

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2009 at 7.15 p.m in the Reading Room.

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, P Macdonald, P Holden, J Jackson, V Mennear, M Morton and R Benjamin

1. Apologies were received from Councillor P Kelly (NCC)
2. Declarations of interest – Councillors Jackson and Jordon stated their interest as members of the Reading Room Committee
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and signed.
4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

It was agreed that the light would remain in its position for another month

Cycling signs on Bridge

The clerk had received correspondence from Mr Alex Thompson who stated that only signs conforming to Statutory Instrument could be placed at the bridge. Councillor Macdonald had spoken to Mr Richardson and would make sure that action was taken to improve the signing.

Freedom of Information Act

Councillor Benjamin had copied the necessary information to the web site.

Foliage at Bridge End

The clerk had written to Marian Lewis thanking her for her hard work in clearing much of the foliage on the left hand side of the bridge. Discussion took place as to whether the Parish Council should arrange for the clearing of the laurels, perhaps in conjunction with the reading room. The Highways Authority had agreed to cut back the laurels but on a priority basis. The clerk will write to Colin Charleton pointing out that the foliage was now becoming dangerous and Councillor Benjamin agreed to take a photograph to accompany the letter which should show the dangers.

Double Yellow Lines

Councillor Kelly had informed the clerk that it was intended to put down the yellow lines, but it would not be funded from his allowance.

Village Map

Councillor Holden now has the necessary photographs and Tyne Valley Joiners are to produce the finished board.

5. Village Action Plan 2008/9.

Councillor Jordon had met with the representative from Home Housing, who agreed that the state of Bewick Lane was badly in need of clearing. He reported that the hedging should be cut back regularly and the rubbish and litter removed. He said that the rubbish, including that left by the workmen refurbishing the flats, would be cleared within the next fortnight. Councillor Jordon will keep in contact.

Councillor Jordon reported on the dreadful state of the back lane to Castle View. The building work at Horsley Road was also causing a lot of rubbish and damage.

6. Allotment Association Request

The clerk had received a request from the allotment association for the cutting of the hedge. This was first requested in 2006 and Councillor Jordon had agreed to meet with Mr Good. The meeting had, however, been cancelled by Mr Good. Councillor Jackson thought that originally the Allotment Association had only come to the Parish Council for their permission to carry out the cutting. 1.

Councillor Holden pointed out that in the Agreement Paragraph 1. (h) it states that it is the responsibility of the allotment association to keep the hedges “properly cut and trimmed”. The clerk to write to Mr Good pointing this out.

A request had been received for the erection of small greenhouses. The Parish Council were not in agreement and the clerk will write to Mr Good. Councillor Jordon will look to see if there were any other sizeable buildings being erected.

7. Tenancy Agreements

There has been no inspection or revision of the tenancy agreements for some time. The clerk to circulate all Councillors with copies of the existing agreements for their comments.

8. Donations

The clerk had received a letter from Mrs Scrowther requesting £1,000, which she understood had been promised by the Council. It was pointed out that although this sum had been discussed it had finally been proposed by Councillor Macdonald that £5,000 for the roof repairs could be loaned by the Council, providing the Reading Room sought funding and repaid the loan when they were able. (c.f. Minute 4. 20 September 2007 and Item 14 Grants 18 October 2007). The clerk to write to Mrs Scrowther asking her to clarify the situation, whether this loan was now required and if not the Council would agree to donate the £1,000.

It was agreed that the following donations be made:

Community Action Northumberland £100

Great North Air Ambulance £100

Tynedale Sports Council £25

9. Planning Applications Retrospective application Welburn Cottage six lighting columns and two brick gate posts - Application refused

38 Castle View Construction two storey side extension, conservatory and dormer window

Application granted permission

18 Dene Close Construction of porch Application refused

Councillor Macdonald had attended the meeting for planning on 3 March. Parish Councils will be given the opportunity to comment on planning

10. Accounts to pay/paid

Solagen Speed Signs £5,744.25

B&B Carson Blg Services £1,886.00

Age Concern £50.00

P Holden Padlock and corner flags £16.74

Tynedale Council – grass cutting £517.95

Tyne Valley Flooring £1598.50

Npower Electricity £236.36

OYI refund of skip hire £60.01

Northumberland Estates Rent £250.00

Reading Room – Rent January £15.00

P Holden Paint £24.98

SLCC Clerk’s annual membership £61.00

Tyne Valley Woodlands Consultancy £460

TSL – Line paint £21.76

G Harper – Salary and expenses £523.47

11. Correspondence

Grass cutting – Quotation accepted

Hanging Baskets and planting – Ordered (to be delivered to Councillor Jordon)

Alianz Insurance – Claim for flood damage submitted

SLCC Northumberland Branch – Training Day 22 April

Water Industry Act – Planned water inspection

New Councillor Training 30 March

12. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden reported that there had been 93 unique calls to the web site and 84 in February. He reported that there was very little information being submitted to the Blog and asked that he may submit material himself.

Councillor Holden reported that he is having a problem with the mower which is losing power. It could be the pump which could be very expensive and if so it may be necessary to purchase a new mower.

Councillor Mennear reported that the fencing on the north side of the cemetery is to be repaired and the yew trees are to be removed.

Councillor Jordon reported that various items were missing from the reading room and a stock check is to be carried out.

There is to be a village show on the 12th September

The goose fair organization is proceeding well. It will be the 40th Fair and held on the 20 June.

Councillor Jackson reported that there were difficulties with the road management. The police were not able to close the road and arrangements would have to be undertaken by members.

Estimates for the roof repairs and the new boiler were in hand and a risk assessment set in place for fire alarm regulations. New alarms now installed.

There will be a Ceilidh on 27 March

Councillor Benjamin had attended the forum meeting, it being the last with the old constitution, a new one to be set up. The main item had been what to call the forum. At the present time membership is limited to Parish and Town Councillors. A locality plan is being developed and it is hoped there will be input from parish plans. Councillor Benjamin will watch how the other Councils are proceeding.

Councillor Macdonald had concerns that the smaller parish councils may not have a strong enough voice for their concerns in the new organization.

12. Any Other Business

Concern was expressed on several issues at the wooden chalet redevelopment. Councillor Macdonald is watching the situation very closely.

Plants at Orchard House gateway are overgrowing the path. The clerk to visit and ask for the plants to be cut back

37 Castle View still have not cut back their hedge. The clerk to write again.

The clerk to write to Bob Eldridge stressing that there will be no bottle bank near Burnside

The clerk to request the ivy on the churchyard walls be cut back.

Date of next meeting 23 April 2009

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m..

3F.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st-31st MARCH 2009

EXPENDITURE

Northumberland Estates Rent for playing field	£250.00
Reading Room – Rent January	15.00
Arthur McGee – Paint for pavilion	24.98
SLCC – Clerk’s Membership	61.00
TSL Line Paint – Football Field	21.76
G Harper Salary	493.00
Expenses	30.47
Tyne Valley Woodlands – Tree work at gardens	460.00
Community Action N’Land – Annual donation	100.00
Gt North Air Ambulance – Donation	100.00
R Scott – Rolling Football pitch	30.00
P Holden – Diesel and grease cartridge	17.67
TV Licence for pavilion (reimbursed OYI)	139.50
Northumberland water – Water rates	21.86

£1,765.24

INCOME

Allianz Insurance (Pavilion Flood Claim)	£3,131.21
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Opening Balance	£16,096.11
Expenditure	1,765.24
Income	3,131.21

Closing Balance	£17,462.08
Deposit Account	14,944.33

Grand Total £32,406.41

VAT to be claimed this month £68.86

