

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th September 2011 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham.

Present: Councillors Turnbull (Chair), Jordon, MacDonald, Holden, Benjamin and Heslop, County Councillor P Kelly and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillors Mennear and Jackson
2. Declarations of interest: Councillor Jordon had raised the issue of a planning application that had been submitted by Ovingham First School and asked if it should be declared as an interest as, as a neighbour, she had received notice of planning application. It was agreed that as the school was not within the boundary of Ovingham, her issues could be raised and this was dealt with later in the meeting under any other business.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and with amendments to items 4 (iv) to read Councillor Jordon to ask NCC to attend to the bushes, and if not, the Parish Council would consider bearing the cost, and 4 (ix) to read Councillor Jackson instead of Councillor Jordon, under matters arising, accepted and signed.
4. Matters arising:
 - i) Notice Board – Councillor Benjamin was still working on this matter
 - ii) Grazing Land – there had been no response from Mr. Good regarding Health and safety
 - iii) Transport Information Notice Board – The clerk had received correspondence from John Gillott, of the Partnership office advising the boards are generally of a standard size that the Councillors had previously agreed was too large. He had not been back in touch with any other suggestions.
 - iv) Unadopted Lane to rear of Castle View – The Clerk had written to the residents but had only received one phone call regarding the matter. A member of the public was present and raised her concerns over the letter that had been sent out, and after much discussion, the Councillors agreed that the matter be put back on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - v) Hedges along Castle View – There had been no response from the resident concerned despite a second letter from the clerk.
 - vi) Pruning of trees in Piper Road – The Clerk had had 3 responses from residents and again, at the suggestion of Councillor MacDonald, the matter be put back onto the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
 - vii) Parking on Horsley Road – After making enquiries, the Clerk informed the Councillors that David Hunt was looking into the matter and she

- awaited his response.
- viii) Pavilion electrical test & inspection – a second quote for the work needed had been received from a company called LEC Ltd, but at £945.00 plus VAT, it was agreed that Wylam Electrical Services Ltd who had quoted £550 plus vat, should carry out the work.
- ix) Northumberland SHLAA – the Clerk to enquire as to the latest developments.
5. Budget/precept for 2012-2013 – As this was the first chance for the Councillors to discuss the figures, the Clerk was asked to provide more information for the next meeting. The items queried were figures for dog waste collection, grass cutting, Youth work and Environmental project.
6. Local Transport Plan – the Councillors had been invited to submit their top 3 priorities to Northumberland County Council, for next years LTP (2012-2013) before 30th September 2011. After much discussion, it was decided that these should be:
- a) Replacement Bridge from Prudhoe
 - b) To re-locate the 30mph sign at the east end of the village on Wylam Road, to a point further down the road away from the village
 - c) Parking at Ovingham First and Middle Schools
 - d) Footpath from Ovingham to Ovington
7. Accounts to pay/paid – approval was given to the following:-
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| Reading Room Rental (July) | £ 15.00 |
| Northumbrian Water | £ 25.34 |
| A Jackson | £ 75.00 |
| P Holden (domain check) | £ 23.98 |
| Dyke House Sports & Tech College
(Photocopying Village Plan) | £ 50.40 |
| P Holden (diesel, repairs, keys) | £ 69.13 |
| P Holden (diesel, battery) | £ 75.10 |
| David Dixon (mower repair) | £ 76.54 |
| Wybone (2 litter bins & strapping) | £ 331.24 |
| M Davenport (Salary & exp July/Aug) | £ 365.90 |
| P Holden (Domain hosting) | £ 36.00 |
8. Correspondence – The clerk had received an invitation from the local MP Guy Opperman to attend a meeting in October, but this was declined. The Tyne Valley Rail User’s Group had written introducing themselves and offering membership for £5.00 per year for which newsletters and up to date information would be received. It was agreed that they should subscribe to this.
9. Distribution – Councillor Holden had asked that due to proposed changes in Planning the Parish Council should subscribe to “Journal of Local Planning” to ensure that they had access to up to date information and help. This was agreed.
10. Committee Reports – Councillor Kelly gave a detailed report on issues involving equality in pay and the vast financial implications, which would arise as a result on a national basis. There was also an added burden for County Councils with the expected people movement and the need for accommodation. Locally, he expressed concerns over the planned changes to

the bus service 686, which served Ovingham, and which was cutting 2 out of the 5 runs to and from the village. Also the service 111, which although operating from Prudhoe Interchange, was well used by local schoolchildren to travel up to Prudhoe High School. This service was to be discontinued. He also mentioned the Community Chest, which people could apply to for funding.

Councillor Jordon reported on the reading room, which had undertaken substantial refurbishment, some of which still had to be done. Various fundraising activities were planned. £600 had been raised at the recent Jumble sale which will go towards further refurbishment.

Councillor Jordon also gave a brief update on those areas that had been highlighted in detail at last months meeting as requiring attention. The problems were being slowly addressed and included the laurels by the bridge and the pot holes at the start of the bridge had been temporarily filled in, which either had been attended to or would be shortly.

11. Green Ovingham – an update on recent activities and a request was raised regarding the cyclists sign by the bridge which they felt was not clear, and if this could be incorporated into the Local Transport Plan. It was requested that a draft copy of the minutes could be circulated to interested parties but the Councillors felt this was not a possibility when the minutes had not been approved.
12. Any other business – Councillor Holden reported on the problems he had been experiencing recently with the mower. The Clerk advised the Councillors that results of planning applications were no longer posted out and that permission had been granted for Dene House for change of use from a chicken shed to a holiday let. The Clerk also advised an invite had been received to join the “Society of Local Clerks” but as the previous clerk had joined, enquiries would be made if membership could be passed over to herself. It was also brought to the Councillors attention that it was the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee next year, and there were celebrations that they could take part in. Councillor Holden also reported on a safety inspection report that had recently been completed for the play equipment and that there was nothing requiring immediate action. Councillor Jordon asked that application could be made to receive future notifications on planning application involving the First and Middle Schools. It was agreed that the Clerk could apply to look at the plans.
13. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th October 2011 at 7.15pm in the Reading Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

