

Subject to approval by the Parish Council

OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual general meeting of the Parish Council held at Ovington Social Club on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

Absent: Cllr Holly Waddell

2024/001 **To elect Chair of Council:**

Cllr Ben Woodcock. Nominated and seconded..

2024/002 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Elizabeth Marshall.

2024/003 **To elect Vice-Chair of Council:**

Cllr Tudor Skelly. Nominated and seconded.

2024/004 **Declarations of interest:**

Cllr Tudor Skelly – Part-Time Case Worker for Guy Opperman.

Lorraine Burns (Clerk) – Vice Chair/Treasurer Ovington Social Club.

2024/005 **County Councillors Report:** Not received

2024/006 **To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024:** Having previously been circulated, the minutes were approved and signed.

2024/007 **To nominate Council's representatives on other bodies:-**

Ovingham Joint Burial Committee – Cllr Ben Woodcock – Nominated and seconded.

Ovington Community Group – Cllr Elizabeth Marshall – Nominated and seconded.

East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum – Cllr Anne Hudson - Nominated and seconded.

2024/008 **Matters arising:**

Gym Equipment Update: Lorraine Burns (Clerk) confirmed that the proposal of removing the equipment had been supported by the County Councils Grants Committee and that the equipment had subsequently been removed by A Rodham and M Goodfellow. The Parish Council is presently costing the purchase of two picnic benches to replace them. The preferred option of the majority who completed the survey.

Linear Native Tree Arboretum: Cllr Anne Hudson in discussions with Lloyds Bank established the Ovington Trees account. The purpose being to clearly identify and separate the tree project donated funds from the parish council precept, therefore allowing absolute transparency. Cllr Hudson and L Burns to progress.

Transport Meeting Update: Despite the best efforts of Cllr Ben Woodcock the council has been unable to secure the attendance of a representative of the County Council for the village follow up meeting. We will continue to try to secure someone.

However, the parish council will be purchasing and installing safety mirrors to improve vehicle visibility at the 'hotspots' identified by parishioners.

Cllr Skelly was nominated to drive forward this initiative as soon as possible.

The parish council has continued to report potholes throughout the winter and spring months. This has proved successful and remedial work has been carried out in several areas.

Parks and grassed areas: Martin Goodfellow has maintained and prepared the Millennium Park , Joiners Park and various benches for the much anticipated warmer months.

Parish Council Precept 2025: Looking towards next year we would like to consult with the parishioners regarding the challenges and opportunities facing the parish council over the next few years.

Next Year's PC elections: Parish Councillors serve for a four year tenure. The current tenure expires in 2025. Sadly, a number of our councillors have decided not to continue.

If any parishioner is interested in joining the council, please do not hesitate to contact or approach the current councillors/clerk for more information.

Next Newsletter: The Summer Parish Newsletter will be in production soon. With all council members contributing.

2024/009

Expenditure Authorisation:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 4/3/24 | L Burns Salary claim – 13 weeks | £337.22 |
| 11/3/24 | M Goodfellow – Joiners Fence Repair | £262.18 |
| 27/3/24 | B Hindmarsh – Defib Housing | £100.00 |
| 17/4/24 | NALC- Subscription | £205.78 |
| 28/4/24 | Zurich Insurance | £705.96 |

2024/010 **Financial Report for 2023/2024:** The overall balance has increased by approximately £3000. This directly correlates with funding secured by the Tree project. Hence the establishment of a separate bank account. In future the Parish Council balance will be accurate and transparent.

2024/011 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24**

1. To consider and agree any action arising from the report of the internal Auditor:
2. To approve the Annual Governance Statement:
3. To approve the draft annual accounts for 2023/24:
4. To approve the accounting statement and explanation of variances:
5. To confirm and approve the Certificate of Exemption:

2024/012 **Committee Reports:**

Ovingham Joint Burial Committee – Situation is ongoing, including consultation, legal perspective and historical review. Repairs are also ongoing.

At the outset of the meeting we were joined by Billy Jordon who spoke eloquently and passionately about his feelings and hopes relating to the situation surrounding 'The Lodge'. This is clearly and understandably a very emotive situation. To ensure Ovington Parish Council are reflecting the feelings of our parishioners we intend to hold a consultation event, the details of which will form the body of our response to the Joint Burial Committee.

East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum – Discussions ongoing relating to the benefits of sharing best practice and collaborating on contracting services.

2024/013 **Village Environment:** Final fixing of the donated bench on The Green and Eve's bench are in hand and a priority.

Monitoring of dog poo in Joiners Park to be continued.

2024/014 **Correspondence:** None.

2024/015 **Next Meeting:**

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as Monday 8th July 2024 & Monday 9th September 2024.

2024/016 **Any other business as deemed urgent by the Chair.**

Meeting Concluded at 8.30pm

