

DRAFT

Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting Held on 23rd January 2025 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

In attendance - Councillors: D Jordon, N Gray, C Downing, I Swinburn, J Jackson,
Clerk: A Turnbull

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Sue Grey who has declared an interest in a vacancy on the council and new Clerk Alan Turnbull and thanked Paul Smith the previous Clerk.

Questions from members of the public

One resident attended and raised some issues including Traffic Calming issues, Horse Rider on phone, which is dangerous which Council will monitor, fencing on front street, which is in hand and not enough dog bins, Resident was informed all bins in village could be used for dog faeces and they are in various locations.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Holly Waddell reported - As a result of changes to central government funding NCC budget for 2025 – 2026 will be £12M lower, information on recent farming protest and a potential new pedestrian crossing in Wylam Village.

1.Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Ford.

2.Declaration of Interest (if any)

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3.To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2024

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

- **2025/2026 Precept Submission** - Precept was increased by 4.5% (£700) to £16,000 and was submitted 25th November by Clerk.
- **Community Resilience** – Cllr. Jordon, Jackson and Gray to meet Nigel Fisher NCC for update on 31st January.
- **Use of Gov.UK email addresses.** – Councillor Gray attended webinar for further information, and it was agreed to leave as is at present time, regarding website, would be Northumberland parishes to apply a change to this.

5. Accounts to pay/paid since the previous meeting

The following payments were agreed.

Expenditure.

- Clerk Salary - P. Smith - £355.21
- Tynedale Hospice at Home - Donation - £100.00
- Great North Air Ambulance - Donation - £100.00
- Ovingham & District U5s - Donation - £100.00

- T Bell - Grass / Maintenance - £867.50
- Kompan - Zip Wire - £1782.48
- Edf Energy - £3.13

Income

- NCC Payment – T Bell reimbursement - £190.00

6. Budget

Clerk reported an ongoing balance as at 31.12.24 of £18,154.40.

Discussion on whether to open savings account took place and it was agreed to review at the end of March.

P. Smith has offered to buy the printer as new clerk already has one for £50.

7. Planning Applications

OPC had no comments on the following applications:

- 7 Burnside Close Ovingham – remove trees: **Complete.**
- 11 Castle View Ovingham – Loft Conversion: **Permitted**
- 8-9 Castle View Ovingham – Windows **Permitted**
- Bleach Green Farm Cottage West Road Ovingham: remove trees **Registered.**
- Orchard House Main Road Ovingham - Trees: **Registered**
- The Reading Room West Road Ovingham – Solar panels **Registered.**
- Land West of Bleach Green Farmhouse West Road Ovingham – 2 houses **Awaiting decision**

8. Review of Standing Orders and Social Media Policies.

Amendments required to Standing Orders due to changes to reduction in meetings and required Clerk's duties. Social Media Policy - it was agreed that two paragraphs in section 1.2 regarding posting by the public will be duplicated on the OPC FB Page.

Action – Cllr Jackson to make amendments.

9. Review of Allotment and Parish Garden rent.

Proposal that Allotment rent £100 and Parish Garden rent £30 remain the same as previous year was agreed. Review will be done next year.

10. Annual Tree inspection of all trees on Parish Council land

- **Pack Horse Green** – Willow tree needs Pollarding, a quote was obtained and agreed, a planning application is required and will be submitted ASAP.
Action Cllr. Gray
- **Pack Horse Bridge** – Pruning required.
Action Cllr. Jordon
- **Allotments** – a number of trees need to be checked but nothing urgent required.

Volunteers may be required to help remove Ivy from trees around village.

Review again at March's Meeting.

11 Village environment and action plan update.

Cllr Jordon provided an update on various other issues she had been dealing with, including:

Hedge trimming at Castle View and Dene Garth, both have been completed,
Potholes – a number of potholes had been reported and repaired but this is an ongoing issue.

Footpaths covered in leaves have been cleared.

Waste bin in Bewick Lane has not been emptied on a regular basis, NCC are aware of this, and issue is being followed up.

Dog Fouling has become an issue in the cemetery, OJBC Clerk to post a message on Facebook. Dog fouling has also been observed on football pitches and in Bewick Lane

Sign of location on Piper Road / Wellburn Close is causing issues for deliveries and will be monitored.

12. Committee Reports.

- **OJBC**– Cllr. Jordon gave an update on the December meeting.
- **East Tynedale Forum** - A meeting is to take place on 28th January at which speeding will be discussed further, the main item being to request 20mph in all villages.
- **Reading Room** – Cllr Jackson gave a Reading Room and Goose Fair update.
- **Allotments** - Cllr Jordon reported on the AGM, meeting held in January.
- **Playing Field** - Cllr Swinburn had agreed to carry out the weekly inspections in Cllr Ford's absence and reported mole hills on football pitch and goalposts need to be checked. Cllr Jordon thanked Cllr Swinburn for her help and support.
Action – Monitor moles and the goal posts
- **Essity** – Cllr Gray confirmed that no Meeting has taken place since November.

13. Correspondence – Email relating to turning bays in Dene Garth.

An email has been received from a resident regarding parking in Dene Garth turning bays which is causing issues for Vehicles, this is an issue in other parts of the village and the Clerk will contact resident and we will closely monitor this situation.

Action – Clerk to contact Resident.

14. Any Other Business

Cllr. Jordon asked Councillors to inspect and report to the next meeting any issues in their allocated part of the village.

15. Date of next meeting. Date of Next Meeting is 20th March 2025.