

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper
Clerk

51 Piper Road
Ovingham
Northumberland
NE42 6AZ

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 September 2009 at 7.15 p.m in the Reading Room.
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, P Macdonald, J Jackson, R Benjamin, P Holden.
Councillor P Kelly (NCC) and eight members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Mennear
2. Declarations of interest - Councillor Jordon in respect of lighting standards Wellburn Cottage
3. The Minutes of the last meeting, were taken as read and approved with one correction and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Interactive Speed Signs

The light had been changed to Horsley Road but the positioning seemed unsuitable. Councillors will meet with Alan Bawn to decide whether the poles should be repositioned

Tenancy Agreements

Councillor Jordon had looked at the agreements and thought that only minor details needed to be changed. The clerk will rewrite the agreements and distribute to all Councillors who could inspect them before they are presented to the allotment association and those renting land/gardens from the Council. Councillor Macdonald thought that long standing arrangements should be recognized and accepted.

Wall Opposite School

The clerk had received a letter from Mel Richardson informing the Council that he is taking action to ensure the owner of the wall must cut down the tree and repair the wall.

Horsley Road –Grass damage

The grass is not growing around the Ovingham sign but will be left until the Spring to see if the grass recovers

Burnside Street Light

The clerk has now requested the repair of the light five times, but has still had no reply

Road Transport Plan

The clerk had requested that repairs and refurbishment of all roads should be carried out and a footpath be provided on the East side of Horsley Road. Also that the road between Ovingham and Ovington be widened and bends realigned.

5. Village Maintenance

Blocked culverts Packhorse Bridge. Councillor Macdonald had arranged for a trench to be dug and it is hoped that the next time the burn floods it will clear the stoppage.

6. Village Action Plan

Two letters have been received and these will be divided into “Village Action Plan” which cover items to be carried out over a period of time and “Village Maintenance” which cover items to be done as soon as possible. The clerk will produce a list for Councillors and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillor Holden was pursuing a new lease for the Playing Field which would be for 27 years instead of the present 8 years and was in contact with the Council Solicitor. Nothing could be done to renew the play equipment until the new lease is in place.

Councillor Holden requested approval for the purchase of a new strimmer which would cost in the region of £200. The present strimmer had been bought many years ago and was not working efficiently. Approval was given with four votes for and one abstention for the purchase and Councillor

Holden will bring his findings to the next meeting..

7. Sustainable Development

Debbie Reed was welcomed to the meeting and gave an account of the inauguration of the new group. She told of leaflet distribution and arrangements for the second meeting to be held 18 September.

Many ideas had been voiced and it was requested that a Councillor attend all future meetings. The Chairman did not think that this was feasible at the moment though both Councillors Holden and Benjamin thought they would be able to attend meetings between them. Mrs Reed thought that the Council should be prepared to “sign up” for the 10% decrease in carbon emissions. Although the Councillors were willing to support the idea it was thought that firm proposals should be presented, rather than the group just talking around problems. The Council were prepared for the group to find out as much as possible about energy saving but were not prepared to agree beforehand for any decisions which could affect the general public. Mrs Archer suggested that serious consideration should be given to the cutting back of street lighting.

8. Grass Cutting

Councillors considered that grass cutting throughout the village was a disgrace and was not being carried out as the schedule. Councillor Kelly agreed and reported that other villages were also dissatisfied. The clerk will write to Richard Robson voicing the Council’s dissatisfaction. Some consideration will be given for new arrangements next year.

9. Planning

39 Piper Road – Construct Garden Room – approved

4 The Hill – Construct two storey elevation to provide shower room and staircase withdrawn

14 Welburn Close – Construct single storey kitchen – approved

Welburn Cottage – Retrospective application - refusal decision contested

10.. Accounts to pay/paid

Approval to pay the following accounts was given.

Solagen – transfer of light - £202.40

D Jordon – Environmental Project and Council expenses - £121.15

Playsafety – Rospa Safety Inspection - £89.70

David Hanley – Notice Board - £525

Reading Room – Rent July £15

P Holden – Diesel and Oil £9.19

Domaincheck – Website Renewal - £28.75

Npower – Pavilion electricity - £1012.93

P Holden – Paint and Diesel - £21.21

J Bartram - Topping Field - £60

Domaincheck (via P Holden) website hosting - £30.33

P Holden – Diesel Fuel and Puncture repair - £22.52

G Harper Salary and expenses –June/September - £531.31

11. Donations

It was agreed to donate £50 to Age Concern

12. Correspondence

NCC Car Parking Questionnaire was completed by the Council. Councillor Kelly explained this return was concerned with car parking across the country in order that a common strategy could be achieved. Leaflets have been received regarding recycling of waste. The clerk will advertise this in her report in the Church magazine.

Review of NALC and Members. This report had been completed by the clerk with the assistance of Councillor Holden

Biodiversity – On line survey. This e-mail had been passed to Debbie Reed

Information regarding water supply – Meetings had been held throughout the County in August

13. Committee Reports

Reading Room The Committee had met on 20 August and the Chairman is to contact all user groups to appoint a representative to join the Reading Room Committee.

The Roof repairs have been completed at a cost of £3,500. The work has been inspected and approved. Gutters have been cleared of all weeds and leaves.

The Village Show had been very successful, with approximately 250 people attending and 170 entries. Good positive comments had been received.

The committee are to investigate the purchase of a small freezer.

The Film Club commences on Friday 25th September with "Is Anybody There"

There will be a coffee morning for Macmillan Nurses on 25 September

There will be a race night on 2nd October

Antique Road Show on 6th November.

Accounts: Bank £5,300 and Reserve £9,500

Councillor Holden reported that Lucy Roberts had been on maternity leave and that the work for young people had been much reduced. Therefore, he thought that the Youth Initiative and the Parish Council should not fund them at the present time. It was noted that there was a lot of problems in the village at present – cars were being scratched and tyres damaged. Council Holden will keep the Council informed.

Burial Committee

Councillor Jackson reported that a topple test is to commence checking on the safety of all headstones. A log will be kept and if it is not possible to make the headstones safe they will have to be laid down flat. Refurbishment of some of the older graves will take place and £2,000 has been set aside.

Councillor Kelly reported that some of the pathways have been done on Piper Road but the work had to be done in conjunction with other villages. The work will be completed later. He warned the Council that applications for funding from the community pot must be applied for by November. He reported that the Reading Room had received £500 towards their new boiler. The Boundary Committee had received and agreed the Council's comments and Bywell will remain unchanged. Council Kelly gave a full report on the reasons and benefits of the closing of Oaklands and Greenhome and the provision of Manors as a new home which had improved amenities and open not only to residents but others in the community. Councillor Kelly gave details of the amounts which need to be saved the deficit increasing from £25 ½ million to £33 ½ million. The increase being caused mainly by redundancy and equal pay payments having to be paid. There is also a £4 million loss from the Iceland investment.

Any Other Business

A request was received for the trees on the North Meadow Estate to be cut back. They have been cut back in the past by the residents but have now become too big for this to be continued.

The hedges at Greengates need to be cut. Councillor Jackson will meet with the owner.

A query was made to Councillor Kelly as to how Sunderland bridge costing £43 million could be approved whilst no money was available for Ovingham bridge

The clerk to write to Milecastle Housing thanking them for the pruning back of the conifer at the top of Tyne Gardens.

Amended date for the annual meeting 2010 was agreed. The next Council Meeting will be held Thursday 15 October at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
1ST – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2009

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
J Bartram – Grass Cutting	60.00
Domaincheck (Website)	30.33
P Holden Diesel and Tyre repair	22.52
P Holden – Bricks and mortar for Pavilion	12.21
G Harper – Expenses and Salary	531.31
D Jordon – Watering cans	11.98
Age Concern donation	50.00
Northumbrian Water – Rates	25.35
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	743.70
<u>INCOME</u>	
NCC – Precept	7,500.00
Opening Balance	19,009.74
Expenditure	743.70
Income	7,500.00
Closing Balance	25,766.04
Deposit Account	14,944.33
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Grand Total	£ 40,710.37
VAT to be reclaimed this month	£10.06