

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 October 2007 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, M Morton, , P Holden, and J Jackson, Councillor
P Kelly (NCC) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor P Macdonald
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 The Clerk had written to Chris Bolt to arrange a meeting but owing to internal organisation it would not be possible to arrange a meeting until after October.

Land Registration: Cllr Holden has now passed on our application to the Land Registry in Durham. The application is to register five plots of land in the ownership of Ovingham Parish Council. Four plots involve Statutory Declarations namely (a) The Pack Horse Field (b) The Village Green (c) The Pant and (d) Jimmy Johnson's Park. The fifth plot, the Allotments and Grazing Land, is supported by a certified copy of the conveyance between Northumberland County Council and Ovingham Parish Council. A sixth plot, namely the Goose Fair Cross, is already registered with the Land Registry as being in the ownership of Ovingham Parish Council.

During Cllr Holden's investigations, a problem had come to light regarding land which is registered as VG59 in the County Council's Register of Town and Village Greens. Part of this plot has been rented out for many decades as gardens by the parish council to residents. In the year 2000, Northumberland County Council registered this land with Absolute Title with the Land Registry. The legal advice we have received advises the parish council to avoid contesting ownership but to approach Northumberland County Council informing them of the situation and asking for their advice.

Councillor Kelly suggested the clerk write to the Northumberland Solicitor for advice, pointing out that the gardens should remain as they are at the moment and that the management of the gardens could be undertaken by the Parish Council. The County Council, he also suggested, might be invited to 'gift' the gardens back into the ownership of Ovingham Parish Council. Councillor Kelly pointed out that it is government policy that wherever possible assets should be passed down to a local level.

Interactive Speed Signs Councillor Macdonald had held a meeting and produced photographs which were in circulation. There seemed to be some confusion as to the annual maintenance and insurance costs of these signs and the clerk will write to Councillor Macdonald asking him for firm figures for the next meeting.

Village Webb Councillor Holden had met with Tony Newton and progress was being made. It was agreed that Councillors would have their photographs on the site.

Painting of Railings The Clerk had written for two quotations and an estimate of £310.26 had been received for the painting of the railings outside the First School and The Reading Room. It was considered that whilst these were being painted the railings on Horsley Road should be painted as well and the clerk will write for an additional estimate. There was discussion as to whether to proceed with the painting. It was proposed by Councillor Morton, seconded by Councillor Jordon and carried by three votes to one to proceed.

Insurance - Fidelity Guarantee - The Clerk had ascertained that she was covered.

Grant The clerk had informed the Reading Room Trust that they were prepared to advance the £5,000 which was required for roof repairs on the condition that they investigated the possibility of obtaining some funding themselves. This had been agreed and it was understood that funds were in process of being sought.

Parking at Riverside Councillor Kelly had met with Councillors Turnbull and Jordon regarding the resurfacing of the green at Riverview. It was not possible to proceed immediately with the resurfacing because Fast Flow were in process of inspecting the water system but it was hoped that progress would be made soon. Councillor Kelly will keep a watch on progress.

Telegraph Pole Grass around the pole had been cut but it had been hoped that the base would be concreted. The Clerk to check with Councillor Macdonald

Grass Cutting Horsley Road The work had still not been done and it was agreed the item be removed from the Agenda. The Clerk will write again to find out why the request had not been implemented.

Passing Place Notices Horsley Road New signs have been ordered and will be erected at the same time as new notices are installed on the Bywell River Road

Railings The Hill and the Stepping Stones Councillor Jordon had contacted Tim Fish who hoped to have the new railings at The Hill concreted in. She will also ask him to look at the steps from Castle View

5. Fencing on Council Land let to Mr Hooley A letter had been received concerning the poor state of the fencing between his rented field and that of Mr Armstrong. It was agreed to ask for quotations for the repair of this fencing from Mr Jackson and also Mr Hardon. Councillor Jordon pointed out that it could prove an expensive outlay considering the very small amount of annual rent that is paid. Councillor Holden thought there might be some clause in his original agreement which would state the occupier would be responsible for fencing. He would look at the original documents.

6. Planning Applications Resubmission Bridge End for B&B - In circulation. Councillor Jordon noted that she had not seen the last planning application circulated. The clerk said this was difficult sometimes to ensure all councillors saw applications before the return date. It was noted that planning applications could be seen on the Tynedale web site. It was agreed that in future, any planning application which was received in good time to be considered at Council Meetings. Others would be circulated and all councillors should ensure they passed the papers on quickly.

7. Correspondence All correspondence was circulated under Distribution.

8. Accounts to pay/paid

The following accounts were approved for payment

A Hardon - tree and grass trimming £100

Reading Room - Special Meeting 2 August - £8.50

P Holden - Travel Expenses incurred for land registry £61.20

P Holden - Cost of Statutory Declaration £28.00

P Holden - Padlock & Diesel £12.17

P Holden Registered Postage Land Registry Documents £6.00

TSL - Adhesive £50.76

Councillor Holden reported that he had ordered the goal posts. The Grant application was accepted and signed by the Chairman. Because the goalposts had to be paid for immediately Councillor Holden had had to pay for these himself.

9. Committee Reports

Councillor Holden asked for permission for special poster boards be put on the wall of the pavilion to enable properly supervised graffiti to be painted. These could then be erased if necessary and replaced. There would be no cost to the Parish Council who agreed to the project.

Councillor Jordon will be attending a meeting on 23 October to receive the report on Ovingham Bridge.

10. Any Other Business Councillor Jordon was asked to put into the magazine an item concerning the fact that land on The Piper Road estate which had not been registered before has now been registered by Tynedale Council.

Mrs Hepple has now received time tables for trains and buses and anybody wishing a copy should apply to her.

The dropped kerb at Burnside and used by residents at Welburn Home had been requested and not undertaken in this year's expenditure plan. The clerk to request that this should be placed in funding for the next financial year.

The clerk was asked to write to the police requesting a traffic inspection between 4.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. as it was felt that there was some very high speed driving through the village at that time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.