

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 October 2009 at 7.15 p.m in the Reading Room.
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, J Jackson, V Mennear and six members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Holden, Morton, Benjamin and P Kelly (NCC)
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

A site meeting had been held with Mr Bawn. Councillors Benjamin and Holden had discussed the repositioning of the poles and a report with recommendations was read. It was agreed to accept the recommendation that the poles stay where they are and the vegetation on Castle Close be cut back.

Tenancy Agreements

The tenancy agreements had been circulated. Councillor Jordon recommended that Clause © be removed from the garden lease. The remainder of the leases will be put into place next year before payment is due.

Hedge Cutting

Councillor Jackson reported that Adrian was prepared to cut back the hedges on the "Lonen" Horsley Road and also trim back the hedges close to the planters on the Horsley Road verge.

Purchase of strimmer

Held over to the next meeting

5. Village Maintenance

Blocked culverts Packhorse Bridge. Only one culvert is clear. The clerk had requested that foliage be removed.

Gullies on West Road and Road Bridge End to Welburn Care Home. The clerk to write requesting they be cleared

Millenium 2000 Seat Councillor Jordon to ask Bob Klotz the best way to treat the seat

Telephone Box – The clerk to write requesting the PO repaint it

Provide a further waste bin at Bewick Lane car park The clerk to write

The clerk to write to highways concerning the very poor maintenance of the foliage over the path from Ovingham towards Wylam.

6. Village Action Plan

The following were discussed.

Planting trees Horsley Road. The Council had met with opposition when trying to plant trees previously.

Replace trees on Dene Close Green. Before any decision was made residents would need to be approached.

Provision bench seats on Horsley Road. The council was not in favour of the provision of more benches.

Remove railings outside the Croft on Horsley Road. It was thought that perhaps these had been placed there as a safety measure. The clerk will write to Highways to find out if they could provide further information

Remove concrete bollards Horsley Road. It was thought that these were provided as a safety measure.

No action would be taken until after the provision of double yellow lines
Extend pavement on Horsley Road. This has been requested under the road safety plan
Removal of many road and information signs. The Councillors would look around the village to note those which were obtrusive or not necessary. However, most of the signage was the responsibility of highways, or transport.

Grass Cutting The clerk had received a letter from Andy Rutherford admitting that the grass cutting had been far from satisfactory. New machinery had been brought into use and it is hoped that this would improve the cuts next year.

Whittle Burn The clearing of the culverts had been far from satisfactory and the clerk will write again to Northumberland, whose responsibility it is, to clear the culverts. Only one culvert is clear.

7 Green Group.

The meeting was opened to the public and Debbie Reed gave details of the progress of the group. Leaflets were to be distributed throughout the village to explain how much more can now be taken to West Wylam for recycling. It is hoped that volunteers could be found to help those unable to take items themselves. More compost bins may be available at the end of December Northumberland Water had published a newsletter and it is hoped water butts may be available again. It was agreed by the Council that the following wording could be used by the group "A Green Group has been formed and will work with the support of the Parish Council to raise environmental awareness". Council Jordon thought it was important that nothing is done without involving the feeling of the whole village and public meetings held where appropriate to ascertain the residents' approval.

There is to be a "try out" on the village green for children at the weekend.

The Group was investigating the possibility of notices to be put at the level crossing requesting motorists switch off their engines whilst waiting. They had received a letter from Northumberland County Council who had under consideration the dimming or cutting back of some street lighting. Nothing would be done without the knowledge that the public were prepared to accept these changes.

8. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval to pay the following accounts was given.

P Holden Bricks & Mortar for pavilion - £12.21

D Jordon Watering Cans (Environmental project) £11.98

Reading Room – Rent September £15.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £16.50

BDO – Audit Fee £155.25

9. Donations

It was agreed to donate as a "one-off" donation £50 to the Green Group

The literature from Northumberland Wildlife Trust would be studied and a decision made at the next meeting.

10. The Audit had been received with the only comment being that the Fidelity Guarantee should be increased to cover the amount of money the Council hold.

The acceptance of the Audit was proposed by Councillor Meneer and seconded by Councillor Jackson.

11. Correspondence

A letter from funding providers was passed to Ms Reed

A letter from Mr Good, Allotment Chairman requesting further land be allocated for allotments. It was pointed out that the Council had no other land within the village, though should at any time any of the grazing land become vacant the Council may consider it being reallocated

12. Committee Reports

Councillor Jordon reported that the banner had been stolen and there had been a break-in over the weekend. Alcohol had been stolen, together with two silver cups and a bell from the WI cupboard. The race night had been poorly attended but made an approximate profit of £200 A goose fair meeting had been held at which the Chairman, together with Councillor Jordon had resigned The Goose Fair

Chairman had also resigned from the Reading Room Committee
Councillor Jackson reported that bookings were going well with four new user groups being formed.
Burial Committee – Councillor Jackson reported that the topple tests were being carried out

Any Other Business

It was requested that a litter pick be carried out. Councillor Jordon offered to respond to the letter received earlier and arrange for a litter pick.

Councillor Jordon had a received a request to cut back the branches on the back lane to Burnfoot.
This was agreed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19 November at 7.15 in the Reading Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

3F.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
1st-31ST OCTOBER 2009

| <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | £ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reading Room Rent –September | 15.00 |
| Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath | 16.50 |
| BDO – Audit | 155.25 |
| | ————— |
| | 186.75 |
| | ===== |
| <u>INCOME</u> | |
| Toddlers’ Group | 32.00 |
| | ===== |
| Opening Balance | 25,766.04 |
| Expenditure | 186.75 |
| Income | 32.00 |
| | ————— |
| Closing Balance | 25,611.29 |
| Deposit Account | 14,944.33 |
| | ————— |
| Grand Total | 40,555.62 |
| | ===== |

VAT to be claimed this month £20.25