

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2009 at 7.00 p.m in the Reading Room.
Present Councillors P Macdonald (Chair), D Jordan, P Holden, J Jackson and R Benjamin
Councillor P Kelly (NCC), 15 members of the public, PC Charlie Cross and a reporter from Hexham Courant

1. Apologies were received from Councillors M Turnbull, V Mennear and M Morton

The meeting was opened to the public and Councillor Macdonald introduced Ian Hodge from the Environmental Agency and Ian Douglas, Director of Environmental Services Tynedale. Mr Hodge commenced by outlining his area of responsibility and described the classification of rivers as either main (such as the River Tyne) or ordinary water courses, such as Whittle Burn, over which neither he nor other agencies have any jurisdiction. He explained that extreme weather conditions had caused the severe flooding of September 2008 and said that floods such as these were repeated all over the country and were likely to be repeated. There was little that the Environmental Agency could do at the present time, though the law is to be changed. He talked on the differing reasons for the various problems which Ovingham had experienced – Piper Road where the flooding was caused by water draining off the fields, Horsley Road where the culverts ran under the houses and Whittle Dean where the two streams had met and overflowed. He then took questions from the floor:

- (i) Was data useful for the agency? Mr Hodge affirmed that any information passed to the Agency was useful.
- (ii) Mr Rusby thought planners should take account of areas of flooding when considering planning Mr Hodge responded that the law only takes into consideration main rivers, not surface water.
- (iii) On Dene Close there was a blocked culvert where the two streams meet. The responsibility lies with the land owner and he cannot be forced to enlarge the channel but it is his responsibility to clean the land. If anybody knows of a blockage they should report to Tynedale and culvert clearance can be enforced.
- (iv) Regular cleaning of drains must be carried out but there is only provision for this to be carried out once a year. Blocked drains should be reported and it is hoped cleared as soon as possible. Financial restrictions make this difficult. In a flood situation the drainage system just cannot cope.
- (v) Mr Klotz asked whether Whittle Dean would be classified as a main river. This was unlikely Mr Douglas concluded by repeating the fact that flooding would be likely to happen again and that it was the responsibility of every householder to make provisions to prevent their property from damage, in much the same way as double glazing and central heating was provided. He also pointed out that flood water was potentially contaminated and it was important to take care that everything to do with flood water is cleaned thoroughly.

Mr Hodge concluded by thanking the Council for the opportunity of coming to Ovingham, where he had learned of some additional problems. Because some of the flooding had been caused by the back-up of the River Tyne a study has been set in place and consulting engineers are to look into the flood areas and advise on the options. Their report should be available in April/March and he would be willing to come to Ovingham again to present their findings.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hodge and Mr Douglas for attending the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest – None

1.

3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The lighting was in place, the first sign being opposite the Middle School. There was some concern that in some places the trees may stop the lights working efficiently..

Land Registry

The Documentation has been completed and Ian Selby has checked and confirmed that Tentergarth belongs to the Council. Councillor Holden suggested that the County Archivist should look at the documents and conveyances be put in the bank deposit.. Councillor Holden was thanked for all his work in completing this land registration.

Cycling signs on Bridge

The signs have not been received and the clerk will find out how much longer they will be. It was important that they clearly stated which bridge cyclists should use.

Pavilion Repair

The ceilings have been completed and the insurance company have agreed to pay the replacement cost of the carpet. Together with money donated after the pavilion completion the carpet will be replaced by linoleum. Councillor Holden will find out whether the insurers will pay the remainder of the claim, or whether the Council will pay and wait reimbursement..

Churchyard Wall

Councillor Kelly had received confirmation that there is considerable subsidence over a 10 m length of wall which appears to be caused by a void. It is not known what is causing this, though there were several possible causes. The wall has been fenced off and traffic lights are in place.

Freedom of Information Act

Councillor Benjamin and the clerk will meet to discuss how best to put the necessary information on the web site.

Foliage at Bridge End The clerk had written to Mel Richardson for advice.

Register of Members' Interests

These have now all been passed to Tynedale

Double Yellow Lines

Councillor Kelly having left the meeting was not available to discuss this item

Village Map

Councillor Holden will try to contact Maria Armstrong for a copy of the map. The original map may still be in existence. Councillor Holden was willing to refurbish a good quality notice board.

Councillor Jordon requested that a good quality board be purchased.

5. Village Action Plan 2008/9.

Tyne Valley Woodlands Agency quotation had been accepted but the work has not yet been done.

9. Accounts to Pay/Paid

PCC of St Mary the Virgin Ovingham – contribution to publishing	£100
Bug Off Pest Control – Moles on Recreation field	£44.
Ovingham Reading Room – Rent for November	£15.
Northumberland County Council - Provision of light	£1,292.50
Tynedale Council – Additional grass cutting	£539.35

10. Donations

£50 to Age Concern agreed.

11. Planning Applications

18 Dene Close – Construction of Porch – agreed with reservations

38 Castle View - 2 storey extension – in circulation

The Council had reservations concerning the building on Horsley Road. The clerk had been in contact

with Planning Department who were keeping a watch on the building. The latest plans had been received and Councillor Benjamin agreed to look them through and then pass them to Councillor Turnbull.

12.. Correspondence

Councillor Holden had received a letter from Sue Parker raising several issues. The clerk to write inviting her to attend the next Parish Council Meeting when any concerns she has could be discussed.

13. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden had reported that the mower needed a complete overhaul but was having problems finding a firm to do it. Councillor Macdonald will endeavour to contact Hexham Power.

Councillor Benjamin had attended the Forum meeting where the meeting had contained a debate on belonging communities and the general feeling was that the word "belonging" should be dropped. It was hoped to concentrate more on services rather than with whom they are joined.

Councillor Macdonald had attended Tynedale District meeting where there had been much confusion as to whom would provide services in the future

Any Other Business

Councillor Jordon queried whether the letter had been sent to 36 Castle View concerning cutting back the front hedge. The clerk confirmed that this had been done.

Councillor Jordon stated there had been problems with parking on the double yellow lines when the school was busy during the Christmas period. PC Charlie Cross confirmed that cars had been told to move. Councillor Jordon had used the new e-mail for complaints and PC Cross reported that it was proving very efficient, though the address is to be changed to Bedlington.

Councillor Holden requested that new tenancy agreements be drawn up for all those who rent land from the Council

Date and Venue for the Next Meeting 12 February 2009 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30. p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

The February meeting was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. The accounts for February 2009 are appended below.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st-28th FEBRUARY 2009

EXPENDITURE

Npower – Electricity Pavilion	£236.36
OYI – Refund of skip hire (flooding pavilion)	60.01
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	£296.37

INCOME

Allotment Association – Rent 2009	50.00
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Opening Balance	16,342.48
Expenditure	296.37
Income	50.00
Closing Balance	<hr/>
	£16,096.11

Closing Balance	16,096.11
Deposit Account	14,944 .33

Grand Total	31,040.44
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VAT to be claimed this month £19.20