

## **DRAFT**

### **Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Annual Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham**

#### **In attendance**

Cllrs Jordon (Chair), Gray (Vice-Chair), Jackson, Ford, Downing and Paul Smith (Clerk)

#### **1.To elect the Chairperson of Ovingham Parish Council**

Cllr Gray proposed and Cllr Downing seconded Cllr Jordon as Chair, which she duly accepted.

#### **2.Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Swinburn and Neal

#### **3.To elect the Vice-Chairperson of Ovingham Parish Council**

Cllr Jordon proposed and Cllr Downing seconded Cllr Gray as Vice-Chairperson, which he duly accepted.

#### **4. Declaration of Interest (if any)**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5. County Councillors Report**

County Councillor Waddell reported that the full Annual meeting of Northumberland County Council had recently taken place. Changes to Local Area Committees were proposed with a view to increasing public engagement. A new constitution was adopted.

Cllr Jordon raised concerns over the Local Transport Plan system. Ovingham Parish Council put forward three proposals to improve the surface of roads in three areas of the village plus the installation of a path bordering Dene Garth and yet again, each was rejected by NCC, who suggested we include the proposals again in next year's plan. Cllr Jordon was extremely unhappy with this and intends to write to the Leader of NCC. County Councillor Waddell agreed with this approach.

County Councillor Waddell confirmed that she had secured funding of £5000 to carry out works to the Chalet Path. Cllr Jordon thanked her.

#### **6. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023.**

The minutes were agreed

#### **7. To nominate Council's representatives on other bodies:**

The following representatives were agreed

- Ovingham Joint Burial Committee - Cllrs Jordon and Swinburn
- East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum - Cllrs Jordon and Gray
- Reading Room Committee - Cllr Jackson
- Playing Fields - Cllr Ford
- Allotments and Orchard - Cllr Neal

- Essity - Cllr Gray

## 8. Matters Arising

- **Story Board.** Cllr Gray gave an update on progress towards completion of the Story Board. We were waiting for approval to use photographs of Beamish Museum and this has recently been received.
- **Waste Bins.** A meeting with NCC representatives recently took place and the location of an additional bin on the playing field was agreed.
- **Climate Change.** There is an OOCAN meeting on 31st May 2023.
- **Coronation Event** The event went very well and was well attended.
- **Speeding in the Village.** No real progress as the monitoring equipment is fully booked.

## 9.Accounts to be pay/paid since previous meeting

The following payments were agreed:

- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary April 23 - £324.56 (To be paid via Cheque)
- D Jordon - £42.87 - Reimbursement re Printer Cartridge (Paid via BACS)
- J Jackson - £670.26 - Reimbursement re items purchased for Coronation Event (Paid via BACS)
- Tyne Valley Community Partnership Subscription - £10.00
- NALC Subscription - £294.86
- The Reading Room - Hire of room for OOCAN meeting - £15.00 (Paid via BACS)

## 10.Financial Report for 2022/23

The Financial Report had previously been circulated by the Clerk who summarised the main points.

## 11.To review assets for audit purposes

The Asset register had previously been circulated by the Clerk and this was agreed as a true record.

## 12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/2023

- **To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the Internal Auditor** - The Internal Auditor had no issues to raise and Cllrs unanimously agreed the report
- **To approve the Annual Governance Statement** - Cllrs unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement
- **To approve the draft Annual Accounts for 2022/2023** - Cllrs unanimously approved the Annual Accounts
- **To approve the accounting statement, explanation of variances & reserves** - Cllrs unanimously approved the accounting statement, explanation of variances and reserves
- **To confirm and approve the Certificate of Exemption** - Cllrs unanimously approved the Certificate of Exemption

## 13.Planning Applications

- 23/00459/PRUTPO -tree works 2, The Terrace / 3, Nunnykirk application withdrawn.

- 23/01252/Mast – location at south side of Ovingham Bridge. OBC has submitted Objection response.
- 23/01475/FUL - construction of single storey side and rear extension, 42 Piper Road. OBC has no objection.
- 23/01624/TREECA - removal of 3 small conifers at 7 The Terrace. To be considered by OPC

#### **14.Village Environment**

Cllr Jordon gave an update, the main points were:

- Parking on grass at the entrance to Bewick Lane – Home Group have advised that they cannot provide extra parking spaces and if residents have concerns they should contact Home Group direct. Comments have been received regarding possible drug use, this needs to be reported directly to the Police.
- Steps and Footpaths in Castle View Area, Dene House and Whittle Dene - these are on the NCC works programme but there are limited resources
- Path at Piper Road - Hermitage - the Road sweeper is required but is currently out of action
- Hawthorn bush at the bottom of Tyne Gardens - is going to be cut down
- Parking on the pavements by Royal Mail vans - response from Royal Mail is that drivers will be issued a general reminder
- Overhanging branches and shrubs - residents will be reminded it is their responsibility
- Wild flower planting - Eco Church have put forward a proposal that the closed Church Yard should become a wild flower area - OPC will be asked for our opinion
- Football Teams - Wylam would like to continue to use the pitch, despite a change of coach
- Annual Play Equipment Inspection - will be Friday 2nd June. Cllrs to meet 31st May to help with a general tidy up.

#### **15.Committee Reports**

- Burial Board - Nothing to report
- East Tynedale Forum - Nothing to report
- Reading Room - Nothing to report
- Orchard and Allotments - Discussions ongoing re the funding of a picnic bench by OPC (to commemorate the Coronation) the proposed location is in the Orchard
- Playing Fields - Cllr Ford asked for clarification of the legal position regarding dogs on the playing field. The Clerk was asked to contact the Dog Warden.

**Action The Clerk**

#### **16.Correspondence - Email from resident re Giant Hogweed**

This has been reported to Northumberland Estates by OPC

#### **17.Any other Business**

The Chair advised that OPC financial reserves will be discussed at the July meeting.

#### **18.Confirm the Date of the next meeting**

Confirmed as 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

