

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

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

Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, V Mennear, R Benjamin, P Macdonald, P Holden, M Morton P Kelly (NCC) and three members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor J Jackson
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and approved with one correction and signed.
4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The tree obscuring the pole on Castle View has not been cut back. The clerk to write to Alan Bawn to check on progress. Following the meeting with Alan Bawn Councillors Holden and Benjamin had recommended the purchase of monitoring equipment. The clerk to check on the Solagen estimate for the equipment. A decision to be made at the next meeting

Wall opposite school the clerk had written – No reply

Burnside Street Light The clerk had written – No reply

Purchase of Strimmer Councillor Holden has been offered a reconditioned strimmer for ?100 in good condition. It was proposed by Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Council Mennear and agreed that this be purchased.

Blocked culverts at packhorse bridge The clerk had received a letter from Mel Richardson regarding the blocked culverts. It is obvious that only one culvert has been cleared and the clerk will contact the bridge inspector.

Blocked gulleys The clerk to write to David Hunt with the list of blocked gulleys throughout the village

Hedges at Greengates Adrian to meet with Councillor Jordon to arrange the cutting back of the hedges

5. Village Maintenance/Parish Plan

Issues and suggestions raised by Parish Councillors and residents

Long Term

Extension of pavement on Horsley Road – Requested in Transport Plan

Extension of footpath Ovingham/Wylam Road

Ovingham to Ovington Road – requested in road transport plan

Excess Signs The Councillors were unable to locate any unnecessary signs, and pointed out that these were the responsibility of the highways

Continue to pursue NCC to refurbish pavements – Road Transport Plan

Short Term

Secure the extension of Playing Field lease

Shrubs and tree branches at Churchyard wall

Millennium 2000 Seat The work will be undertaken in the Spring

Telephone Box – The work has been requested

Request residents cutback overhanging foliage The clerk had mentioned this in the Parish Magazine

The following suggestions were turned down

Plant more trees

Provide more bench seats in the village

6. Playing Field

Councillor Holden had attended a Play Builders Scheme for the construction of play areas which encouraged imagination and creativity rather than the usual play equipment. It was an imaginative scheme which would use the whole of the playing field area with differing activities and would encourage families to explore grass trails etc together. There would be BMX paths. The Middle School had been asked for suggestions and come up with innovative ideas. Councillor Holden gave the timetable:

Expression of Interest	To be registered 13 November 2009
Shortlisted	To be notified by 17 November 2009
Full Application	To be submitted by 8 January 2010
Stage 2 Shortlisting	To be notified by 12 January 2010
Successful applicants	To be notified by 5 February 2010

Funding was to be applied for: - The scheme would cost ?65,000

The Play Builder would provide	£44,000
Milecastle Housing – Play Scheme	£13,560
Community Chest	£3,000
Therefore the shortfall was approximately	£5,000

Councillor Macdonald considered that this was an opportunity for not only the present generation of young people to be offered good outdoor facilities, but also generations to come. It was a needed adventure playground and he supported the plan completely. Councillor Jordon, although supporting the project queried whether there would be enough people in the future prepared to care for such an ambitious project. Councillor Holden had considered this and thought there could be professional groups willing to take over the project.

The Councillors all voted to accept the plans and to proceed with the submission.

7. Planning 1 Dukes Cottages – Provision of roof windows – No objections

The Hermitage – Retrospective change from caravan to chalet – No objections

In future plans would not be circulated but kept by the clerk. She will then inform all councilors that they were available to be inspected

8. Accounts to pay/paid All approved for payment

Reading Room – October rent	£15.00
Turfcare Specialists Ltd – Linemarking powder	£21.76
P Holden – Diesel and weedkiller	£14.46
Npower – Pavilion electricity	£122.04
P Holden – traveling and diesel	£37.93

9. Donations

It was agreed to donate £50 each to:

Citizens Advice Bureau and Northumberland Wildlife Trust

10. Precept

The precept has now to be submitted by 8 January 2010. The clerk distributed draft figures for the budget for 2009/10. The final budget and precept request will be decided at the next meeting

11. Distribution There were several months of documents which had not been fully circulated. The clerk will check through this to make sure there is nothing that should have been noted.

12. Correspondence

Northumberland Charter for Local Councils. The charter outlines the relationship between Northumberland

County Council and local Councils. It laid out present and future responsibilities. Councillor Macdonald offered to duplicate copies for each Councillor.

NCC "Welcoming Home 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers – Invitation

Tynedale Sports Council – Invitation

East Tynedale Community Forum – information requested re. grass cutting – form submitted

NALC – details of Election of Committee

NHS – Information regarding hospital availability

Charter – to be circulated to councillors

Gambling Act – Consultation information

Letter received from Mrs A Walker regarding fencing restrictions and amenity land. The clerk to write to acknowledge letter

13. Committee Reports Councillor Kelly reported that some work on pavements would be carried out. He repeated that NCC was not in a position to carry out much outstanding work but hoped that if some minor works were put aside for one year then more hot boxes and gully cleaners could be brought into service. Councillor Holden reported that the Community workers had completed 400 hours of work which amounted to £2,237 saved for the recreation ground. The clerk to write to acknowledge.

The moles are back on the fields and being treated. The football fees (£850) have been received.

Councillor Jordon reported that the Reading Room were hoping to purchase for ?280 a fridge/freezer which would enable ice cream to be sold. Nothing was being claimed for the break in and theft of banner. The goose Fair, to be held on 21 June would be held 11a.m.-5p.m., the procession taking place as usual. It was hoped to purchase a shelter for the platform.

A craft fair will be held on 20 November

Carol singing 21 December

Councillor Benjamin reported on the last meeting of the East Tynedale Forum when grass cutting had been discussed and whether any benefits could be gained from parishes joining together. Much discussion took place regarding the wind farm and open cast mining at Whitingstall.

14. Any Other Business The Green Group have taken steps to becoming more structured, with leaders and a constitution nearing completion. A bank account will be opened and much work is being carried out regarding the carbon footprint study. A questionnaire will be circulated which should provide a sample survey. The group have been in contact with the Middle School and a meeting will be held where it is hoped that the Parish Council will be represented. There is much more to be done regarding recycling and further information is to be provided. The energy monitors at the library will be advertised. It is hoped that the Group will be linked to the Parish Council web site, where many projects and advice will be available.

Councillor Macdonald is reading through the transport report very carefully because he believes that there are many inconsistencies within it. He is concerned that in future there are many extra responsibilities which parishes will have to undertake.

Councillor Jordon reported that two of the wooden barrels on Tyne Gardens need to be replaced. They will be funded from the environmental project. She reported that plants, including wallflowers had been provided by NCC.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 December at 7.00 at Rosemount, the home of Councillor Jordon

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

1st – 30th NOVEMBER 2009

EXPENDITURE

	£
TSL – Linemarking	21.76
Reading Room – Rent October	15.00
P Holden – Diesel and Roundup	14.46
Npower – Electricity Pavilion	122.04
P Holden – Travelling and Diesel	37.93
Northumberland Wildlife – Donation	50.00
W Northumberland CAB	50.00

	£ 311.19
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INCOME

Toddlers' Group	16.00
Football Fees	350.00
Football Fees	350.00
Football Fees	150.00
Wayleave	44.31

	£ 910.31
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Opening Balance	25,611.29
Expenditure	311.19
Income	910.31
Closing Balance	£26,210.41
Deposit Account	14,944.33
Interest Deposit Account	11.96

Grand Total £41,166.70

VAT to be claimed this month £12.87