

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, P Holden, V Mennear and J Jackson, Councillor
P Kelly (NCC) Hexham Courant reporter and 12 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor M Morton

R Benjamin had asked to be co-opted to the Parish Council. His application was proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Holden and carried unanimously. He signed the necessary Declarations

2. Declarations of interest, if any - None

3. Minutes of Last Meeting Having been circulated were agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Forward Planning - Street Lighting No progress has been made.

Land Registration: The clerk had written to the Legal Department Northumberland but had no reply

Interactive Speed Signs Councillor Macdonald was not at the meeting so no further information was available

Village Web Tony Newton was working on the design and Stephen Mobb will help Councillor Holden and they will meet together in the near future

Railings The painting had been completed. One rail was missing from the war memorial. The clerk to arrange for it to be repaired and then painted.

Parking at Riverside Councillor Kelly opened the discussion. He reported that the Parish Council had discussed the erosion of the village green for some time. In July 2006 an estimate was received to provide hard surfacing which would allow grass to grow through. He had been unable to start until this financial year. In August he received a revised estimate of £12,500 for the work and this was agreed by the Parish Council. He had met with Councillors Turnbull and Jordon on 21 September and they agreed to proceed with the work. To take the soil away would cost a further £2,000.

Councillors Turnbull and Jordon at their meeting with the Contractor had discussed the distribution of this soil and it was agreed that it would be used to fill in the hollows and dips in the village green and then re-seeded. Councillor Kelly said there was some visible disadvantage to this but the mounds will be levelled on completion and excess soil will fill up the cells. The Green can be seeded now and again in the Spring. He thought that the work will be completed soon.

The Chairman thought that the work was progressing well and that people should wait before criticising the work. Councillor Jackson could not understand the way the soil had been tipped and was concerned at the way the Village Green looked now. Councillor Jordon thought that there had been some remarks made which were unnecessary and it was good that some hollows had been filled in.

Councillor Mennear understood peoples' concern but understood that the work was necessary.

The main criticisms from the public were:

There had been no consultation with residents and the general feeling that the existing dips and hollows in the Village Green were attractive.

The dumping of the soil was not good but was the 6" lip which had been built really necessary
It was an insensitive operation and the work was twice the width needed.

There was concern that the construction made the Green look like an official parking place and some

felt that the notice should be made more obvious.

The road had been damaged by the heavy machinery and the Parish Council should rectify this

The Council responded as follows:

Councillor Jordon had traced this subject back through previous minutes and residents had attended previous meetings so they should have been aware that the work was to be undertaken.

Councillor Kelly said the soil on the banking will be fed into the cells

Councillor Jordon reported that at the site meeting the question of the lip had been raised and they had been informed that for health and safety reasons the lip was necessary, not so much for the present but more for the future.

Councillor Holden said that the residents had been informed by the Clerk of the start date within 24 hours of the Parish Council receiving notification.

The Lip was discussed and the advice given by the Highways Engineer was that there was an obligation on health and safety grounds and if not put in place the Parish Council would have to take on the liability for any accidents. Councillor Jackson proposed that the 6" lip be retained. Seconded by Councillor Jordon and carried unanimously.

It was agreed that no work could be carried out on the repair of the road until after Fast Flow had completed their work. Dr Atkinson had received a revised estimate for the repair of the road of £3,000, which he assured the meeting was a firm estimate. If this work was carried out and the road was in an adoptable standard the residents could apply for the road to be adopted by Northumberland Highways. Not all the residents of Riverside View were prepared to pay a share of this costing. Councillor Jordon thought the Parish Council should look toward giving a donation towards the repair of this road. It was agreed that any clothes poles which had had to be taken down before the work commenced should be replaced.

Telegraph Pole This will be concreted in the next financial year

Fencing on land let to Mr Hooley In the agreement that Mr Hooley had signed it stated that the Grazier should at his own cost adequately fence the land. Councillor Jackson pointed out that two years previously the Council had agreed for the fence to be patched at their expense but this had not been undertaken. Councillor Jordon felt that Mr Hooley should adhere to his agreement. This was seconded by Councillor Mennear and carried. Councillor Jackson asked that it be minuted she was not in agreement with this decision

Ovingham Bridge Councillor Jordon had attended the meeting at which the Faber Maunsal report had been presented It had been a well attended meeting.. Councillor Jordon said she was very disappointed in that the general feeling was that this was always going to be the decision and she wondered why it had been necessary to spend nearly £60,000 to arrive at this conclusion Councillor Kelly thought that the report had been thin on observation and recommendation and had commented on the first edition and it had been the re-write presented to the meeting.

Phase II is to be undertaken in the Spring and this destination survey will study traffic and its movements and how it should be handled crossing the River Tyne. The Mowden Hall exit is to be investigated and the possibility of a fly over/roundabout is to be considered.

Dropped Kerb No reply had been received to the clerk's request.

Speeding of Cars The clerk had written but had no information. Councillor Jackson will contact PC Charlie Cross.

5. Precept The precept will be discussed at the December meeting. It has to be received by Tynedale Council by mid-January.

6. Planning Applications The clerk asked that in future any comments on applications should be e-

mailed or given to her directly in order that they can be considered on applications.

Hillcrest Main Road - Trellis granted permission

The Old Vicarage Construction of garden room etc - granted consent

Eddybruff Main Road - Construction of dormer window - granted permission

Bridge End Inn - Conversion to B&B - done councillor had concerns over parking but this application was not received back in time to submit

White Swan Inn - Provision of low energy lights and heaters - no objections submitted.

7. Correspondence A comprehensive report was given by Councillor Jordon on the Northumberland Unitary Authority and "Belonging Communities" The uniting of similar eco/social communities had been discussed and Ovingham had been placed in the Group: Prudhoe Town Council, Wylam, Horsley, Ovington, Bywell, Broomley and Stocksfield, Hedley on the Hill and Shotley Lower Quarter. Prudhoe was not happy to be placed in this group and Heddon wished to transfer to the Group from Ponteland. Councillors felt that belonging to the same group as Prudhoe Council was inappropriate and Council Jordon was asked to report this at the next meeting.

Budget Consultation Meeting A meeting will be held 26 November in Hexham to discuss the Council's Budget for 2008/9

Fire and Rescue Service the clerk will download the questionnaire and complete it

8. Accounts to pay/paid

The following accounts were approved for payment

Reading Room - Rent September £8.50

Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreath £16.50

Acron Decorating Services - Painting of railings £407.39

Wicksteed Leisure Play equipment repairs £22.60

P Holden - Goalposts £599.25 (to be refunded)

P Holden OPC Web Site £27.58

Npower - Pavilion electricity £118.70

Reading Room - Rent October £10.00

D Jordon - expenses £8.20

Tynedale Council - grass cutting £532.51

9. Contract Procedure

Councillor Holden requested that a formal procedure be adopted for the awarding of all contracts.

The clerk, who will be attending a meeting next week, will ask other parishes how they proceed

10. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden reported that the goalposts were awaiting erection. He may wait until the end of the season. Some graffiti had been painted on the pavilion walls. This will be cleaned by the OYI with a high pressure hose.

Reading Room - the curtain rails had been replaced.

The Film Club is not being very well supported but will continue

Funding for the roof repairs was being sought.

Goose Fair will be on 21 June and plans were going well.

Councillor Kelly reported that he had been approached by a resident of The Terrace concerning the exit on to Horsley Road Northumberland Highways had suggested removing the verge and making it hard standing and removing the bollards so that cars who are presently parking on the road could pull off the road. Mrs Hepple pointed out that in the past there had been a suggestion of reducing the verges on the other side of the road. It will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Graffiti was reported on the fence of a house in Bewick Lane

The trees and bushes at the corner of Horsley Road need cutting back

Horsley Road will be closed one way for three days

There was no sign for Irving Place

Fencing repairs were needed at the end of Tyne Gardens

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 December at 7.15 p.m. at Rosemount, the home of Councillor Jordon

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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