

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 October 2010 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordon, R Benjamin, V Mennear, J Jackson
and 3 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from P Holden
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Trees needing attention Councillor Jordon listed the following trees which need cutting back:
The saplings in the Parish Garden rented to A Ingham.

2 Holly trees at the Pant

Large tree at the Pack Horse bridge

Trees on Horsley Road (at the first bend past Dene Garth (both sides)

It was pointed out that all these trees (except those in the garden) would need permission to cut back as they grow in a conservation area.

Playing Field Mower

Councillor Holden had reported that the mower needed repair and some consideration had to be given as to whether it would be more economical to purchase a new machine. Councillor Jordon asked whether economically it was better for the Council to own the machine or pay a contractor to cut the grass. The clerk was asked to provide figures for the next meeting

5. Grazing Land Councillor Jordon had met with Godfrey Good of the Allotments Association concerning extra land which was available following the death of Angus Armstrong. John Hooley, who at present rented the adjacent land had written asking if he could take over the whole field. There were two strips of land available and discussion took place as to whether one could be rented by the allotment association and whether John Hooley would wish to take over the other. Councillor Jordon will ask John Hooley if he would wish to take over just the strip to the North.

6. Playbuilder No information available.

7. BDO Audit The Clerk had received the audit which raised the following issues:

- (a) Asset Register
- (b) Fidelity Guarantee
- (c) Asset Valuation
- (d) Budgetary Process
- (e) Review of effectiveness of internal audit.

BDO noted that the Asset Register did not list the asset date acquired, the purchase cost, location held and current valuation. The clerk will add this information wherever possible.

Fidelity Guarantee The Council had increased the guarantee to £40,000 but BDO did not consider this sufficient. A new Insurance Company is to be found next year and the fidelity guarantee will be reconsidered.

Budgetary Process – although a precept was set by the due date the Council did not undertake adequate budget monitoring during the financial year. The Council had already amended this to some extent by bringing forward the date of budget fixing, and will in future discuss the budget every three months. A closer watch will be kept on income and expenditure and relevant decisions will be minuted. BDO considered that the internal audit, carried out yearly was insufficient and the internal auditor should inspect the books more regularly. Mr Heppel who has audited the accounts for the past six years felt he could not continue as internal auditor and another will need to be found. He was thanked for all his valuable help in undertaking the audit.

8. Budget/Precept The budget for 2010/11 was discussed and consideration will be given to carrying out some further items, especially for village maintenance. The first draft of the budget for 2011/12 was considered and the clerk will prepare the figures for the next meeting. In the meantime the Councillors were requested to consider items which could or should be carried out. The clerk asked the Councillors to consider ways in which the deposit account in TSB could be usefully used. It raised very little income. A policy statement would be made at the next meeting as to which extra items should be carried out by the Council

Discussion took place as to how much should in future be budgeted for donations and whether further donations should be made this year. It was decided that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting when a firm policy should be presented.

9. Accounts to Pay/Paid Approval to pay the following was given.

Debbie Reed (for Ovingham Green) Litter Bins	£23.06
Reading Room – Rent September	£15.00
Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal	£16.50
TSI – Line Marking	£21.15
P Holden – Diesel	£19.73
P Holden – Wood and nails for fence	£12.00

10. Planning Application 1 Brewery Cottages - single storey rear extension – granted permission

11. Correspondence

Ken Rusby had received a reply to his letter regarding the noise level from SCA. Councillors had no comments. Other correspondence had been circulated by email

12. Committee Reports Councillor Benjamin had attended the last meeting of the Community Forum where discussion had taken place concerning the continuing existence of the Forum. It seemed likely that forums would no longer be funded and Parish Councils would be given more work to do. The Community Partnership were receiving the plans for the new library building which seemed it would ensure the continuing existence of the library

The Reading Room Committee had met and the drama group were to provide a ladder for easier access to the loft and had also done electrical work. It had been reported that the heating would be done by a gas boiler but this has now been cancelled as Green Ovingham had more information on a more efficient boiler. Quotes are being received for double glazing and improved insulation. There is to be a jumble sale on 30 October and a 1940's evening on 13 November.

Any Other Business Mr Kevin Piper enquired whether a boxing club could be started in the Reading Room. He was given the telephone number of the RR. Secretary. He had also been informed that there was a vacancy on the Council. The clerk will need to inform N.C.C. of the vacancy which will then be advertised.

It was reported that the road signs were being damaged by the tractors cutting the grass. The clerk to inform N.C.C.

The Chairman asked if a letter could again be written to the residents on Horsley Road requesting they do not park cars on the verges which are becoming churned up and also preventing the grass cutting to be carried out efficiently.

Councillor Jordon asked if the Reading Room would be allowed to auction the old letter box which had been given to the village by Royal Mail. They could not do this as it belonged to the village, not the Reading Room.

Councillor Benjamin will request that Mr Atkinson cut back the overhanging bush which overhangs the wall of the Old Vicarage.

The next meeting will take place on 18 November at 7.15 in the Reading Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OCTOBER 2010

EXPENDITURE

P Holden - wood for fence repairs	12.00
Adrian Jackson - Grass cutting Playing Field	<u>60.00</u>
	72.00

INCOME

Nil

Opening Balance	43,009.42
Expenditure	72.00

Closing Balance	42,937.42
Deposit Account	<u>14,956.20</u>

Grand total	£ 57,893.62 =====
-------------	----------------------

VAT to be reclaimed £1.79