

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 September 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, J Jackson, R Benjamin, P Holden, P Kelly (NCC) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from P Macdonald, M Morton and V Mennear
2. Declarations of interest – None
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, with two amendments, were taken as read and signed.
4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The quotation of £4,995 from Sologen had been accepted and the posts had been ordered from Northumberland.

Lighting Old School

The Lighting was now in place

Land Registry

Nothing to report

Manhole Cover on Green

Now repaired

Cycling signs on Bridge

New improved signs have been requested

5. Village Action Plan

The clerk had received correspondence sent to Councillor Jordon from the Village Trust of items of maintenance throughout the village. These will be included in the existing list of maintenance items

1. Tim Fish will request steps to be put down from Castle View. The fence has not yet been replaced.
2. Adrian Jackson requested to remove the fencing
3. The conifers will be inspected in the Autumn
4. The triangular grass area is eroded. Report awaited from Milecastle Housing
5. The conifers on the green to be cut back
6. The vegetation at the Reading Room to be cut back
7. The blocked gully/large pot hole at the junction of North Meadow and Horsley Road to be cleared.
8. Resurfacing of the lane behind the Church
9. Graveyard wall and stone stile steps in need of repair
10. Isaac Jackson memorial in need of repair
11. Stench from sewer inspection chamber adjacent to the Ford Bridge Crossing to be investigated

The clerk was asked to write to Tynedale Council regarding Items 10 and 11 and write to The Village Trust, thanking them for their response.

Councillor Holden had been in contact with Tynedale regarding grants awarded under Section 106 for the upgrading of playground equipment. He had been informed that a lease, at least 25 years long, was necessary for the grant to be awarded. He had been in touch with Northumberland Estates, who were in principle agreeable to a 25 year lease extension providing break clauses were in place. Section 106 was money held in trust for the benefit of Communities but could be lost after the 5 months

of Tynedale's existence. Councillor Holden will check on the situation.

6. Village Web Site

Hits were down slightly but the Web Site was still receiving much interest. Discussion took place as to whether it was sensible to enlarge the Web Site to include village organizations. It was agreed that it should always be a Parish Council concern and must always be manageable with a minimum of changing information. It was not feasible for individual organizations to use it as their own, though static information could be useful. It could, perhaps, offer links to other own web sites and Councillor Holden will make enquiries as to whether it would be possible for individuals, representing their own organizations, to be linked to the Parish Council site.

7. Flooding

Much discussion took place concerning the flooding which had taken place over the weekend of 6th September. Drains had not coped and there had been extensive flooding from Horsley Road and the Burn. Sandbags had been available but these had had to be collected from Hexham. It seemed as though the Fire Brigade had had no plan for the pumped water but were to be congratulated on their excellent response. There had been reports that the call centers had not been able to cope with the number of calls.

On the 7th September the gully cleaner had been working in the village. Councillor Kelly informed the Council that because of reduced funding Northumberland had only 6 machines and they had to be used in rotation, cleaning gulleys once a year in each village. Councillor Jackson asked whether it would be possible for the Council to hire a gully cleaner. No decision was made.

There is a tree in Bewick Lane which has been cut up which needs to be removed.

The pavilion had suffered severe damage, mainly through the roof and ceiling. The clerk had written for a claim form and Councillor Holden is dealing with the problem; Quotes from the builder had been requested and dehumidifiers were in place.

Discussion took place regarding a sandbag store nearer than Hexham, though no suitable area was suggested. The clerk to write to Tynedale to find out whether this would be possible. However, it was pointed out that the bags disintegrate very quickly.

Although the flooding had been severe it was noted how so many people worked together to ensure that the damage was kept to a minimum and all those involved were to be praised. Although there were many people to be congratulated on their hard work the clerk was asked to write especially to the Chief Executive Tynedale Council, the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, Adrian Jackson and John Swinburn.

There were several areas of damage to the roads, and verges – one especially large piece of damage opposite the First School. The clerk to write to the Highways where the roads had been damaged, to Pot Hole Pete for potholes Where necessary landowners were expected to repair damage on their own land.

It was pointed out that the culverts to the Packhorse Bridge were blocked, only one was clear. The clerk to write requesting that the culverts be cleared as soon as possible.

8. Accounts to pay/paid

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Garden Angels - Returfing	£174.00
P Holden – Diesel	£27.92
Playsafety Limited – Playground inspection	£88.13
Npower – pavilion electricity	£102.73
Reading Room –p July rent	£10.00
Safe Custody – Document retention	£15.00

Domaincheck – web site hosting	£36.45
P Holden – Diesel	£23,10
United Utilities Property Solutions Ltd	£76.38
P Holden – Diesel and clips	£36.40
G Harper – Salary and expenses	£519.88
Bug Off – Mole clearance	£32.00

9. Planning Application

12 Castle View – Erection of porch. The Council had registered objections

10. Correspondence

NHS – NHS Constitution The Council wish to be kept informed

YEDL – Loping of holly tree in Johnny Johnson’s Garden – Council agreed

Reported satellite dish at The Store – this is part of the reorganization of The Lottery . Councillor Macdonald is dealing with it

Keith Gray Big Tidy Up 2008 Councillor Jordon said she had great difficulty in finding volunteers. The Clerk will write to Keith Gray informing him that on this occasion Ovingham felt unable to carry out the litter pick

Letter from the Reading Room Treasurer – Hire charges are to be increased

Ramblers Association – The Council did not think this would be of benefit. Council Kelly informed the meeting that the access footpaths were to be upgraded at Whittle Dene

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership - Agenda for the Fourth Annual General Meeting on 21 October

Letter from Northumbria Justices –to be circulated under Distribution

11. Committee Reports

The Reading Room Committee had met but only discussed the rent increases.

Councillor Holden reported that the football teams had commenced playing and had paid their fees.

Councillor Jackson reported that a meeting is to be held in the Reading Room at 7.30 p.m. 6 October to discuss the arrangements for the 40th year of the Goose Fair.

Councillor Kelly reported on the County Council discussions held 3rd and 11 September to discuss the reorganization of the Council, the number of areas, the number of Councillors. There will be three area committees. It was pointed out that parishes and towns must have their say in the organization and the forums would become very important. Councillor Kelly reported that with so many amenities closing, it was important that services must be identified and accessibility identified as of paramount importance. Transport out of and back into the village must always be available.

12. Any Other Business

Councillor Benjamin reported that there was a large amount of dog fouling in the area of the village green, from the top of Riverside View to the Bridge End. There are now dog wardens employed and it was suggested he photograph any offender, send it to the warden who could then deal with it.

Councillor Jordon had a copy of Conservation Area Character Appraisal which seemed to be both interesting and helpful. Councillor Jackson would endeavour to get further copies.

A question was asked as to why it was possible for Newcastle to receive two new bridges and yet a new bridge for Ovingham had been rejected. Councillor Kelly reported that the survey undertaken by Fabel Maunsel had not allocated enough points to Ovingham’s bridge on the grounds of a lower population and less employment. He had been very disappointed.

It was reported that the bridge did seem to be making a lot of noise at the moment and it was queried that the proposed upgrading and repairs had not been carried out this Summer. Councillor Kelly

reported that because the bridge at Wylam had cost more than anticipated there had not been enough funding for Ovingham. The clerk will write to David Laux requesting that this decision be reconsidered. The work applied to both road and footbridges.

13. Date and Venue of next meeting -16th October at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room

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