

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th November 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jackson (Chair), Jordon, Holden, Mennear, Benjamin and Heslop, County Councillor Kelly and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Turnbull and MacDonald
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, accepted and signed
4. Matters arising:
 - i) Cllr Benjamin gave an update on the Notice Board reporting that a glazed replacement would cost about £1000.00. The previous clerk had obtained previous, cheaper quotes, which will be forwarded to Cllr Benjamin. Cllrs to consider options at next meeting.
 - ii) Ovington Parish Council had agreed to assist in the purchase of a bench for the Churchyard up to the sum of £150.00. Clerk to obtain quotes.
 - iii) The 1st School had not been back in touch with regards arranging a meeting to discuss the issue of the location of the proposed hedging by the new fence. Clerk to contact again.
 - iv) The Clerk had not received any response from David Hunt regarding the issues of parking on Horsley Road and she would contact him again.
 - v) The Councillors were keen to do something for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration next year but wanted to consider what other local villages were doing. Clerk to enquire.
 - vi) No response had been received regarding the pruning of the hedge which overhangs the payment by the Village Shop (The Terrace). It was agreed that a quiet word would probably be a better approach.
5. Donation of Seat by Bus Stop by Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson – Mr. Atkinson attended the meeting and offered to donate the funds, subject to a limit, in order to have a place to sit by the bus stop at the Church. Cllr Benjamin had looked at a few options taking into account possible problems such as the Highways Department and he proposed a seat in the wall. Mr. Atkinson was keen on this idea and Cllr Benjamin will make enquiries and liaise with Mr. Atkinson. The Chair, on behalf of the Councillors, thanked Mr. Atkinson for his very generous gesture to which they were extremely grateful.
6. Removal of 3 trees on Piper Road – Since the last meeting it had been determined that although NCC would pay for the removal of the trees concerned, they did not have funds to pay for replacements. The Councillors agreed to fund the purchase of 3 mountain ash, but with a maximum spend of £50 each. Clerk to contact Mr. Nash of Piper Road who had suggested that

some residents may help with the purchase of more substantial trees.

7. Parish Plan Questionnaire – The Clerk had completed the initial findings of the completed questionnaires, which had thrown up many suggestions and ideas. The Councillors to further study these initial results to determine what was achievable and make a list of aspirations before moving on to the next step.
8. NCC Grass cutting schedule – The Clerk had been in touch with some local parish councils to find out if they contracted the grass cutting. The Councillors were wary of implications that could arise from a contractor cutting grass on NCC land so Clerk will get more information from Clerk at Horsley.
9. Traffic sign for cyclists on Bridge – A letter had been received from a resident regarding this problem and it was agreed that the sign was very misleading. It was proposed that the next step would be to arrange a meeting to which the Police and Highways department were invited and options could be considered together with speeding.
10. Budget/Precept for 2012-2013 – the Clerk had prepared a more in depth proposed budget for the Councillors, which was considered. Cllr Holden asked that funds be made available for Youth provision, specifically for Ashley Brown of NCC Youth Service. This was agreed. Cllr Jordon reported that although she was allocated £500 for environmental project, she did not use this, funding purchases herself, so the allocated funds could be transferred to Youth Provision. The Councillors would determine a final budget for the December meeting.
11. BDO Audit - It was resolved that the internal auditor is sufficiently independent, unbiased and objective and is competent to carry out the audit. The Clerk reported that he would be checking the accounts on a regular basis of at least 3 times a year. Account reports are available to the Councillors at each meeting prepared by the Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk). The Councillors would review the procedure and responsibilities annually.
12. Accounts to be pay/paid

Tynedale Hospice at Home	£100.00
West Northumberland Citizens Advice	£ 50.00
E. Turnbull (repairing wall & railing at Church)	£133.00
Royal British legion re Poppy wreath	£ 17.00
M. Davenport (Salary/expenses October)	£195.76
Wylam Electrical Services (Pavilion work)	£988.44
Reading Room (Rental October)	£ 15.00

Cllr Holden reported that although the invoice from Wylam Electrical Services appeared higher than that originally quoted, extra work had to be carried out including new light fittings.

13. Correspondence – the Badger Club had written to ask for help in the purchasing of new craft items for the out of school club. They are a charity and rely heavily on fundraising and donations. The Councillors agreed to donate £50.00
14. Distribution – the items of distribution included quarterly magazines and a detailed report on the Draft National Planning Policy.
15. Committee Reports – Cllr Holden asked that it be minuted his thanks for the group of volunteers who assist in the village, especially the Playing Field.

Cllr Mennear reported that there were trees that needed attending to in the Cemetery which was being arranged. Cllr Jordon passed on the thanks and appreciation from the Reading Room regarding the recent tidying up of the laurels by the Reading Room. More fund raising activities were planned including a Craft Fair at the end of the month. It was proposed to put a fence to the rear of the Reading Room and padlock the bins to it for safety. County Cllr Kelly, confirmed that the closure of Rio Tinto Alcan would have an impact of the whole of Northumberland. Despite the efforts of Ian Coe, the Transport Support Manager at NCC, the recent changes for the bus services, including the 111 and 686 would stand. There had been many applications for installing Solar Panels, but warnings that grants were being reduced.

16. Green Ovingham – a detailed update on recent activities including promoting the energy group and warm zone. The recycling group are keen to receive the response from the recent questionnaire and the Cllrs will let them know as soon as it is available. Green Ovingham were promoting a walking bus especially with “Walk to School” being heavily promoted. The Food Group gave an informative report on their proposals. They have been looking at suitable land locally and were keen to move forward. Cllr Jackson pointed out the implications of organic certification of which the Food Group was aware. Cllr Jordon also advised that residents had been complaining that the Vegetable Bags which the Food Group had been selling, was taking business away from the Village shop and this should be taken into account for future plans.
17. Planning Applications:
 - i) 40 Dene Garth – construction of Conservatory to rear – no objections providing neighbours were happy
 - ii) 4 Horsley Road – First Floor side extension – no objections
18. Any other business – Cllr Jordon reported that the Sycamore Tree behind Garden House was on Parish Land and not Duke of N’land land. She will contact J. Swinburn to attend to it. Ovingham Middle School had confirmed the Parish Council’s first talk would be on 30th November which Cllr Jackson agreed to give. The Clerk was asked to get in touch with the dog warden regarding the problem behind Castle View. Also to contact BT about the damage to panes in the telephone box. Cllr Jordon also reported that the environmental health department was dealing with bags of rubbish behind 1 Castle View. She was also arranging for the self seeded ash trees behind Stannerbrae, Castle View, to be removed.
19. Date and venue of next meeting - 8th December 2011 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

November 2011

EXPENDITURE

Tynedale Hospice at Home	£100.00
West Northumberland Citizens Advice	£ 50.00
E. Turnbull (repairing wall & railing at Church)	£133.00
Royal British legion re Poppy wreath	£ 17.00
M. Davenport (Salary/expenses October)	£195.76
Wylam Electrical Services (Pavilion work)	£988.44
Reading Room (Rental October)	£ 15.00
Badger Club (Donation)	£ 50.00

TOTAL £ 1549.20

INCOME

Northern Powergrid "Wayleave"	£46.80
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TOTAL £46.80

Opening Balance	24,016.26	
Expenditure	1,549.20	
Income		46.80
Closing Balance	22513.86	
Deposit Account	14,968.21	
TOTAL	<u>£ 37482.07</u>	

VAT to be reclaimed this month £164.74

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

December 2011

EXPENDITURE

Northumbrian Water	£ 33.53
Reading Room (Rental November)	£ 15.00
M Davenport (Sal & exp Nov)	£309.76
P Holden (Diesel etc)	£ 28.72

TOTAL **£387.01**

INCOME

TOTAL **£0.00**

Opening Balance	22,528.86 *	
Expenditure	387.01	
Income		0.00
Closing Balance	22,141.85	
Deposit Account	14,968.21	
TOTAL	<u>£ 37110.06</u>	

VAT to be reclaimed this month £3.95

- amended due to fact cheque 698 for £15 cancelled

[Please note – because our December meeting had to be cancelled, these minutes and finances were approved at our meeting on Thurs 19 Jan 2011]