

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 July 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, M Morton, J Jackson, V Mennear, R Benjamin, P Macdonald, P Holden, P Kelly (NCC) and 7 members of the public and in attendance
Mr J Harewood of Solagen Limited

1. There were no apologies

2. Declarations of interest – None

Annual General Meeting Ovingham Youth Initiative

Canon Nelson gave the Chairman's Report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The report showed a successful year for the Initiative and he thanked all those who have worked voluntarily and the Parish Council for their support. Councillor Turnbull thanked all those who contributed to this success and especially Councillor Holden who gave so much of his time.

Mr Ian Lowry gave a report of the year's activities and in particular the provision of a session for young people aged 7-11.

A copy of the Financial statement is attached to these minutes. Mr Tom Hepple was thanked for auditing the accounts. The Chairman and the Committee were all re-elected.

3. Interactive Speed Lighting

Mr James Harewood gave a presentation of his firm's interactive speed lighting. He gave an estimate of cost as £3,995. Northumberland County Council would be asked to supply three posts and Solagen would advise on their erection. The light would be rotated by Solagen between these posts at an approximate cost of £150 each time. The clerk will write to Solagen for a firm price and it would be hoped to approve the purchase at the September meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Lighting at Old School

The electricity has still not been connected

Land Registry

Councillor Holden had now found that the village green is definitely owned by the Duke of Northumberland and the Pant had been adopted by highways. There were some questions as to ownership of the gardens but it was likely that these did belong to the Parish Council. It looked as though the Packhorse Village Green would be registered to the Parish Council and also Jimmy Johnson's Park. There were still some questions which Councillor Holden needed to clarify.

Grass cutting Horsley Road

Some grass cutting had been undertaken by Adrian Jackson and some had been done by Tynedale. The clerk had received a letter from John Appleby, Northumberland but it was still not clear who was responsible for cutting the verges.

Painting Churchyard Gates

The Clerk had been given the assurance by Guy Whickham that these would be painted

Employment of Handyman

There was some confusion as to what tasks the employment of a handyman would be asked to do. It was decided that more thought should be given to this subject.

Bus Stops

It was considered that there was no clear bus stop signs at Prudhoe and the clerk should write to

Northumberland requesting that this should be clarified. The clerk had written to the occupants of 22 Castle View requesting that they did not park their car in front of the bus stop. No reply had been received.

5. Village Action Plan

1. Tim Fish will request steps to be put down from Castle View. The fence has not yet been replaced.
2. Adrian Jackson will be requested to remove the fencing
3. Jimmy Johnson's Wall is still in need of repair
4. The conifers will be inspected in the Autumn
5. The triangular grass area is eroded. Report awaited from Milecastle Housing
6. The conifers on the green to be cut back
7. The vegetation at the Reading Room to be cut back
8. The graffiti on the school sign to be cleaned
9. The blocked gully/large pot hole at the junction of North Meadow and Horsley Road to be cleared.

6. Closure of Post Office

The clerk had invited the owner to the meeting but he said he had intended closing the post office in any case as it was not viable. Councillor Macdonald had been approached by only one person who was concerned about the closure. Councillor Macdonald will attend the meeting 22 July and report back to the Council

7. Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment

Ovingham Reading Room – Rent May	£10.00
P Holden – Puncture repair and diesel	£32.08
J K Pringle Topping Football field & goalposts	£100.46
D Jordon Environmental Project	£214.99
Complete Weed Control	£88.13

8. Grants

Samaritans It was agreed to donate £100.

9. Planning Applications

17 Piper Road – construction of sunroom – Application granted

Welburn Cottage – retrospective application for lighting columns and gate posts – Application withdrawn (the lighting columns not approved)

Greengates Horsley Road – an appeal has been received by planning against their planning refusal.

The Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds of the enlarged footprint. The clerk to write to Planning reiterating that this was their only objection.

10 Correspondence

Letter from A D Bawn requesting the Council's views on the erection of a safety barrier on C254 Ovingham to Wylam Road. The barrier would narrow the path and the Council were not in favour of this being done. The clerk to write to Mr Bawn

Letter from Planning Tynedale concerning the change of use of open space to private garden land at 9 Piper Road, 17 and 18 Welburn Close and 38 Windsor Crescent. Planning requested information concerning the length of time that fences had been erected. The clerk to write noting that the fences had been erected quite recently and not the 10 years in question. However, they had no written information.

Prudhoe household waste recovery centre is now open and the clerk to write to Sita congratulating them on the latest improvements.

11. Committee Reports

Councillor Jackson reported on a successful goose fair, even though the weather had been very poor
Councillor Jordon congratulated her and her helpers on excellent organization.

Councillor Holden reported that he had a meeting with the community service team supervisor and would have some help on Saturdays.

Boundary Commission Presentation

Councillor Benjamin had attended the meeting, details of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Although not applicable to Ovingham parishes although not able to move their boundaries may be able to split into wards. Councillor Benjamin reported that any proposals made to the boundary commission must be supported by evidence and not just opinions. He reported that the boundary commission should have carried out the work 2 years ago which would have saved much confusion.

Councillor Kelly gave his report on the new structure of Northumberland. He is now the leader of the 5 Independent Councillors and his last four weeks have been spent interviewing for the executive directors, of which there are four: People's Director, Northumberland Adult Care, Place Directorate (highways and local services) and Performance Directorate. There are now forty new councilors out of 67, all working together to provide a dynamic work force.

The Belonging Communities have been rejected and the new forums could produce some problems with funding. Councillor Kelly pointed out stability is needed to set up the new Northumberland Council

12. Bus Service

Councillor Kelly reported that Arriva buses, whose contract ended in August, were not prepared to run the route unless the County Council more than doubles its subsidy of £16,000. He gave out notices and stressed the importance of everybody protesting to the Minister of State and the Executive Member for Highways. The clerk will write stating that Prudhoe is well served with bus transport and it would be fairer for some of the subsidy to be transferred to other routes.

13. Local Transport Plan

The Council's plans to be sent to R McKenzie by 29 August. Councillor Jordon would look at the present proposals and inform the clerk if any additions are required.

Councillor McDonald asked that a strong request be put in that the 30 mph sign at the East Entrance of the village be moved as it is not at the moment at the real beginning of the village. Other villages have had their signs moved.

13. Any Other Business

The clerk to report a broken manhole cover on the green

The clerk to request a clearer notice on the bridge concerning bicycles not to be ridden on the footbridge

Councillor Jordon reported that the boulders at the stepping stones were being thrown about in the water. She had reported this to the Middle School. The clerk was asked to write to the school asking for their support in making sure this is stopped.

Councillor Jordon reported that the traffic survey had been undertaken on 22 May.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18 September 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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