

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 January 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, V Mennear, P Holden, P Macdonald and P Kelly (NCC) and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from R Benjamin
2. The meeting commenced with Mr Ian Heslop signing his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signing the statutory register of Members Interests. as a co-opted Councillor to Ovingham Parish Council. He was welcomed by the Chairman, Councillor Margaret Turnbull
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read with an amendment to the last sentence to read "which will be offered to the schools to plant bulbs"
4. Matters Arising

Trees needing attention :

The clerk had been informed that there was a problem with the pruning of trees at the rear of Horsley Road/North Meadow. The land did not belong to Highways. The clerk to write to Home Housing, the original developer.

Playing Field Mower

Councillor Holden had received the new mower

Grazing Land Councillors Turnbull and Jordon had visited the land previously let to Angus Armstrong and had agreed that the East side strip to the field would be managed by the Allotments Association who would remove the sheds. The remainder of the field would be let to Mr John Hooley. The Allotment Association had agreed to fence the boundary. Final details of costing would be agreed at the beginning of the financial year. Green Ovingham members, who had wished to rent the field as part of their ecological plans left the meeting and Councillor Macdonald wished it minuted that he objected to the manner in which they left.

Fencing at village approach

Paul Turnbull will look at the fencing and inform the Clerk of his suggestion

Churchyard

The Church PCC whilst thanking the Council for their offer did not feel that Winter was the best time to lay gravel and thought that gravel laid too thickly was not suitable for church paths. They were in agreement to Councillor Jordon arranging for the pruning of some trees.

Postbox

No suggestions had been received as to where the best place for the post box.

Gravel and the Burn

The bridge inspector had reported that the gravel would clear when the next big surge of water occurred. However, even though the water in the burn had been very high the gravel had not moved. The clerk to write to the Bridge Inspector

Rubbish at Irving Place

Milecastle Housing had requested the rubbish be removed by NCC

Fence on Castle View

Councillor Jordon had met with a representative from Northumberland Estates who had agreed to replace the damaged fencing

Auditor

No progress

5. Playbuilder

Councillor holden reported that work was well under way and on target to be completed by 31 March. A pop-in meeting has been rearranged for Saturday 22 January 2011

6. Finance and provision of local services

Councillor Kelly in his report gave details of the services which would now be undertaken by Councils. As Ovingham has already had responsibility for many services, these cut backs would not affect the Council much at this time.

7. Grass Cutting

David Hunt had written asking whether Ovingham would be interesting in 3 additional grass cuts for the price of ?610.95. The Councillors agreed on the proviso that if bad weather meant that these cuts could not be made, the council would not be charged. A plan for the grass cutting had been received but it did not show either the hill or the top of Horsley Road as being on the schedule. The clerk to write and point this out.

8. Vacancy Clerk

It was agreed that notices would be placed in the village advertising the vacancy . After discussion it was agreed to advertise the position as 5 hours a week.

9. Donations

As there were still many requests which needed more study it was agreed to leave these over to the next meeting. The Green Ovingham group had requested a donation of ?100 to assist in running costs. This was proposed by Councillor Macdonald and seconded by Councillor Holden. After a divided vote the Chairman cast her vote in favour of the proposal which was passed.

10. Planning Applications

4 The Hill refused permission

11. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval was given to pay the following accounts

Donation to Tynedale Hospice ?100

Reading Room rent November ?15

Nemac Design Playbuilder leaflets ?90

PL Holden Diesel and keys for pavilion ?20.92

Clerk Salary (September December) and expenses ?565.29

Northumbrian Landscaping ?23,642.48

NCC Emptying dog waste ?324.22

PCC St Mary the Virgin Ovingham magazine inserts ?100

D Jordon Telephone calls and village environmental project ?178.18

J R & P Tate Ransome mower ?1,680

Green Ovingham ?100

12. Correspondence

Most of the correspondence had previously been circulated to the Councillors and there had been no comments to the clerk.

13. Committee Reports

The Burial Board had met and a survey is to be carried out on the lodge which has electrical and damp problems. The grounds maintenance contract will be agreed with Adrian Jackson carrying on for a further year. ?3,000 will be spent on trees on the West side. The precept will be kept the same.

Councillor Kelly gave his report which dealt with the cut back and extra saving which will be required. Some parish councils have been subsidized by the District Councils in the past but this will not be continued, so they will have to take on extra responsibilities. A saving of ?110 ? million will have to be made over a 4 year period. ?60 million savings will have to come in the first year. However, grants being given will bring this down to ?45 million this year. Highways will make a ?1 million cut and ?15 million will remain to repair roads. There will be more decisions to be taken shortly. There will be many redundancies 200 of these being home helpers where the service will be provided by private services. There will be some voluntary redundancies and the remainder will be obligatory. Councillor Kelly repeated that the playbuilder funding will go ahead though there will be some changes in VAT

15. Green Ovingham

Representatives of Green Ovingham spoke firstly of their disappointment at not being considered in the reallocation of the grazing field which had become vacant. It was asked how in the future if some similar land became available, would they be able to apply. Councillor Holden thought that it was important that in future when any land became vacant it was advertised immediately.

It was pointed out that the two senior councilors, Margaret Turnbull (Chairman) and Councillor Jordon (Vice Chairman) had handled the Council decision correctly.

There is some land behind Irving Place and if this was suitable perhaps Milecastle may be willing for Green Ovingham to take it over. The clerk will send the details of the Milecastle contact to them.

There is to be a public meeting where Green Ovingham would be able to inform the village of their progress so far and their plans for the future.

Councillor Macdonald suggested that there may be many areas that Green Ovingham were investigating in which the Parish Council may have an interest and these could be brought forward to their meetings.

Any Other Business

Some time back Mrs Archer had requested the trees at the bottom of Bewick Lane be cut back. This had still not been done. Councillor Jordon has contacted Home Housing and she was informed the work would be done at the end of January. The clerk to contact Home Housing regarding the tree at the rear of the houses on Horsley Road (facing Bewick Lane).

Councillor Jordon asked that Village Plan be put on the February agenda

There are two sections of the right of way path which ran beside the burn to the river were eroding. It was not known who owned the land but the clerk will write to NCC

Councillor Turnbull requested the dog wardens check on the fouling of the footpaths the far side of the river

Councillor Jordon asked Green Ovingham arrange a litter pick

The drain outside The Terrace is blocked. The clerk to write.

Councillor Macondald had attended the West Area Meeting. He was disturbed that Western Area was never mentioned, though the SE and N were referred to 14 times. Fast broadband would be developed whilst youth work was taken away from the schools. He did not feel that we were getting the support we need from NCC. He would like to be informed of just how much it had cost the Council to run this year, bearing in mind that two people in charge of the meeting were earning ?300,000 at a time when it was being suggested that care provision was being cut back.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17 February at 7.15 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

JANUARY 2011

EXPENDITURE

Reading Room - Rent for January	£15.00
NCC - Emptying dog waste	324.22
G Harper - Salary and expenses	565.29
PCC - Parish Magazine	100.00
T & R P Tate - New mower	1,680.00
D Jordon - Environmental project and telephone expenses	178.18
Green Ovingham donation	100.00
Northumbrian Landscaping - Playbuilder	23,384.00
Robson Print - Flyers	60.00
Npower - electricity pavilion	<u>132.93</u>
	£26,539.62

INCOME

NCC Grant payment for Playbuilder	<u>21,000.00</u>
	£21,000.00

Opening Balance	40,510.26
Expenditure	26,539.62
Income	21,539.62

Closing Balance	£34,970.64
Deposit Account	14,968.21

Grand Total	£49,938.85 =====
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VAT to be reclaimed £4,452.27