

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 February 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 and P Kelly (NCC) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies None
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read with an amendment to line 6 of "Any Other Business" to read £15 million
4. Matters Arising

Grazing Land . Councillor Jordon had received a quote for fencing between the land to be rented by the Allotment Association and Mr Hooley at approximately £500. The Allotment Association had agreed to pay half. Councillor Macdonald proposed that the Council accept this quotation which was seconded by Councillor Mennear and carried unanimously. The Allotment Association would like to plough the field before the fencing was in place.

Fencing at village approach

Paul Turnbull had not reported back to the clerk. She will approach him again

Postbox

The Councillors were asked to come to the next meeting with suggestions as to where the box should be placed..

Gravel and the Burn

A large hole had been dug and the gravel had been taken away. The Parish Council were thanked for persisting on the work being carried out. The clerk will write to NCC thanking them for arranging for the work to be done and it was noted that even following heavy rain there had been no flooding.

Auditor

The clerk had approached one person but she had not been able to respond. It was suggested that Richard Gilbert be approached

Clerk Vacancy

There has been no response

Rights of Way

The clerk had contacted Tim Fish who knew of the erosion but was not certain whether there was anything which could be done. The gravel from the burn had been spread on the paths.

Blocked Gutter

The clerk had written to NCC but noted that there were many gutters blocked because of leaves not being removed. The clerk will write again to NCC

Tree Pruning

All the hedges at the bottom of Bewick Lane had been cut back but there still had been no response from Home Housing regarding the tree overhanging Horsley Road

5. Playbuilder

Work was on course. The pop in morning had been a success and details of the morning were circulated to all Councillors. The Middle School had been asked to plant bulbs, but this will now be left until after the half term holiday. Councillor Holden will be receiving help from Community Services, weekly with one person and a term monthly.

6. Grass cutting

The schedule was accepted

7. Village Plan

The last village plan had been carried out 6 years ago when 50 requests had been noted and then worked through. Councillor Jordon had collected the plans from other villages but these were all very large and it was not thought that they were suitable for Ovingham. Councillor Jordon will place a request on the notice boards as to which things should be contained within the questionnaire. Councillor Kelly reminded the Council that information regarding transport should be included. Councillor Jordon would like these requests received before April.

8. Donations

Several requests have been received and there is £200 remaining on the budget to distribute. Councillor Holden will bring to the next meeting a list of items which were needed for the pavilion. Councillor Macdonald pointed out that now central government were cutting back on finance to charities the Council were likely to receive many more requests and it would not be possible for the Parish Council to fill the gap in charity funding.

9. Planning Applications

Forge House, Main Road. The Councillors inspected the plans and had no objections.

11. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval was given to pay the following accounts

Northumbrian Landscaping (final payment) £23,384

Reading Room – Rent January - £15

Robson Print – Flyers for the pavilion - £60

Npower – Electricity Pavilion - £132.93

Television license pavilion - £145.50

Adrian Jackson – fencing repair and churchyard work - £45

NCC Grass cutting - £1036.18

12. Correspondence

Copy Letter from K Rusby to Mr McQueen FCERM Team. There had been no mention in the flooding report on the floods at Piper Road

Correspondence had been received from Adrian Hinchcliffe, Chairman East Tynedale Community Forum to the Head of Planning regarding the planning application for opencast mining at Hoodsclose, Whittonstall. Ovingham Parish Council had also written to state their objection..

13. Committee Reports

Councillor Jordon reported that 120 applications have been sent out for the goose Fair and this year there will be family entrance charge.

There had been much variance in the estimates for the heating system, ranging from £6,500 to £21,000 £10,000 has been estimated for new windows and £10,000 for insulation. The Committee had applied for funding from the lottery, from Northern Rock and the Community Chest.

Councillor Kelly gave more details of savings which NCC would be making. The County Music Service will be cut back which meant cuts to arts and leisure. The Music Teacher's position would be cut and there had been many complaints. The Council were withdrawing the facility to charities of placing their waste on their land. Support is to be withdrawn for 14-16 year olds who live within 3 miles of the High School and used the bus service. 47 children would be affected which will mean an additional £1 a day

He reminded the Council that there was still some money left in the Community Chest to be applied for.

The Local Transport Plan has been agreed which shows that Ovingham is 34th on the list for Phase II to widen the road between Ovingham and Ovington.

Councillor Macdonald queried why when cuts were being made did the Executive Officers receive £175,00 in salary. The Council asked how this salary was arrived at and who agreed it. Councillor Kelly gave the explanation of the scale being compared with other councils by an appointments panel, together with advisor and a recruitment agency.

Councillor Benjamin had not been able to attend the last forum meeting but believed it had mainly discussed the opencast mining and windfarm.

14. Green Ovingham

Debbie Reed who attended the meeting said that Green Ovingham would be glad to help with the village plan and would submit ideas to Councillor Jordon. The open meeting was to be held 20 March at 1.00 p.m. Information about the meeting would be on leaflets. There would be many ways that the village could work together to become more ecologically efficient.

15. Any Other Business

The clerk to write to Highways to report the large potholes on Horsley Road.

The Clerk has received a new quote for insurance

The clerk reported that the notice boards were in a bad state of repair

£10 had been sent to David Francis towards a gift (a watch) to mark his 25 years of Service

Dates of the next meetings: 17 March, 14th April and 12 May

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FEBRUARY 2011

EXPENDITURE

TV License	£145.50
Northumberland County Council Grass Cutting	£1036.18
Adrian Jackson - Fencing and Tree Pruning	45.00
Northumbrian Landscaping- Playbuilder	£18000.00
Reading Room - Rent February	<u>15.00</u>
	£19,241.68

INCOME

Football Fees	£ 325.00
Allotment Association	50.00
Prudhoe Youth (Ladies Football) Fees	<u>125.00</u>
	£500.00
Opening Balance	£34,970.64
Expenditure	19,241.68.
Income	500.00
Closing Balance	£16,228.96
Deposit Account	14,968.21
Grand Total	£31,197.17 =====
VAT to be reclaimed	£3,177.84