

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham.

Present: Councillors M. Turnbull (Chair), D. Jordon, P. Holden, V. Mennear, J. Jackson, R. Benjamin, I. Heslop, Councillor P. Kelly (NCC), P.C. Cross and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Councillor MacDonald.
2. Declarations of interest: none
3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, accepted and signed.
4. Matters arising:
 - Notice Boards Councillor Benjamin was still assessing the viability of the Notice Board, which he had obtained from Prudhoe Library. Work would also be required to install the board and it was agreed to re-assess at the next meeting.
 - Grazing Land The Clerk had written to Mr. Good regarding the Health and Safety issue but had received no response. The Clerk to follow up.
 - Replacement of Litter Bin This had still not been replaced. Councillor Kelly reported that it could be worthwhile contacting David Hunt at Hexham to see if worth repairing and the costs involved. It was also proposed that a litter/dog-waste bin be located on Horsley Road. Clerk to write.
5. Northumberland SHLAA. This was a proposal to resurrect the options of affordable housing on a site to the North of Piper Road. Ovingham Parish Council had entered their objections, which had to be received by 10th June. Councillor Holden reported that there had been a big response against the proposals and that there would be a hearing in August.
6. Planning Applications
 - Application had been granted for a single storey extension at 32 Dene Garth.
 - Reading Room – application to replace 8 windows – no objections
 - The Bridge End Inn – replacement application for change of use to 2 dwelling Houses – no objections
7. Accounts to be pay/paid Approval was given to pay the following accounts

British Red Cross – Manning the Playing Field opening	£84.00
Reading Room rent (May)	£15.00
G Harper – salary & expenses (April & May)	£376.32
P Holden – diesel	£21.82
NALC – annual subscription	£182.93
J Smith – Pavilion lighting work	£290.00
8. Removal of bushes to side of Reading Room

Due to a recent break-in at the Reading Room, Mrs. Fulton, on behalf of the Reading Room Committee, asked that the bushes to the side be either removed or pruned to a low level. After much discussion, The Parish Council was

sympathetic to the request but felt this may not be their responsibility, especially as the Reading Room had planted the shrubs initially, and deferred the decision until the next meeting.

P.C. Cross had attended the meeting and reported on recent problems in the local area, including metal theft and bogus callers, though not specifically in Ovingham. He asked that people be aware and that it was always better to report anything suspicious than not at all.

9. Tidy up of west end of un-adopted lane to rear of Castle View

Councillor Jordon gave a detailed report on this and several other areas in the village which needed attending to. Last year £2500 was set aside in the precept for village maintenance but only £1000 had been spent, with the same applying for this year and Councillor Jordon asked if this remaining money could be spent on tidying up the village raising a list of issues which she felt needed addressing. These being:-

West end of un-adopted lane to rear of Castle View
Bend in Horsley Road – overgrown shrubs, brambles
Burnfoot – butterburs by stepping stones area
Main Road to Wylam (Piper Road end) - weeds, brambles and overhanging branches
Entrance to Bridge – weeds and laurel bushes
Churchyard – ivy & maintenance
Entrance to North Meadow

Councillor Kelly pointed out that some of this should be the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council. He had attended various other Parish Council meetings with similar problems and proposed that Ovingham find out who is responsible and to contact Richard Powell at NCC. Councillor Jordon did not want Ovingham Parish Council to be taking on too much if it was not their responsibility and asked for prices to be obtained for seeing to the work. Clerk to contact NCC Highways' department.

10. Transport Information Notice Board

Councillor Jordon reported that a request had been received from John Gillott (Partnership Officer of Tyne Valley Community Rail partnership) to install a Notice board to include local maps, transport information, bus stops, and that it be placed next to the Village Notice Board in Jimmy Johnson's Park. The proposed board was felt to be too large and Councillors expressed concerns about where it should be situated. Clerk to enquire.

11. Post Box Donation

The Clerk had received a form from Bellingham Museum about the donation of the Old Post Box and the collection of the same. Councillor Jordon will liaise directly with the Museum.

12. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden had attended the High School for a Community & Extended Services Governors meeting. He reported that the youth service budget had been cut and that Prudhoe Youth Association would be managed by County Hall. Accountability to the school had ended 31.3.11.

Councillor Jordon reported on the Reading Room. They had received a £5,000 grant for the heating but had not heard anything yet from the lottery application. The Goose Fair had run very smoothly but due to the poor

weather, much lower attendance than normal.

Councillor Mennear reported on the Burial Committee AGM. They needed a new boiler for the Cemetery Lodge. Work had been completed on some trees and the Committee was pleased with all the ground maintenance work carried out.

Councillor Benjamin had attended an East Tynedale Community Forum meeting. He reported that the Forum was encouraging more inter parish links such as competitions including sport.

Councillor Kelly reported on some of the funding in the Northumberland County Council budget highlighting areas such as the A1 link road, Morpeth flooding, Ashington leisure Centre and funding for Affordable Housing. The NCC proposed the option of a digital magazine instead of the current Northumberland News. Applications had been received from 4 more schools to obtain academy status and there could be more in the pipeline. More applications had been received for wind farms and he advised that if they all came to fruition there would be a significant number.

13. Green Ovingham

Green Ovingham reported that they had been busy recently with the Goose Fair and had a successful day with lots of interest. Their next meeting is early July.

14. Any other business

Councillor Holden reported that Wylam Electrical Services had carried out an inspection of the Pavilion and various work was recommended to the sum of £550. Although nothing was deemed high risk, it was felt that work should be carried out but a second quote was to be obtained.

The Chair will contact Mr. Barer again about the donated tree, probably an Acer, which is to be situated near the entrance to Piper Road.

Councillor Jordon reported on various issues relating to the village. Trees are to be pruned back by the stepping-stones on behalf of NEDL. The local residents will be informed when this is to take place. Concern was expressed about hedges hanging over the pavement along Castle View and the Clerk will write to the occupiers regarding this.

Councillor Jackson queried whether anything could be done to limit the parking on Horsley Road. Both shrubs and pots were suggested and Councillor Jordon will look into the possibilities.

A complaint had been received from Paul Nash about the severe pruning of the trees in Piper Road. It was felt that the trees were in the wrong place and would always cause problems. The removal of the trees would be looked at and the Clerk will get in touch with NCC about this.

15. The next meeting will be at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday, 21st July 2011 in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

June 2011

EXPENDITURE

British Red Cross	84.00
Reading Room Rent (May)	15.00
G. Harper (Salary & Exp)	376.32
P. Holden (diesel)	21.82
NALC (annual subscription)	182.93
J. Smith (Pavilion Lighting Work)	290.00
N'brian Water	45.25

1015.32

INCOME

0.00

Opening Balance	20,831.50
Expenditure	1,015.32
Income	0.00
Closing Balance	<u>19,816.18</u>

Deposit Account 14,968.21

TOTAL 34,784.39

Vat to be reclaimed his month £17.64