

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport  
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage  
Ovington  
Northumberland  
NE42 6DH

---

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham.

Present: Councillors M. Turnbull (Chair), D. Jordon, V Mennear, J. Jackson, P. MacDonald and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Holden and Heslop, and County Councillor Kelly.
2. Declarations of interest: none
3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, accepted and signed.
4. Matters arising:
  - i) Notice Board – Unfortunately Councillor Benjamin who was dealing with this matter was not at the meeting.
  - ii) Grazing Land – The Clerk had still not received a response from a second letter to Mr. Good regarding concerns over Health and Safety.
  - iii) Replacement of Litterbin & installation of new bin – The Clerk had been informed by NCC that any new bin would have to be purchased by the Parish Council at a cost of £400 each (including installation). A Catalogue had been recently received from a company called Wybone and their prices were considerably cheaper at a total cost of £330 for 2 bins. It was proposed that 2 new bins be purchased and the Clerk will order these.
  - iv) Removal of bushes to side of Reading Room – It was agreed that the bushes needed to be seen to, to be pruned rather than completely removed as it was part of the village. Councillor Jordon would ask NCC to attend to it, and if not, the Parish Council would consider bearing the cost but on the understanding that the Reading Room must attend to it in future.
  - v) Transport Information Notice Board – although the Clerk had been in touch with Mr. Gillott regarding a smaller board, no feedback had been received.
  - vi) Unadopted lane to rear of Castle View and other areas –the Waste department had complained about access problems & asked for assistance from the Parish Council in resolving the matter, and suggesting that the bins would have to be brought to the front by the residents if things did not improve. Councillor Jordon confirmed that the state of the lane was in her view, the worst ever, and although ultimately it is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council, it was agreed that the clerk would write to the residents informing them that they are extremely disappointed with the state of the lane.

Councillor Jordon had had a successful meeting around the village with Paul Turnbull, from NEAT, and many of the problem areas had been addressed. – see attached Appendix

- vii) Hedges along Castle View – Since the last meeting two of the hedges had been seen to, the Clerk had written to the resident of Number 36 and to date there had been no response. Clerk to write again.
  - vii) Donation of tree in memory of Emily Barer – a service is to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> July in memory of Emily Barer and the tree is to be planted, in Piper Road afterwards.
  - ix) Pruning of Trees in Piper Road – Northumberland County Council have confirmed that they will remove the trees concerned, and may provide 3 new trees, subject to budget, as replacements. A lot of complaints had been received from the residents about the pruning and the Clerk will write to the residents to see if they wanted replacements such as flowering cherry or mountain ash.
  - x) Parking on Horsley Road – Planters had been suggested as a solution to the parking problems by Councillor Jackson. As it was a conservation area, bollards could not be erected. Clerk to contact Highways Department.
  - xi) Pavilion Electrical Test & Inspection – Councillor Holden had Informed the Clerk that another quote was expected regarding the work to be done.
5. Northumberland SHLAA - Ref SHLAA/060/102 – A hearing was Scheduled for August regarding the proposal to resurrect the options Of affordable housing on a site to the North of Piper Road.
  6. Planning applications – 2 Welburn Close, installation of Solar Panels. There were no objections to this application
  7. Accounts to pay/be paid – approval was given to pay the following:-
 

Reading Room (June Rental)	£15.00
Npower	£114.79
P Holden (Diesel, basketball nets)	£22.39
P. Holden (Diesel, paints, bolts)	£68.43
D. Jordon (Village Maintenance)	£171.95
D. Jordon (Village Env. Project)	£96.66
Playsafety Ltd (Site inspection)	£126.00
Solagen (Interactive lighting)	£211.20
Northumbria Pest Control (Removing Wasp nests)	£57.60
TSL (Line marking powder)	£35.78
M. Davenport (Salary & expenses – June)	£196.78
  8. Correspondence – The Clerk had received a letter from NCC regarding the Local Transport plan and the Council were invited to submit their transport priorities for the next years LTP programme. Responses are to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September so will be discussed at the next meeting.
  9. Committee Reports – Councillor Jordon reported on the Reading Room. A new central heating boiler was to be installed; a damaged drawer was to be replaced. A variety of future activities was planned. The AGM was to be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July to which all residents were invited.

10. Green Ovingham – recent activities included a butterfly count and a day “in the dene”. Their transport group were promoting the Worldwide Car Free day.
11. Any other business - Councillor Jordon raised the question of storing Parish Council papers and suggested that some could be stored in the Reading Room. The Clerk to check what needs to be retained.  
Councillor Jordon informed the Council that the Village Plan is ready to distribute and asked for volunteers in helping.
12. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in The Reading Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

## APPENDIX 1

Councillor Jordon gave a presentation regarding areas of the village that needed attending to. The issues and outcomes, after much discussion are listed below.

1. Willows in Piper Road – see item 4, ix) in minutes
2. Tree Work on the estate:-
  - a) 2 trees beside nos.1 & 21 Wheatfield Close & no. 23 Wheatfield Close
  - b) Overhanging branches on path to on Wylam road: The Tree Officer has visited the estate & will be pruned in the next 2 weeks, and if necessary removed.
  - c) Cherry Tree on Windsor Crescent Green: ISOS responsibility. They have been informed of the need to be pruned.
3. Shrub beds on grassed area of Wheatfield Close: Progress is ongoing with a visit due in the next 2 weeks.
4. Hedges:-
  - a) at the bottom of Castle View
  - b) beech hedge at the opening of Castle View from Wheatfield Close
  - c) vegetation on land next to opening from Windsor Crescent/castle view

Workers are in the Prudhoe area now and hope to get a team across to cut back hedges within the next 7 days.
5. Overgrown weeds:-
  - a) Pathway alongside the OPB and Wheatfield Close
  - b) Castle View along the full length of fence/path

Weed spraying will be done once weather settles. These areas have been missed and Cllr Jordon suggests we keep a check on this.
6. Path leading down main road from piper Road to Wylam:  
Grass/weeds to be cut 1 metre in from the path on the left hand side by NCC but Cllr Jordon also queried the actual Bank area and whether the PC will attend to this. Cllr MacDonald suggested this could be part of an ongoing maintenance contract
7. Fencing on Wylam road: This will be removed, probably in the autumn
8. Grass cutting:-
  - a) Churchyard – due to sickness, had been missed & NCC apologized

- b) First & Middle Schools – the grass next to the school fence and hedge was not cut in 2010 or 2011. It is NCC responsibility and will be added to grass cutters schedule and they will also trim around the railings.
  - c) Grass cutting standards in general – Adrian Jackson has cut back ivy & brambles in the Churchyard and grass cutters have been told to take mowers across these areas and then hopefully grass will grow
9. Trees at middle School entrance require pruning – Cllr Jordon to liaise with Paul Turnbull.
  10. Entrance to Bridge requiring complete clean up: Cllr MacDonald to contact R.McKenzie. A Quote has been received for work on the Laurel bushes
  11. Branch from Sycamore Tree in Churchyard overhanging Road opposite Reading Room – NCC not responsible for this but will do work at a cost. Quote required.
  12. North Meadow entrance, trees and undergrowth etc requiring general tidy up – Not NCC responsibility. Clerk to contact original builders (Wimpey)
  13. Bend at top of Horsley Road, next to planters overgrown with weeds, brambles etc – Attended 3 years ago by Adrian Jackson, but will PC do this?
  14. Square piece of land opposite house on Castle view that used to be shop, in front of bungalows. Left hand side of cut through to Wheatfield Close well maintained but right hand side complete eyesore. Also resident of Castle view parks car on land – NCC to cut back self seeded trees and shrubs & cut grass if possible. Cars are not allowed to park there.
  15. Butter burr & nettles along full length of burn to stepping stones, totally overgrown and an eyesore – Parish Council responsibility on yearly basis
  16. Pavements on estate because of complaint by residents – Phil Wardle from NCC has visited and proved very positive on day.

Cllr Jordon asked what solution to it all was. Cllr MacDonald said as Cllr Jordon knows what needs doing, and what she requires to get it done, should look at maintenance contract especially if such things were arranged with local councils i.e. Wylam, Ovington and Horsley.

Cllr Turnbull thanked Cllr Jordon for her presentation and hard work in highlighting the areas concerned.

## MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

July/August 2011

### EXPENDITURE

Reading Room Rent (June)	15.00
M Davenport (Salary & Exp)	196.78
ROSPA	126.00
Northumbrian Pest Control	57.60
Solagen Ltd	216.00
TSL (Linemarking)	35.78
Npower	114.79
P. Holden (diesel)	22.39
P. Holden (diesel, paints)	68.43
D. Jordon (Village Maintenance)	171.95
D. Jordon (Env. Project)	96.66
Lloyds TSB (Safe custody)	15.00
P. Holden (Domaincheck)	23.98
A. Jackson (Grasscutting)	75.00
Dyke House Sports & Tech College (Photocopying)	50.40

**1285.76**

### INCOME

0.00

**0.00**

Opening Balance	19,816.18
Expenditure	1285.76
Income	0.00
Closing Balance	18,530.42

Deposit Account 14,968.21

**TOTAL 33,498.63**

Vat to be reclaimed his month £134.80