

Subject to approval by the Parish Council

OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Ovington Social Club on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr (Chair) Ben Woodcock, Cllr Anne Hudson, Cllr Tudor Skelly, Cllr Andrew Maidwell, Cllr Liz Marshall & Lorraine Burns (Clerk).

Fiona Maidwell & Lisa Leggatt in attendance.

2024/017 **Apologies for absence:** None

Cllr Holly Waddell did not attend.

2024/018 **Declarations of interest:** None

2024/019 **County Councillors Report:** No report forwarded.

2024/020 **To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on Monday 13th May 2024:**
Having previously been circulated, the minutes were approved and signed.

2024/021 **Matters arising:**

Linear Native Tree Arboretum: Cllr Anne Hudson – Reported that the launch event had been successful. Attracting a good turnout and follow-up interest.

Overgrown Riverside Footpath – A meeting has been arranged with a contractor to explore options for timing and clearing of the footpath. Concerns were raised and noted regarding nesting birds and fledglings. Ensuring any clearing commences after nesting periods – Possibly late summer/autumn.

Autumn will also see the planting and replacement of trees in line with the maintenance programme.

To ensure transparency Ovington Trees finances have now been separated from those of the Parish Council.

Transport Meeting Update: Cllr Ben Woodcock & Cllr Skelly – Not surprisingly given the never-ending rain, we have reported a unprecedented number of potholes which thankfully, has resulted in a lot of action both temporary and permanent.

Despite numerous requests we have had no response from Highways regarding concerns raised by parishioners. We will continue to exhaust every avenue at our disposal to ensure your views are heard.

Funds have been allocated for the purchase and fitting of strategically placed mirrors to assist visibility for road users in the village.

Parks and grassed areas: Martin Goodfellow continues to maintain the Millennium Park. The play equipment has been checked and oiled. In line with the risk assessment. Barbed wire has been added to the new fencing at Joiners. How can we stop people feeding the horses? Which is adding to the problem of the horses pushing against the fencing. Discussion included signage asking that people refrain from feeding the horses.

Alan Rodham has fixed the bench in the agreed position on The Green, Martin has stained it and the plaque has been fixed.

Joiners Park Path: Concerns have been raised regarding the gravel path not being user friendly for wheelchair users or people with mobility limitations. We are looking into options to further compact the path to enable easier access.

Parish Council Precept 2025: The soon to be published Parish Council Summer Newsletter will include information regarding the 2025 Precept and details of a planned parish council clinic so that parishioners can discuss any issues arising from the shared information.

Next Year's PC elections: The current councillors are approaching the end of their 4-year tenure. Any active councillors who wish to terminate their active involvement as councillors will leave their post at the end of March 2025.

Anyone wishing to stand as a parish councillor please do not hesitate to contact us on ovingtonparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Newsletter: Our summer newsletter will be printed and distributed soon.

2024/022

Expenditure Authorisation:

5/5/24	Tyne Valley Comm Rail Partnership	£10.00
14/5/24	AR & MG – removal of exercise machines	£220.00
2/6/24	L Burns Salary claim – March 24	£129.70
16/6/24	AR & MG - Siting of bench on The Green	£128.00
25/6/24	L Burns Salary & exp claim – April/May/June	£389.10
26/6/24	OSC – Room Hire 8/7/24	£20.00
26/6/24	OSC – Room Hire 9/9/24	£20.00

2024/023

Committee Reports:

Ovingham Joint Burial Committee – Cllr Ben Woodcock update – Prior to the last meeting the committee members visited the graveyard and cemetery. OJBC to arrange for a new tap in the cemetery, Northumbria water to fit it free of charge. Full details of recent developments at the September meeting.

Ovington Community Group – Cllr Elizabeth Marshall update – Attending next meeting.

East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum – Cllr Anne Hudson update – next meeting end of July.

2024/024 **Village Environment:** We continue to monitor the poo bins as they can overflow on occasions. Although bins are meant to be emptied weekly, at holiday times due to staff shortages these can be unfortunately pushed back to fortnightly. On these occasions if bins overflow, we are diligent in complaining to the relevant department.

Cllr Hudson – to photograph weeds – Burnside and forward to Northumberland County Council.

L Burns – to progress the establishment of the noticeboard at Overdene.

* To ensure repair to Joiners Park gate which has dropped slightly.

2024/025 **Correspondence:** None.

2024/026 **Next Meeting:**

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as Monday 9th September 2024 & Monday 11th November 2024.

2024/027 **Any other business as deemed urgent by the Chair:**

Local Transport Plan – Each year we are asked to prioritise 3 transport issues for consideration by the County Council.

We are required to submit our suggestions by September and will be taking the priorities from the issues highlighted by the parishioners at our village meeting.

Cllr Andy Maidwell – It is with sadness and gratitude that we accepted the resignation of Cllr Maidwell. Andy has contributed to the parish council with commitment, compassion and good humour over his tenure. His presence has made a difference to our village life for 30 years. We wish both Debbie and Andy happiness in their new home in Corbridge. Our loss is Corbridge's gain.

Meeting Concluded at 8.20pm

Lorraine Burns – Clerk to Ovington Parish Council – ovingtonparishcouncil@btinternet.com