

## OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs G.M. Harper  
Clerk

51 Piper Road  
Ovingham  
Northumberland  
NE42 6AZ

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 April 2008 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room  
Present Councillors M Turnbull (Chair), D Jordan, M Morton, J Jackson, R Benjamin, P Kelly (NCC) and Mr Robert Gibson (Hexham Courant) and 4 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Councillors P Holden, P Macdonald and V Menear
2. Declarations of interest, if any - None

Councillors

#### 4. Matters Arising

##### Street Lighting at the Old School

The equipment had all been ordered but the special lamp requested had not been received.

##### Interactive Speed Signs

Information had been received from A Bawn concerning interactive lights which have been installed in other villages. The clerk had received information from Sologen (the lights to be installed in Wylam). Councillor Kelly explained the background to the installation of lighting; Horsley's being the first in the area and following on from extensive studies in Norfolk where the flashing 30 mph had proved the most effective. The clerk was asked to contact Camera Safety Partnership to investigate which they thought were the most effective. It was agreed that Mr James Harewood of Solagen would be asked to attend the meeting in June.

##### White Swan Wall

Some repair had been carried out but the council thought the repair was unacceptable. The clerk was asked to contact Eileen Gray of Environmental Department Tynedale to find out what can be done.

##### Tree Inspection Contract

Some doubt was expressed as to how a contract for tree examination could be carried out. The clerk will write to Acomb Tree Surgeons to confirm that this survey would not be needed.

##### Londis Delivery

It had been pointed out that on grounds of health and safety it was not possible for the delivery vehicle to park in any other place to make deliveries

##### Land Registry

Councilor Holden had still not received the requested information from Land Registry. He reported that it appeared the whole of the river bank (VG 59) including the village green is owned by the Duke of Northumberland.

##### Right of Way Dene House

A metal fence had been erected and it was thought that planning for this is required. A gate had been inserted in the fence to provide the right of way and this is no longer padlocked. A notice of the right of way had been erected. There had been some discussion as to whether it was possible to fell three trees on the property. The owner had been informed that even though there was no TPO the trees should not be touched.

#### 5. Belonging Communities

##### Purpose and Constitution of Eastern Tynedale Belonging Community

Councillor Kelly gave the background to the formation of Belonging Communities which was a government initiative to bring decision making to a more local level. There were forums already in existence and these formed a large cross-like area with Prudhoe to the East, Riding Mill to the West with Hexham. Communities have identified a common interest and have come together to counter

balance Prudhoe. A meeting had been held in Newton and what limitation there should be and what influence the Parish Councils should have was discussed. A large consensus felt that Parish Councils should be the decision/voting members where finance was concerned and this has been written into the constitution of the forum. A draft of this constitution had been circulated to all Councillors

Councillor Jordon pointed out that as this Forum had a voting power it was important that Ovingham was always represented. Councillor Benjamin agreed that if Councillor Jordon was unable to attend a meeting he would represent Ovingham.

Councillor Jordon reported that at the last meeting a representative from Faber Maunsell had attended and are now to undertake a survey to study the movement of traffic in the area. The main junction points on the plan will be studied from 7-7 on a normal working day on roundabouts on the A69, A68 and A695 and on each bridge crossing – Styford, Bywell, Ovingham and Wylam. The study will consist of people standing at each point and talking into phones and the study will cost £11,000.

#### 6. Village Plan/Action Plan for 2008/9

All councillors were requested to bring their plans for 2008/9 to the next meeting

#### 7. Ovingham Middle School OFSTED

The excellent results of the Middle School OFSTED had been circulated to all councillors and the clerk was asked to write to the headteacher offering their congratulations.

#### 8. Water Pressure

Councillor Holden had reported that his water pressure had dropped considerably since the recent water upgrading. No other councillor had any problems. It appeared that it was a simple job to have the water pressure changed and it was suggested that Councillor Holden contact Fast Flow.

#### 9. Collapsing Churchyard Wall

The clerk to write to report that the wall was in need of attention.

#### 10. Footpath refurbishment Castle View Estate

The work will be undertaken when Fast Flow have completed their work

#### 11. Accounts

D Jordan – expenses £8.80 agreed

The Council proposed that Mr Tom Hepple be asked to carry out the Internal Audit and thanked him for his agreement.

The Audit documents had been received.

#### 12. Grants

It was unanimously agreed to donate £100 to the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

A request from The East Centre had been received for £800.to cover the shortfall in funding. It was agreed that although sympathetic to the excellent work that East provided it was not clear as to what the Parish contributed at the present time and what had been contributed in the past. Councillor Holden will be asked to provide this information.

Councillor Kelly clarified the situation regarding Northumberland Funding, pointing out that following a redistribution of funding across the whole of the County, Prudhoe had received less funding whilst other areas had received more.

#### 13. Committees

##### Reading Room

The funding for the film club has come to an end. This means that the club may have to finish unless sufficient money is raised to cover the costs of the film and the payment of a projectionist. The Banner Pulley System has not yet been put in place but hopefully will be ready for the Goose Fair. Six banner designs have been produced ready to advertise the annual events such as the Goose Fair and Craft Fair.

The Chairman and Secretary of the Reading Room are retiring. Anyone wishing to take on either of

these roles, please contact the Committee.

Councillor Kelly had e-mailed the officer responsible for the village green repairs asking that he honour his pledge to level up the grass which was not growing as much as he would like. More seeding could be required.

The building at Tyne Riverside County Park Building had supplied all the criteria for lottery funding and it was hoped that it would provide catering, field teams and room for Prudhoe Community Partnership. However, it had not been successful and they were now looking for funding elsewhere.

Councillor Kelly had reserved some of his funding for traffic regulation orders to provide yellow lines on Horsley Road. He had received verbal, but not written, approval.

Councillor Jackson reported that the roofs to the cemetery chapels had been completed.

#### 14. Correspondence

The insurance documents had been received and the Council agreed that the risk assessment was sufficient as it stands

Councillor Benjamin will attend the Community Action Meeting on 6 May

#### 15. Any Other Business

Gulleys throughout the village were badly in need of clearing and it was thought that it was not sufficient to just carry out routine clearing. A survey should be undertaken which would show which were the places where water lay continually.

The clerk had received an e-mail from the Village Trust concerning work being carried out at Greenhaugh which appeared to breach planning regulations. The clerk to write to the environmental agency and Planning to find out whether planning is necessary.

Councillor Jordan expressed concern that more and more residents are making changes to their property without first obtaining planning permission and then applying for retrospective planning permission after the event. She asked what steps could be taken to prevent this.

There have been some old refrigerators left lying in Castle View back Lane. Councilor Jackson offered to look into this and report back.

Councillor Morton raised the problem of the steep pathway down to the river opposite 30 Castle View. Councillor Jordon reported that Tim Fish from Pathways Department had considered this request but it was not the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. Councillor Jordon is to contact him again and explain how dangerous this path to the river bank is.

Councillor Holden had sent a picture of the proposed front page of the village web site.

The Annual Meeting will be held 15 May 2008.

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