

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2009 at 7.15 p.m in the Reading Room.

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, P Macdonald, J Jackson, M Morton
V Mennear R Benjamin and six members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillors P Holden and P Kelly (NCC)
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The light is due to be changed 21 July. It will be necessary to cut back one branch of the tree overhanging the pole on Castle View. This will be done in October.

Village Map

The quotation for the construction and installation of the notice board, including a Perspex anti-vandal cover has been accepted in the sum of £525.00.

Tenancy Agreements

All councillors had been circulated with copies of the tenancy agreements and although no councillor had responded Councillor Jordon thought there were still some issues to be raised. She will look at the agreements and note whether there have been any infringements.

Double Yellow Lines Horsley Road

Proposed "No waiting at any time restrictions" has been received from Paul McKenna. The councillors are in agreement that double yellow lines should be extended on the bend at the South end of Horsley Road

Electoral Boundaries.

A response had been received noting the Council's objections to the proposed electoral division.

5. Village Maintenance

Bewick Lane – the hedge has been completely removed and it was now much easier to see and remove litter

Removal of ivy and trees in churchyard – Paul Turnbull informed Councillor Jordon that he regretted he was unable to remove the yew and sycamore branches which overhang the path because to remove these branches would damage the trees. The shrubs on the corner of the churchyard will be removed but it will be necessary to close the road to do so.

Conifer on Tyne Gardens - After much discussion Milecastle Housing have agreed to cut back this conifer

Wall opposite school. The owner of the tree pushing out the wall is in hospital but is in agreement to the work being done. The clerk to contact N.C.C. requesting the work be carried out as a safety issue
Verge Damage Horsley Road The clerk had contacted Northumberland Water to ask them to re-seed the area. So far nothing has been done.

Blocked drains Burnside. The clerk had reported these but nothing seems to have been done.

Overhanging trees Horsley Road Some trees have been cut back

Street Light Burnside Nothing has been done

6. Village Action Plan

A letter has been received from Mrs Scowther listing items she would wish to include in village plan:
Trees planted east side of Horsley Road,

Additional waste bin Bewick Lane
More bench seats (one to be placed near Nunnykirk)
Railings outside the Croft to be removed
Concrete bollards West side of Horsley Road to be removed
Pavement to be extended to Bewick Lane
Removal of signs throughout the village – both ends of the bridge in particular.
These items will be discussed
Secure the extension of the playing field lease
Launch a scheme to refurbish the play equipment on the playing field.
Continue to pursue NCC to refurbish pavements and road surfaces – this will be included in the road transport plan

7. Sustainable Development

Debbie Reed was welcomed to the meeting and spoke of her concern regarding climate change and the individual's responsibility to limit their carbon footprint. She felt much could be done at a local level and governments have to work with all local groups to work towards reducing carbon emissions. There were many small ways in which the individual could make a difference. Councillor Morton, whose husband has an insulation firm, would be pleased to contact her and all the councillors were prepared to support her in any way they could. The clerk will insert a paragraph in her report to the Church Magazine and the Council will ask for support from Councillor Kelly and N.C.C. The Council will support her and she can support the Council by showing how it can help. Perhaps an informed speaker could be invited to attend a Parish Council Meeting.

8. Finance – Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009 – External Audit

The Annual Governance Statement was acknowledged and agreed by the Council and approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman

9. Road Transport Plan

It was agreed to discuss this at an informal meeting at Rosemount on Thursday 13 August at 7.30 p.m.

10. Planning

39 Piper Road – Construct Garden Room – approved

4 The Hill – Construct two storey elevation to provide shower room and staircase – in circulation

14 Welburn Close – Construct single storey kitchen – in circulation

9. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval to pay the following accounts was given.

Ovingham Reading Room – Rent May £15

Joint Burial Board – Precept £2,250

T Heppel – Audit £50

Powerjet – Removal of graffiti £173.65

P Holden - Diesel £7.57

G Harper – Salary and expenses (April – June) £578.39

P Holden – Diesel £7.57

David Dixon – mower repair £393.22

M Turnbull – 5 books of postage stamps £17.59

P Holden Diesel £31.03

10. Correspondence

NHS information – letters regarding closure of old peoples' homes and the construction of a new hospital in Cramlington. Notification of meetings had been placed on the notice boards. A member of the NHS had spoken at the recent Forum meeting

Grants on offer for environmental projects – e-mail has been sent to all councillors

e-mail from Ovington Parish Council regarding parking on the main road from the Old Post Office up towards the bridge. The Councillors rejected this complaint, pointing out that cars parked there helped

to slow down the traffic on a difficult bend and there was nowhere else for the residents to park their cars.

The e-mail also reported that permission for Middle School extensions with restrictions to make sure that trees are not disturbed.

E-mail from Bob Jackson, Chairman of Longhirst Parish Council regarding the formation of the North and West Area Partnerships regarding lack of representation. This e-mail has been circulated to all councillors

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Reading Room, giving a progress statement for the goose fair together with a financial statement from the Treasurer. The final profit for the day was £1,337.31

11. Committee Reports

A report was received from Councillor Kelly. This was circulated to all councillors

Reading Room – Councillor Jordon reported that roof repairs will commence on 27 July. A water meter had been installed and electric workings checked, there being only minor repairs. Community Chest funding had been applied to for a new boiler. The film Club will commence in September and continue to March. The Quiz will be held Friday 18 July and it is hoped to organize a social event monthly. The village show is to be held 12 September 2009

At the AGM Hazel Chalmers was elected Chairman, Pat Stott Vice Chairman, Jean Dougherty Treasurer, Louise Leonard Secretary and Joanna Jackson Booking Secretary.

East Tynedale Forum – Councillor Benjamin had attended the meeting 14 July. There had been a report concerning Ovingham Bridge where it had been reported that most of the traffic was local and there was no likelihood of the bridge being replaced for 30-40 years. Councillor Macdonald reported that in 1970 the bridge had been condemned as unsafe. He was not sure what “local” traffic entailed and was convinced that the bridge should be made a one-way system.

The Clerk queried with Councillor Benjamin whether it was necessary to provide the Forum with the details of all organization leaders for the Forum web site. Councillor Macdonald pointed out that this information could be obtained from each village web site. Councillor Jackson suggested when sending out information to all users of the Reading Room that she send them the details of Adrian Hinchcliffe and if they wanted to they could supply him with their information.

Cemetery Board

Trees are to be planted by the family of Dr Aitcheson in the autumn and some trees have been cut down where it is hoped to provide a car park. Grave stones are to be tested for safety.

Any Other Business

Councillor Jackson will contact Paul Turnbull to arrange for the cutting of the verge at the top of Horsley Road. It was reported that grass cutting generally was very poor this season and perhaps alternative arrangements could be made. This will be placed on the agenda for September.

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday 17 September at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st – 30th JUNE 2009

EXPENDITURE

	£
Reading Room – Rent May	15.00
Burial Board Precept	2,250.00
T Heppell – Internal Audit	50.00
Powerjet – Removal of Graffiti	173.65
P Holden – Diesel	7.57
G Harper Expenses and Salary April – June	578.39
P Holden – Diesel	7.57
Northumbrian Water – Pavilion Rates	25.42

	3,107.60

INCOME

A Ingham – Garden Rent	<u>10.00</u>
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Opening Balance	£21,778.45
Expenditure	3,107.60
Income	10.00

Closing Balance	£18,680.85
Deposit Account	14,944.33

Grand Total	£33,625.18
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VAT to be claimed this month £22.65

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st – 31st JULY 2009

EXPENDITURE

	£
David Dixon – Repair of mower	393.22
M Turnbull – Postage stamps	17.59
P Holden – Diesel	31.03
D Jordon – Telephone and Environmental Project	121.15
Playsafety Ltd – Safety Inspection	89.70
D Hartley – Provision of new notice board	525.00
Reading Room – Rent July	15.00
P Holden – Diesel and Oil	9.19
Domaincheck – Web Site	28.75

	1,230.63

INCOME

Toddler Group – Rent	22.00
VAT Return	1,859.74
Amount incorrectly entered last month (57p not 25p)	0.32

	1,882.06

Opening Balance	£18,680.85
Expenditure	1,230.63
Income	1,882.06

Closing Balance	£19,332.28
Deposit Account	14,944.33

Grand Total £34,276.61

VAT to be claimed this month £75.16