

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 October 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, J Jackson, M Morton P Holden, P Macdonald
and 1 member of the public

1. Apologies were received from R Benjamin, V Mennear and P Kelly (NCC)
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 clerk had ordered the poles, through A Bawn but there was no positive date for delivery. As soon as they are erected the clerk will arrange an order through Sologen

Land Registry

Councillor Holden had almost completed the registration of land and a copy of his findings is attached to the Minutes. There was an area of ambiguity over the ownership of VG59 and it was decided not to follow this up as responsibilities could come with ownership. Councillor Holden reported that tenancy agreements should be signed annually. The clerk to find the originals and set things in motion.

Cycling signs on Bridge

No progress had been made over the erection of new signs and Councillor Macdonald will investigate
Flooding.

A letter had been received from Ian Douglas offering storage for sandbags at their depot in Low Prudhoe. The clerk to write and accept the offer. A letter had been received from the Village Trust requesting a working party be set up to identify and document flood risk areas within the village. It was thought that Parish Councillors have much too much to do already to become involved in more committee work, though agreed that the Council should lead in flood avoidance in the future. It was pointed out that the Environment Agency is the correct body to oversee any plans for the future and the clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency requesting an open meeting in the village which would involve the whole village. The clerk will write to the Village Trust informing them of their decision.

Pavilion Repair

Councillor Holden was in the process of obtaining two quotes each for the repair of the ceiling and the carpets.

Award Grants Section 106

No further information available.

Bridge Inspection

The clerk had received a letter from ST Rudman, Highways Division which denied that there had never been any works programmed for the bridge during 2008. The clerk was asked to photocopy the letter and send it to Councillor Kelly for his comments.

5. Village Action Plan

1. Tim Fish will request steps to be put down from Castle View. The fence has not yet been replaced.
2. Fencing - it was decided the fencing was sound and it was decided to remove this from the list
3. The conifers will be lopped back and then the pruning will become the responsibility of the tenant. Councillor Jordon will look to see what is necessary and report back. 1.

4. The vegetation at the Reading Room to be cut back. It was hard to find out who owned the land. Councillor Jordon will raise the matter at the next Reading Room Committee Meeting
5. Resurfacing of the lane behind the Church
6. Graveyard wall and stone stile steps have been repaired
7. Two kerbstones in need of repair - reported
8. The footpath along the river path is blocked The clerk to write to Tim Fish

6. Village Web Site

Councillor Holden was arranging village events to be added.

7. Completion of Audit

The final audit documents have been received. Councillor Jackson proposed and Councillor Holden seconded that these be accepted by the Council. Two items were raised by the auditors, one the question of insufficient fidelity guarantee. The Councillors agreed that in consideration of a year of anticipated high expenditure no action should be taken. The second query raised was concerning the Internal Audit. Mr Hepple was away and, therefore, no action would be taken, but the matter would be discussed with him on his return.

8. Accounts to pay/paid

The following accounts were approved for payment

P Holden - £31.15 – padlock keys and diesel

BDO – Audit - £158.63

Turfcare – White Lining - £31.96

9. Donations

A request had been received from Age Concern. It was agreed to leave this until the end of the year.

10. Planning Application

12 Castle View – Erection of porch. The Council had registered objections. However permission had been granted by Tynedale. It was agreed that a careful watch would be kept on progress.

11. Correspondence

Letter from Northumberland Finance regarding the Precept. This will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

11. Committee Reports

The Reading Room Committee had met but only discussed rent increases. Councillor Jackson reported that although some users had given up their bookings, other organizations had made bookings.

Councillor Jackson reported that the burial committee had not met but would meet on Councillor Mennear's return. There had been problems with drains and they are to be inspected the following week.

Councillor Jordon reported on the last meeting of the East Tynedale Forum which had centered mainly on Belonging Communities and their future role in the new organization where they would be the effective link between parishes and the Unitary Authority. Councillor Jordon envisaged an enormous amount of work will be involved. Councillor Macdonald pointed out that although in theory the workings of the Parish Councils would be more there was no increased finances. Faber Maunsel/Nick Webster presented new data on traffic movements. In one hour 1609 vehicles travelled up Gallowhill and 1559 the reverse way. More detailed examination of figures required. These will be looked at by Dick Fraser who will then make a final decision as to way forward..

Dick Fraser reiterated the policy of “once a year” drain /gulley clearing. Councillor McDonald

commented that to clear every single drain, every year would be impossible with the current number of drain clearing machines available. Funding was tight and repairs to potholes, roads, pavements would be limited.

12. Any Other business

Councillor Holden requested approval for the repair of the mower engine, oils filters etc.

Councillor Holden was concerned the light on Piper Road is a continuing problem.

Toddlers: Some attendees thought a cost of £2 each session excessive. Councillor Holden suggested a meeting with all members representatives to discuss the use of facilities, cleanliness, responsibilities etc.

Councillor Jordon reported that a smaller issue of the Parish Magazine is to be published next time as Canon Nelson required the space for Church News.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Goose fair involving all Councillors.

Councillor Jackson on behalf of the Goose Fair Committee requested permission to rent for the day, the allotment fields currently rented by A Armstrong and J Hooley. This is to accommodate “less traditional fairings”.

Councillor Jordon explained she thought the Goose Fair had become too big and too commercialised. She suggested the Goose Fair become more pro-active involving the residents of the village schools and community groups, e.g. tug of war, school children dancing and singing competitions/races involving children. She felt the fair should be on the main village green only and the fair should be about the involvement of village residents and a limited number of commercial stalls.

Councillor Jackson indicated that the Goose Fair costs £2,500 to hold: The St John’ Ambulance, entertainers etc. £1,200 profit made in 2008 but it was felt it was “worth the effort”. There was also concern about the 40th Anniversary Fair being “sub-standard” if 30 stalls removed from the existing 85 (she has received received calls from concerned stallholders). Also she was concerned that “smaller” stall holders could not afford public liability insurance and expressed concern over continuation of the Events Licence, risk assessments etc. Councillor Turnbull commented that it was not a commercial event in the past, not a big money making event but times have changed. Councillor McDonald commented that he could accept both arguments but it was important that the fair continued.

Councillor Jackson indicated that the proposed use of the fields in discussion would not be a collection of stalls with vehicles.

Date and Venue for the Next Meeting 20 November 2008 at 7.15 in the Reading Room

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.