

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th October 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Turnbull (Chair), Jordon, Holden, Jackson and Heslop, County Councillor Kelly, Ashley Brown from NCC Youth Service and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Mennear, MacDonald and Benjamin
2. Declarations of interest – none
3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, accepted and signed.
4. Matters arising:
 - i) Notice Board – Cllr Benjamin was not present to give an update
 - ii) Pruning of bushes to side of Reading Room – Cllr Jordon reported that Paul Turnbull (NEAT) had agreed to do this, on this occasion, when current grass cutting schedule has finished
 - iii) Parking on Horsley Road – Clerk to chase up response
 - iv) Northumberland SHLAA – Clerk reported that all consultations had been completed, there would be a meeting in November with a final report by the end of January 2012.
 - v) Grazing Land – there had been no response about the potential Health and Safety issue and the Councillors felt that nothing further could be done.
 - vi) Hedges along Castle View – this referred to number 36 Castle View and despite letters to the resident, had still not been resolved. Again, it was felt that nothing further could be done. Cllr Jordon also pointed out a similar situation by the Village Shop & Clerk to write to the resident concerned.
5. Land to the rear of Castle View – following access problems to the rear of Castle View (West End) Cllr Jordon reported that the area does look better. ISOS is responsible for approximately 1 metre of land (on left hand side) and the weeds will be cut back eventually. NCC have strimmed the area of 1 metre from the residents back door as a one-off, but in future this will have to be the residents' responsibility.
6. Removal of 3 trees on Piper Road – concerns were expressed that any proposed replacement would take years to be established. However, it was agreed that the costs to prune the Willows on a regular basis far outweighed any replacement. Cllr Jordon reported that trees such as a flowering cherry of a decent size could be purchased for about £40 each. The Willows were the wrong trees to be planted in the first place, and their roots contributed to flooding problems in Piper Road Area. As NCC had acknowledged that they would fund replacements, subject to budget, it was agreed that the Clerk would get in touch with them.

7. Progress of Maintenance issues in the village – Cllr Jordon had Raised some 26 areas around the village which needed attending to. Of these, the majority were the responsibility of NCC and were gradually being addressed. The entrance to the Bridge had been tidied; overhanging branches on footpath down to Wylam are to be cut once the grass cutting season finishes. NCC Environmental Health dealing with rubbish bags outside 1 Castle View & in backyard being some of the issues.
8. Parish Plan questionnaires – about 200 had been returned so far and it was agreed that the Clerk would collate information from them.
9. Church seat to entrance of porch (donation) – Cllr Jordon asked that a bench be purchased, jointly with Ovington Parish Council and placed near the entrance. Clerk to write.
10. Ovingham First School Fence – planning permission had been granted for a new metal fence with the condition of “substantial” hedging to be planted. Both the Village Trust and Ovingham Parish Council were concerned that this should be outside the fence and the Clerk was asked to write to the Head of the First School to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue further.
11. Provision for Youth – Ashley Brown, Senior Youth worker for NCC West Northumberland area. He talked about Youth provisions in the area and the changes involved moving away from the tradition of having a fixed centre such as a Youth Club, which no longer appears to be what the Youth want. Organised outings such as bowling appear to be more in demand but it would require interest and a desire of the Youth Services from Parish Councils, in return for an investment. Provisions for youth had been part of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, and it was agreed that when this information had been collated and discussed further by the Councillors, they would get back in touch with Ashley to discuss what is required.
12. Budget/Precept for 2012/2013 – The Clerk had amended some of the sections which were discussed briefly. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a much more detailed breakdown for the next meeting.
13. Accounts to pay/be paid

Npower	£108.35
P Holden (Diesel, blades, fan belt)	£ 58.99
David Dixon (mower repairs)	£177.11
Robson Print (leaflets)	£134.60
Journal of Local Planning (Navigus)	£50.00
Reading Room Rental (July & Sept)	£30.00
M Davenport (Sept sal & exp)	£190.11
Tyne Valley Rail Users Group	£5.00
Tyne Valley Auto electrics	£58.20
Society of Local Clerks	£77.00
BDO	£510.00
14. BDO Audit – The Clerk reported that this had been returned with comments from BDO, the external auditors. The Clerk is to get in touch with Richard Gilbert, the internal auditor, to confirm that he is willing to continue in that capacity, as checks need to be made on the accounts throughout the year.
15. Correspondence
 - i) Proposed Boundary changes – A letter had been received from the local MP, Guy Oppenheim about the proposals. It was agreed that this should be included in the next distribution for comments from

- the Councillors.
- ii) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – The Councillors agreed that this should be encouraged and ideas were to be proposed.
 - iii) Tynedale Hospice at Home – a request for a donation had been received and the Councillors agreed to donate £100
 - iv) NCC grass cutting schedule – due to the proposed extra cuts and the costs, Cllr Jordon asked that consideration be given to contracting this out especially as the grass cutting was a major issue in the village.
 - v) West Northumberland CAB – a letter had been received asking for a donation, and the Councillors agreed to £50
 - vi) Go North east Bus changes- the service 111 was underused and was to be withdrawn whilst service 686 had reduced services from Ovingham
16. Distribution – information had been received from Campaign to Protect Rural England in respect of proposed planning changes, an update from Arriva bus services and NCC had written to confirm that their Council Magazine “Northumberland News” which is available on line, quarterly, or from sites such as libraries and leisure centres.
17. Committee Reports – Cllr Holden reported that unfortunately the last set of approved minutes had not appeared on OPC's website and he offered to take over this responsibility for the future.
Cllr Jordon reported that the Reading Room continued to raise funds to fund ongoing refurbishment including the windows. Slates were loose at the back of the premises that needed attending to. They had been allocated £7500 from the Lotteries Commission.
County Cllr Kelly reported that the planning application for a supermarket and housing in Prudhoe had been postponed and needed a full environmental impact assessment. Jobs were being created by the re-location of Azko, but fears were raised about the Alcan at Lynemouth that could close with the loss of some 3500 jobs. The County council were pushing forward with applications for 3 new High Schools, including one at Prudhoe.
18. Green Ovingham – asked if any feedback had been received yet from the recent proposals to the Local Transport Plan. There had been none, but Cllr Jordon proposed that as speeding has always been an issue in the village, it is put on the agenda again, together with better signs for cyclists over Ovingham Bridge. Green Ovingham reported about the recent success of the “vegetable bags” but concerns were expressed that although the Council supported their aims, it was hoped it would not be to the detriment of taking trade away from the local shop.
19. Any other business – Cllr Jordon reported that a letter had been received from Ovingham Middle School inviting the Parish Council to take part in a programme of talks to the School on a rotational basis to which Cllr Jackson volunteered. Also as a result of a recent grass cut in the Churchyard, a stone had been knocked but was now back in place.
20. Date of next meeting – to be Thursday, November 17th 2011 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

October 2011

EXPENDITURE

Npower	108.35
David Dixon (Mower repairs)	177.11
Robson Print (leaflets)	134.60
P Holden (Diesel, blades, fan belt)	58.99
Journal of Local Planning	50.00
Reading Room Rental (July & Sept)	30.00
M Davenport (Sal & exp Sept)	190.11
Tyne Valley Rail Users Group	5.00
Tyne Valley Auto Electrics	58.20
Society of Local Clerks	77.00
BDO (Annual audit)	510.00
	<u>1399.36</u>

INCOME

C Burt (Rental Pavilion)	10.00
PYCFC (Football Fees)	181.50
NCC Council Tax rebate	117.15
	<u>308.65</u>

Opening Balance	25,106.97
Expenditure	1,399.36
Income	308.65
Closing Balance	24,016.26
Deposit Account	14,968.21
TOTAL	<u>38,984.47</u>

VAT to be reclaimed this month £142.81