

## 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 20 November 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room  
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, J Jackson, M Morton, P Macdonald, P Kelly  
(NCC) and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Holden
2. Declarations of interest – None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and signed.
4. Matters Arising

### Interactive Speed Signs

The poles were being put in place. The clerk will write to Sologen confirming the order and arranging for the signs to be installed.

### Land Registry

Confirmation has been received from Land Registry that OPC owns amenity land adjacent to Dene Garth and Councillor Holden is exchanging information with Ian Selby at NCC regarding Tentergarth. NCC acknowledge that OPC bought the gardens from NCC and will take steps to correct the Land Registry records.

### Cycling signs on Bridge

The signs have been ordered

### Flooding

An e-mail had been received from Ian Hodge Environmental Agency concerning a meeting to discuss flooding. The clerk will write inviting him to the council meeting on 15 January. Some residents from Burnside had received sandbags and the Council was looking on storage for more bags. It was suggested that they could be stored in one of the chapels at the cemetery. The cemetery board will discuss this at their next meeting.

### Pavilion Repair

The insurers have accepted the quotation for ceiling repair and the work should commence soon. It was hoped to be able to replace the damaged carpet with non-slip lino. It is hoped to replace the carpet on a like-for-like cost

The invoice for the dehumidifier has been received at £217.50.

### Village Web Site

All Councillors were requested to send Councillor Holden dates of events for advertising on the new "Blog". Councillor Jordon was requested to keep quoting the website address in the parish magazine.

### Lease of Playing Field

Councillor Holden had received a letter from Northumberland Estates that they will pay their own legal fees as a gesture of good will and Councillor Holden has been in contact with the Tynedale solicitors and they have agreed to act on behalf of OPC.

### Award Grants Section 106

No further information available

5. Village Action Plan 2008/9.

(a) Tim Fish had now completed the steps down from Castle View. The clerk was asked to write to thank him.

(b) Adrian Jackson was unable to prune the trees in the garden let to Ann Ingham and the pruning of the trees in the land let to Janet Robson. The clerk will ask three firms to tender for the work.

Contractors will liaise with Councillor Jordon.

©. There was no progress on the cutting back of vegetation at the Reading Room. It will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

(d) Resurfacing of the lane behind the Church

(e) Tim Fish is to undertake a survey of all trees on riverside walks. Councillor Morton had removed the sapling which was blocking the path.

#### 6. Conservation Area Appraisal

The document was still in circulation and Councillors will bring their comments to the next meeting

#### 7. Precept

The precept will be discussed at the next meeting

#### 8. Accounts to Pay/Paid

Reading Room Rent September £10.00

Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath £16.50

P Holden – Diesel and Tarpaulin £9.48

Reading Room – Rent October £10.00

D Jordon -OPC Expenses - £11.80

D Jordon - Environmental Project £62.98

The Chairman signed the form to accept the Reading Room's increased charges

#### 9. Donations

Councillor Jackson will find out before the next meeting whether Age Concern is still operating a service in the village. Age Concern's request will be discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed to donate £50 each to Tynedale Citizens Advice Bureau and Tynedale Community Hospice

#### 10. Planning Applications - NIL

#### 11. Correspondence

Northumberland Homefinder Scheme has requested information as to where they can place notices regarding weekly properties. The clerk to write to Tynedale suggesting the notices could be placed on the two Parish Council Boards and also in the Reading Room

Northumberland Early Years and Childcare Service – Information has been passed to Councillor Holden

Resurfacing of Footpaths. A copy letter has been received congratulating NCC on the standard of workmanship on the resurfacing of footpaths. However, the work has now stopped, presumably because of lack of funding.

A letter has been received from Philip Hindmarsh concerning the placing of bins to the rear of The Old School. The Council were opposed to the suggestion because of the safety issue of an increase in traffic which would be involved on a road not tarmacaded. Also, it was close to residential property and there would be an increase in noise. The Middle School had been discussing green issues. It was suggested that recycling could be carried out on the school parking space

E-mail from David Frances concerning a meeting 24 November for parish councils in West Northumberland. Councillor Macdonald will attend and report back at the next meeting.

E-mail from Chris Bold concerning the light at the Old School. He reported that the unit installed was the lowest wattage available but would dim in time.

#### 12. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden reported that he was receiving help on the playing field from a young offender. He would be available to do other work throughout the village if required.

Councillor Kelly reported on the severe financial difficulties for NCC at this time. Recession had put a huge burden on the income received and the flooding had made an impact of £3 million on the budget. £23 million had been invested in Iceland and although that money would eventually be returned, the Council was losing the interest. All Departmental Directors had been asked to prune

20% from their budget which meant many projects have had to be delayed or cancelled. One of the projects which had been delayed was the Ovingham Bridge and much discussion took place as to why the work would not now take place. The option of making savings by closing libraries, leisure centers or museums had been considered but rejected by senior councillors. Councillor Kelly endeavoured to explain the system of programmed maintenance. Councillor Macdonald asked why Alnwick Bridge had been repaired, even though it did not carry a main road. He also asked why NCC had not removed their money from Iceland when they had the opportunity to do so. Councillor Kelly pointed out that money had been invested on fixed rate terms and to remove it would have meant incurring penalty charges. However, even though the money was losing interest the capital remained safe.

Councillor Kelly read out to the parish council a sentence from the document considering the impact of cutting the £4 million bridge maintenance budget by half. The planned redecking of Ovingham Bridge could not then take place and the eventual deterioration of the existing plates may lead to closure of the bridge. There was a need to replace on a rolling programme more than 90% of bridge parapets in the county following the triple death at Wylam.

Councillor Kelly said he had been assured by the executive member for Highways that the redecking of Ovingham Bridge was scheduled for 2008 but Highways officers later informed him that the work was not in this year's plans. When asked why Holeyn Hall Road was being done if money was short, he pointed out that it had been assessed as top priority and that highways maintenance came from a different budget to bridge maintenance.

#### Any Other Business

A question was raised from the public as to whether drainage would be installed to stop Piper Road flooding. Mr K Rusby had taken photographs of the flooding which Councillor Macdonald will photocopy and pass to Mel Richardson for his comments.

It was reported that the litter bin on the pole at the entrance on to the Piper Road Estate was a visual hazard and needed turning round. Councillor Macdonald will look at it and see what the solution could be.

The clerk was asked to write to 38 Castle View congratulating them on the removal of the conifers on their property

The clerk was asked to write to 36 Castle View requesting that they cut back overhanging shrubs on their property.

Date and Venue for the Next Meeting 18 December at 7.30 p.m. at the home of Councillor Jordon.

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

