out that she did her best to make sure that the notice boards were always tidy but never removed current notices unless there was no room for Parish Council notices. She asked that Councillors when passing kept a watch on the boards.

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Modernisation. A letter had been received which gave details of the consultative meetings which had been held. The clerk to write and see if a member would be willing to come to a Council Meeting to report on the new procedures.

Northumberland County Council - Grass Cutting It was agreed to accept the Quotations as set out in their letter dated 19 February

Two Letters from the Chairman of the Reading Room had been received. One letter set out the Reading Room's plans for a more economic, greener heating system. To achieve a grant for a new boiler would involve cavity wall insulation and double glazing of windows. A copy of her letter requesting Councillor Kelly's advice will be sent. Mrs Chalmers also sent a letter with a complete up

date of the preparations for the Goose Fair. The Council will endeavour to make sure the grass is cut before the goose fair. They were unable to help with the provision of barriers and cones but thought these could be obtained from either the police or the highways division of NCC

12. Committee Reports

Councillor Kelly gave a full report on how the budget had arrived at 2.8% for Council Tax. This increase had occurred because of the government's policy to provide free home care. Agreement for the new budget had been difficult and only arrived at when a coalition had been formed. The highways budget had been reduced and only smaller schemes would be carried out in 2010/2011. Councillor Kelly was pleased to report that there had been no reduction in the subsidy for the 684 bus service. There was a ?300,00 reduction for voluntary services with Tynedale and Ponteland receiving ?90,000. A saving of one million ?200,00 will be saved by recalculating council housing.

Reading Room Councillor Jordon reported that the Reading Room was going ahead with the audio system costing ?1,300, of which ?650 had been donated by the Womens' Institute. The ceildh had been a success and well attended. The film club will be 26 March and arrangements for the goose fair were going ahead with much support from the guides, scouts and cadets.

Further investigations are being carried out in relation to the new heating system for the Reading Room. A public meeting will be held in May to inform the village of their findings.

Any Other Business

The Green Group sent their apologies and a report on the Green Fair which had been a great success. They are to have a stall at the goose fair and their current project is the carbon footprint survey. The Fun Day planned for April has encountered difficulties with insurance.

It was reported that there was a lot of large rubbish being left at the top of Horsley Road and at the crossroads leading to Harlow Hill. Also some tipping had taken place at the entrance to Piper Road. Councillor Jackson agreed to arrange for the removal and the Clerk will also follow up with a list of rubbish needing removal.

There was still a lot of dog fouling and the clerk will write to the Animal Welfare Officer asking for his support in any way to alleviate the problem. Notices will be put up giving telephone numbers to report fouling. Also, perhaps some new stickers may help. However, it is up to individuals to report if they see fouling not being cleared.

The clerk to write to the White Swan requesting that a bin be placed conveniently for cigarette ends which are littering the pavement.

A request was made for the gutters to be cleared of dead leaves.

The clerk will write to houses on Horsley Road requesting they do not park on the grass verge as it churning it up.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18 March at 7.15 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
1st FEBRUARY – 28 FEBRUARY 1010

EXPENDITURE

	?
TV License	142.50
Reading Room Rent for January	15.00
Npower – Pavilion electricity	137.82
NCC – Grass cutting	1,116.23
	—————
	1,411.55

INCOME

NIL

Opening Balance	24,911.65
Expenditure	1,411.55
	—————
Closing Balance	23,500.10
Deposit Account	14,956.29
	—————
Grand Total	?38,456.39
VAT to be claimed this month	?591.06