

DRAFT

Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting

Held on 16th March 2023

The Pavillion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

Attendance	
Representatives	Councillors: Doreen Jordon (Chair), Neville Gray (Vice Chair), Joanna Jackson, Jonathan Neal, Irene Swinburn, Tony Ford, County Councillor Holly Waddell
Officers	Paul Smith (Clerk & Notetaker)
Public	2 Members of the public were in attendance.

Welcome & Questions from members of the Public	
	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>A Resident raised an issue regarding cars being parked closely together on the South side of Piper Road, which makes it difficult to cross the road to the South side and see oncoming traffic when crossing from the South side. The Resident suggested that double yellow lines are painted on Piper Road, opposite the junction to Dene Close.</p> <p>Councillor Jordon stated that although she understands there is an issue, the question NCC will ask is 'where else do you expect those cars to park?' Nonetheless she agreed to write to NCC to raise the issue.</p> <p>Action: Councillor Doreen Jordon</p>
	<p>County Councillors Report:</p> <p>County Councillor Waddell reported that she recently attended the Northumberland County Council Budget meeting, but didn't feel able to support the proposed Budget.</p> <p>Councillor Jordon reported that the additional road markings are in place in the Village and a number of residents in the Nunnykirk area had mentioned that they are a big improvement. Councillor Jordon thanked Councillor Waddell for her assistance.</p> <p>With regard to parking issues, Councillor Ford reported that cars were still parking on the pavements near to The White Swan. Councillor Jordon also reported that there is an issue with Post Office Vans parking on the pavements at the bottom of Horsley Road and asked the Clerk to report this issue to Royal Mail.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Jordon reported that the response from NCC regarding the new process for receiving Section 106 funding was disappointing, as OPC were very unlikely to receive the funding we were expecting under the previous process. Councillor Jordon asked the Clerk to regularly check the link NCC had provided, to see if any funding was available.</p> <p>Action The Clerk</p>
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr Downing.</p>
2.	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>There were no Declaration of Interests.</p>
3.	<p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2023</p> <p>The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Update on Information / Story Board</p> <p>Cllr Gray advised that Mr Pardue (Differentia Ltd.) hoped to complete a draft copy of the Story Board in the next two weeks.</p>

	<p>A meeting would be arranged to finalise the information details</p> <p>Action Cllr Gray.</p> <p>Dog Notices The Notices have been received and will be erected shortly.</p> <p>Action Cllr Ford</p> <p>Waste Bins The Clerk (as agreed) emailed Geoff Cairns of NCC to ask if a date for installation could be agreed but to date had not received a response.</p> <p>Climate Change Update Cllr Gray reported that the combined Ovingham and Ovington Climate Change Group met recently and included in the discussions was the subject of Heat Pumps. The Group intend to have a stall at the forthcoming Goose Fair.</p> <p>Village Appraisal Cllr Jordon reported that the Summary Report on the Short and Long Term Plans and the updated Action Plans re the Village Appraisal had been circulated to Councillors and published on the OPC website. The PC are gradually working through their Action Plan of points raised in the Village Appraisal carried out last year.</p> <p>Speeding Cllr Jordon had previously circulated NCC's response re Speeding in the Village which raised a number of important points to be considered, after much discussion it was agreed to take Neil Snowden of NCC up on his offer to meet with members of OPC to discuss the issue further.</p> <p>Road Markings This had been previously discussed under County Councillors Report.</p> <p>Amended Standing Orders and Policies It was agreed to amend the Standing Orders to reflect that OPC will no longer hold meetings in June. Cllr Gray suggested various other minor amendments, which were accepted.</p> <p>Action The Clerk</p>
5.	<p>Accounts to pay/paid since previous meeting - The following were all agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P Smith - Clerk Net Salary January 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque) ● P Smith - Clerk Net Salary February 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque) ● P Smith - Clerk - Reimbursement re purchase of defibrillator pads - £152.38 (Paid via Cheque) ● Ovingham Allotments Association - Grant towards hedge cutting equipment - £400.00 (Paid via BACS) ● Northumberland Estates - Rent for Playing Field - £250.00 (Paid via BACS) ● East Tynedale Community Forum - Subscription - £40.00 (Paid via BACS) ● Paul Armstrong - Mole Catcher - £50.00 (Paid via BACS)
6.	<p>Budget The Clerk gave brief details of the Parish Council Budget position.</p>

7.	<p>Review of Allotment and Parish Gardens Rental Agreements</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed to keep the annual rental levels at their current level. Cllr Ford agreed to contact the residents currently renting the Parish Gardens and ask that they attend to some minor matters.</p> <p>Action Cllr Ford</p> <p>Review of Orchard Licence Agreement and Rent.</p> <p>The 5 year Licence and rent were discussed, Cllrs felt during the last 5 years the Orchard had become a community asset well maintained and enjoyed by residents and visitors. It was agreed to put a new 5 year Licence Agreement in place and to continue with an annual peppercorn rent of £1 for the next 5 years.(although not unanimously)</p> <p>Action The Clerk</p>
8.	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Cllr Gray reported that with regard to the application OPC had received regarding the tree works on the borderline between 2 The Terrace and No.3 Nunnykirk, he and Cllr Jordon had recently attended a site meeting with a resident. The application and OPC's comments were discussed. The final decision now rests with NCC.</p>
9.	<p>Coronation Celebration Event</p> <p>Cllr Jordon advised that she has applied for funding to help enable an event to be held on 7th May 2023 but she pointed out the PC would need additional voluntary support, e.g to set up marquee, gazebos, make refreshments, provide music, etc.. There will be a Coronation House Frontage competition (Cllr Jackson and Jordon to organise) a children's poster competition (Cllr Downing to organise) and Toddler Group will bring large toys for the children to play with. Re music at the event, Cllr Ford will ask whether a group he knows will perform. After discussion, Cllr Jordon agreed to seek volunteers to erect a marquee.</p> <p>Action Cllr Jordon, Ford, Jackson and Downing.</p>
10.	<p>Coffee Mornings in the Pavilion</p> <p>Cllr Jordon reported that the previous two coffee mornings had been reasonably well attended and thanked the many volunteers who had made home baked goodies and helped on the day. The coffee mornings will continue until the end of March 2023.</p>
11.	<p>Village Environment and Action Plan Update</p> <p>Cllr Jordon reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phase 2 Water Scheme – the new culvert and trash screen in Cooks Field are in place. Fencing and a gate are to be placed at the entrance to the culvert. ● Further work is required to the Basin on the grassed area and Highway in Dene Garth and on the Southern boundary of the field. ● Tree planting –The planting of 25 trees on the middle of the north bank of the playing field to form a copse, has been completed. ● Red telephone box - is to be painted sometime between April - September 23, the damaged poly /glass windows will be removed and replaced before the painting is carried out. ● Broken fencing at North Meadow - was to reported to NCC and has been repaired ● Unsightly Concrete Barriers - a meeting has been held with NCC Highways and it is proposed to install fencing in front of the barriers. ● Steps leading down to the river - repairs are programmed in ● Cycling notices at Ovingham Bridge - following an approach by a resident, Cllr Jordon contacted NCC and they have agreed to install signing, which will clarify the rights of cyclists. ● Fire Equipment at the Pavilion - have recently been checked.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cllr Jordon asked that all Councillors check their designated areas before the April OPC meeting <p>Action: All Councillors</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Reading Room No major issues to report</p> <p>Essity The next meeting is on 12th May, however Cllr Gray is unable to attend.</p> <p>Ovingham Joint Burial Committee Cllr Jordon reported that a larger loft hatch has been installed. Tenders for the Management of the Grounds were discussed and a contractor agreed.</p> <p>East Tynedale Community Forum No meeting.</p> <p>Orchard Group The Accounts were reviewed at a recent meeting and the Group have a programme of events they propose to hold. It was felt that the land was being well used.</p> <p>Allotments Association The new hedge cutting equipment has been purchased.</p> <p>Playing Fields Still no update on the proposed OPFA or Constitution. Cllr Jordon reported that she and Cllr Gray have spent a lot of time trying to help progress this, without success. She proposed that OPC continue to run the Pavilion and Playing Field and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Jordon pointed out the Parish Council would be unable to provide new large play or sports equipment for the playing field as funding opportunities for Parish Councils are not available. Cllr Ford agreed to notify the individuals previously interested in forming OPFA. Action Cllr Ford</p> <p>Cllr Ford agreed to forward inspections of pavilion and field forms to the Clerk Action Cllr Ford</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The email from Guy Opperman's Office was noted. 2. The email re installing EV chargers was noted and it was agreed not to apply for funding at this stage. 3. The email regarding the sign for cyclists using Ovingham Bridge had already been discussed. 4. Query from a resident re High Hermitage. Concerns had been raised by a resident about a tree, hedging and shrubs being removed. A meeting with NCC has been held

	<p>and we were informed Planning Permission was not required to remove the shrubs. Additional concerns raised by the resident and Parish Council are still being investigated further by the Planning Department.</p> <p>5. An email from residents asking to use the Pavilion as a 'Pop Up Cafe' for 5 hours, one Saturday a month was discussed and it was agreed to proceed on a trial basis, for a fee of £30. The Clerk agreed to contact the residents.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Tenders for the Playing Fields and Parish Council The Clerk advised that the new Contracts are now in place</p>
15.	<p>Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair Cllr Ford enquired whether any OPC funding was available to assist a local Under 5's Group. The OPC funding application procedure was explained.</p>
15.	<p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 20th April 2023 - Agreed.</p>

Chair

Signature