

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper  
Clerk

51 Piper Road  
Ovingham  
Northumberland  
NE42 6AZ

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 June 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room  
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, M Morton, J Jackson, and P Holden  
And 2 members of the Public.

Apologies were received from, V Mennear, R Benjamin, P. Macdonald and P Kelly (NCC)

2. Declarations of interest - None

3.. Matters Arising

Street Lighting at the Old School

The lamp has been fitted but electricity has not been connected

Interactive Speed Signs

Councillor Macdonald had the brochures from Solagen but was unable to attend the meeting. Wylam's lights had been fitted and they were satisfied with the results. There had been much speeding of cars through the village and it was hoped the signs could be installed as soon as possible. It was reported that a speed awareness exercise was to take place throughout the village.

White Swan Wall

The clerk had contacted Eileen Gray of Environment Services Tynedale. Because the wall was not listed, even though the repair was unsightly there was nothing further that could be done

Land Registry

There was nothing further to report

Churchyard Wall

The wall had been inspected and reported as safe, though pointing would be carried out.. The clerk had stressed the fact that the wall was in need of repair at the Johnny Johnson garden.

Gulley clearing

The gulleys had been cleared

Road Repairs

Patching and filling of pot holes had been done but was far from satisfactory. The clerk had been informed that a more substantial repair was in planning. The clerk was asked to contact Councillor Kelly to clarify the position

Stepping Stones

The clearing of vegetation was in process

Conifers Village Green

Adrian will complete the work

Vegetation at Reading Room

Mel Richardson had agreed to mulch the area. The clerk had written to the Committee of the Reading Room requesting they undertake the maintenance of the area

Tree Branch North Meadow

Adrian to undertake the removal

Weeding Castle View

The grass has now grown too long to weed. The clerk to contact Weed Control and ask if they could scythe the grass first

Employment of handyman

The clerk had received details of the handyman employed by Wylam. It was thought that the position should be advertised in the first instance in Ovingham. Councillors were asked to list what jobs they

would like done and bring the list to the next meeting.

#### Painting of Church Gates

The clerk had written to Tynedale who will inspect the gates

#### Windsor Gardens Grass Erosion

The clerk to check with Milecastle Housing on their inspection

#### 4. Plan/Action Plan for 2008/9

A list of proposed items to be undertaken had been circulated to Councillors, some of which had been completed. Items outstanding:

Councillor Jordon to contact Tim Fish regarding the steps down from Castle View

Councillor Jackson will ask Adrian to remove the length of rotten fencing at the end of the village.

The fencing will not be replaced.

The clerk to stress the importance of cutting the grass at the top of Horsley Road. It was thought that this cut was in the cutting grass schedule. The clerk to check

The conifer in the Parish Garden to be inspected in the Autumn

The Playground Equipment to be repaired/replaced

#### 5. The Audit

Tom Hepple had carried out the internal audit and was thanked by the Chair for carrying out this service.

The Annual Governance Statement of the audit was completed and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Jackson proposed and Councillor Holden seconded that the audit be approved. Carried unanimously

#### 6 Accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| G Harper – Clerk’s salary and expenses        | £535.62 |
| R P Benjamin Course attendance and travelling | 11.80   |
| Ovingham Reading Room – Rent April            | 10.00   |

7. Grants It was agreed that for the purpose of budget the £500 donated to East should be moved to “contingencies” and donations could then conform to the £500 allocated.

It was agreed to donate £50 to Mencap

#### 8.. Correspondence

Post Office Closure Programme and Meeting. Not applicable to Ovingham

Parish/Town Council Elections It was thought that as few people were willing to stand for election to the Council that it made little difference whether it was 2009 or 2013

A letter had been received concerning the positioning of the new street sign on Main Road. It was agreed that it was a dangerous place to have this sign and the clerk was asked to write and request it be repositioned.

#### 9. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden reported that the new goals had been done and turfing was imminent. The two main users of the football field had both agreed to pay a contribution of £80. The tennis net was up and in use.

Councillor Holden reported that the web site was very successful with an increasing number of hits during the year. These had increased from 1,525 in January to 6,398 in May. He asked that the

Councillors contribute items of village interest and especially pictures. Any e-mails he received on the Yahoo e-mail would be forward to the clerk. He reported that he had through this e-mail received correspondence which had been passed to the burial committee  
He had also received e-mail from Kerrie Loughhead concerning speeding traffic. The clerk will reply

Councillor Jordon reported on the Annual General Meeting of the Reading Room. The Chairman had reported how well used the building was with a wide range of activities which meet the needs of a wide age range of residents in the community. A substantial increase has been seen in funds raised by the renting out of the hall.

Appointment of Officers: No one offered to take on the positions of Secretary or Chairman. However, Jean, Doreen and Joanna agreed to serve for three months each. Chris Morton will be vice chairman. There may be a volunteer willing to take on the position of Chairman at a later date.

The Reading Room is working towards achieving the Hallmark Quality. The Film Club is to go ahead, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> November and 12 December. The Pulley system is in place. The first of the new banners for The Goose Fair is up. The Craft Fair will be held 7<sup>th</sup> December with £10 for a table.

Help is needed for the goose fair, especially on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, if anyone can spare a little time Joanna would welcome this.

Councillor Jackson reported on the annual meeting of the cemetery committee. Councillor Mennear is Chairman and Angus Armstrong, Vice Chairman. A new bathroom and front door have been completed at the lodge and planned maintenance is in hand. The grass cutting has been well carried out and the cemetery looks very tidy.

#### 10. Any Other Business

Councillor Jordon reported that the village plants were on their way but would not be received before the Goose Fair.

Councillor Mennear was concerned that the new bus company were not stopping the bus at a convenient stop in Prudhoe. The clerk was asked to write to the company requesting that buses stop at a more convenient place.

Councillor Mennear had received a complaint that very often the bus on Castle View was unable to stop at the bus stop because of cars parked. The clerk had contacted Tynedale to find out the legal position and had been informed that it was illegal to park in front of a bus stop and the driver was within his rights in not stopping. The clerk will write to the resident concerned and point out the inconveniences caused by parking in front of the stop.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 July at 7.15 in the Reading Room

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.