

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2010 at 7.15 in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, J Jackson, V Mennear, P Holden, P Macdonald
and P Kelly (NCC) and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillors R Benjamin and M Morton
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The trees obscuring the pole for the proposed repositioning of the interactive light had been pruned. The clerk to write to Solagen to request the light be moved from Horsley Road to Castle View Councillor Holden had written in answer to Jenny Stewart's adverse comments on the position on Castle View

Councillor Holden proposed that monitoring equipment be purchased to give information as to the number and speed of traffic. This was discussed but the Council was not in favour of the purchase. Councillor Kelly reported that interactive lighting at Horsley had decreased speeding from 85% to 15%.

Wall opposite school The clerk had been informed that a Notice had been sent to the owner of the land. However, Councillor Jackson reported that no letter had been received and Adrian Jackson, together with the owner were in process of removing the tree.

5. Village Maintenance/Parish Plan

Trees North Meadow No work has yet been carried out. The clerk to contact NCC to point out to NCC which were the trees which needed pruning.

Overhanging Hedges on Castle View near Model Cottage. The clerk to write to request the hedges be cut back. It was noted that the hedges at 36 Castle View had still not been cut back

Telephone Box Repainting had been requested twice but no work had been carried out

Litter Pick Councillor Jordon is arranging

Extra Litter Bin Bewick Lane The clerk to check whether this had been supplied

6. Playbuilder Fund Application

The application for funding had been placed in time. The Middle School had provided new schemes which will increase the application by ?5,000 to ?50,000

A decision is expected in February, following the first meeting of the developers 27 January. Copies of the plans and costings are available to see. Councillor Macdonald to make enquiries regarding planning permission. Councillor Holden had no further news on leases.

7. Donations

Agreed ?100 should be sent to Community Action

8. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Mr Rusby requesting he see a copy of the Faber Maunsell report. Councillor Macdonald had obtained the copy but stressed it must be returned to the Council.

The copy of the Flash Flooding had not been received by the Council. The clerk will endeavour to trace the requested information.

Invitation for the Royal Garden Party . The Chairman will apply

Email from Haydon Parish Council forwarding a reply from NCC which stated there is no legal requirement for Parishes to take on any of the services referred to in the Charter. 1.

Northumberland News is now available on the Council's Website

Statistics regarding grass cutting had been received from East Tynedale Community Forum
Weather Update dated 14 January – this gave information on the weather crisis.

9. Committee Reports

Councillor Kelly reported that the meeting for all members will be held Tuesday 29 January where A feedback of policies will be discussed concerning the recent cold spell. He reported on the gritting and salting of the main trunk roads (A1, A68 and A69) which had meant that it had not been possible to keep clear the minor roads. He reported that for 27 days there had been continuous gritting. The Chairman pointed out that because the minor exit roads from the village had been blocked it had not been possible to access the main roads. Councillor Kelly told of how all the Services had been put into use, the fire service had used 4x4s to assist the isolated and the refuse collectors had cleared the pavements in Hexham. The Council were satisfied that all that could be done had been and the clerk was asked to write to The Hexham Courant in praise of the bus drivers who had kept the local and the 684 bus running. Farmers had given their services voluntarily. It was disappointing to find how many of the grit bins intended for road use had been for used for private use.

It is hoped that the government will provide funding towards the extra costs of redundancy and equal pay costs. If funding is not received NCC will have to find ?29 million. Some early voluntary retirements are taking place which should make a ?1 million saving. The increase in Council Tax will be in the region of 2.8%

It was queried why traffic counters were in use on the Wylam/Ovingham Road. Councillor Kelly did not know the reason.

Councillor Jackson informed the meeting that she had resigned as the organizer of the goose fair and also as the Reading Room booking secretary. She was thanked by the Chairman for the efficient way she had always dealt with Council bookings.

10. Any Other Business

Councillor Jordon asked that the precept decisions be brought forward to November. This was agreed.

Councillor Holden requested a complete overhaul of the mower, costing ?340 and to consider whether the cutters should be replaced for ?370. Councillor Macdonald proposed that this estimate be accepted and it was approved unanimously.

Councillor Holden had used a fan heater in the pavilion during the very cold period but considered a 1k watt heater with frost setting should be purchased for approximately ?50. The purchase was proposed by Councillor Jackson and approved unanimously.

Green Ovingham reported on a Green Fair to be held at the Middle School on 10th February from 5.30-7.30 p.m. Councillor Holden will give a presentation of the playing field. Debbie Reed requested that Green Ovingham should always be on the agenda. It was agreed that this would appear under "Any Other Business"

Mrs Archer asked that the public be made aware that it is illegal to obstruct the pavements with litter bins. It was pointed out that after collection the refuse collectors themselves do leave the bins on the pavements. The clerk will put a piece in her report for the Church Magazine.

The clerk will write to Marion Lewis thanking her for clearing so much snow away in danger spots. The clerk will write to the new Booking Secretary for the Reading Room to check on all the Parish Council Bookings.

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

2F.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
1st-31st JANUARY 2010

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
St Mary.sChurch Ovingham – Magazine	100.00
Green Ovingham – Donation	50.00
NCC – Empty Dog Waste	314.18
Community Action Northumberland	100.00
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	564.18
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 <u>INCOME</u>	
Allotment Association – Rent 2010-2011	50.00
 Opening Balance	25,425.83
Expenditure	564.18
Income	50.00
 Closing Balance	24,911.65
Deposit Account	14,956.29
 Grand Total	39,867.94
 VAT to be claimed this month	40.98