

DRAFT

Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting Held on 20th March 2025 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

In attendance - Councillors: N Gray, C Downing, I Swinburn, J Jackson, T Ford, S Gray, Clerk: A Turnbull

The Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Questions from members of the public, including Co Option of Resident to Parish Council

There were no questions from the public. However, councillors N Gray and Jackson had met residents at the Surgery held prior to the meeting.

A discussion was held with two residents regarding work on re-instating a burned down chalet and a retrospective planning application will be submitted to NCC.

Another resident queried the possibility of the 686-bus service being re-instated to serve Ovington and Ovingham. Elderly residents and those without cars find it difficult to access Prudhoe to do shopping. It was agreed that this would be taken up with NCC.

Councillor N Gray welcomed Sue Gray who was in attendance and was unanimously Co Opted to the Parish Council.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Holly Waddell attended a recent NCC meeting held to discuss a £12M reduction to the 2025-26 budget. She opposed two elements of the cuts relating to education and welfare. The budget was passed.

She confirmed that using her available Small Schemes Funding she could provide support for new goal posts at the playing field and a new free standing waste bin for Castle View.

Comments regarding the 686-bus service had also been received by councillor Waddell and it was agreed that a letter outlining the discussion at the surgery would be sent to councillor Waddell to pass on to the relevant NCC cabinet member.

1.Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Jordon.

2.Declaration of Interest (if any)

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3.To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd January 2025.

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

4. Matters arising

- **Policy amendments** – Councillor Jackson has sent these to the Clerk, and they will be updated on the PC Website.

Action – Clerk.

- **Community Resilience Update** – Councillor's Jordon and Gray had recently met with representatives of the Reading Room and NCC to discuss updating the registration of the Reading Room as a safe place in case of emergencies. Subsequent to the meeting a copy of the council Flood plan was sent to the RR representatives.
- **Fencing on Castle View.** – Since the last meeting the Chair had met with representatives from both Northumberland Estates and NCC in an effort to reach agreement about who is responsible for the upkeep of the fencing. Resolution is ongoing.

Hedge growth on the Castle View Path will be cut back by NCC possibly twice a year.

- **Waste Bin on Castle View.** – It was agreed to purchase a new bin for the Bus Stop at Castle View.

Action – Clerk.

- **Tree Inspection** - There are some trees we will have to monitor especially in the Allotments and Parish Gardens. Lots of ivy growth to be removed on trees - need volunteers to help. Also, the growth on the cherry tree has been removed beside the Pack Horse Bridge which was mentioned in the report and the large willow tree has been pollarded.

5. Accounts to pay/paid since the previous meeting

The following payments were agreed.

Expenditure.

- £263.96 HMRC (Bacs)
- £303.68 A Turnbull Clerk Salary Jan (Cheque)
- £303.68 A Turnbull Clerk Salary Feb (Cheque)
- £24.82 Anglian Water NWL Business
- £250.00 Northumberland Estates – Rent (Bacs)
- £50.00 Ovingham Oracle, Donation (Bacs)
- £62.58 EDF Electricity (DD)
- £168.00 Tyne Valley Woodland (Bacs)
- £263.74 Procut Ground Maintenance (Bacs)

Income

- £50.00 P Smith, Print
- £40.00 Lloyds Bank Compensation

6. Budget

Clerk reported an ongoing balance as at 28.02.2025 of £17,136.94.

7. Planning Applications

- Chalet Rebuild: Retrospective application to be made
- Model Cottage Main Road: Withdrawn

- Old Post Office West Road: See Item 9
- 1 The Terrace: No Objection

8. Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections to take place on May 1st, 2025, Clerk asked all councillors who wish to stand again to complete Nominations Papers which will be handed to NCC on 31st March which has been booked by the Clerk.

Action - Clerk

9. Consultation on removal of village phone box.

This is a historical feature of the Village. If not maintained as a working box we would want it to remain as a feature maintained by the PC and put to a beneficial use. It was noted that the box has just been repainted inside and out and glass panes renewed.

It was agreed to put notices on noticeboards and Facebook to consult with Parishioners and report back to NCC by the deadline of 28 March.

Action – Clerk, Cllr Ford.

10. Annual rent reminder to Allotments and tenants of Parish Gardens.

Reminders have been sent by the Clerk.

11 Village environment and action plan update.

Updates were given by Councillors.

Hedge trimming at Castle View and Dene Garth have been completed,

Potholes – several 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) and remains so on the playing field football pitches. Broken Fence at North Meadow and a deep trench, a Health and Safety issue, on the footpath at the bottom of Horsley Road.

Stepping stones down to the burn and erosion of the bank will be the subject of a site meeting with the NCC Pathways Officer.

Traffic calming road markings have been put in place and signage should be completed by NCC in May/June.

12. Committee Reports.

- **OJBC**– Cllr Swinburn advised that a meeting was to be held with Gilmore's re the tenancy agreement.
- **East Tynedale Forum** – No Meeting has taken place.
- **Reading Room** – Cllr Jackson said the Reading Room have updated their Safeguarding Policy. Planning for the Goose Fair is underway
- **Allotments** - Cllr Jordon attended March meeting which included a discussion on tree work needed.
- **Playing Field** - Cllr Swinburn gave an update that play equipment had been repaired. The Defibrillator contents are fine until November. A picnic table, two bench seats and 3 planters donated by Bentley's are awaiting installation to be installed.

- **Action** – Monitor moles – handyman now in charge
- **Essity** – No Meeting has taking place.

13. Correspondence

- Letter re Bus Transport already covered.
- River Safety Meeting requested to be put back from 2nd April.

14. Any Other Business

- Arrange inspection of Pavilion Fire Safety in May
Action – Clerk
- Looking into VE Day Celebrations in Ovingham.

15. Date of next meeting. Date of Next Meeting is 15th May 2025.