

DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual Ovingham Parish Council Meeting Held on 15th May 2025 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

In attendance Councillors: D Jordon, N Gray, C Downing, I Swinburn, T Ford, J Jackson, S Grey and County Cllr L O'Donnell. Clerk: A Turnbull

1. To elect the Chairperson of Ovingham Parish Council

Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Downing seconded Cllr Jordon as Chair, which she duly accepted.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absences.

3. To elect the Vice-Chairperson of Ovingham Parish Council

Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Swinburn seconded Cllr Gray as Vice Chair, which he duly accepted.

4. Declaration of interest (if any)

None.

5. County Councillor's report

County Councillor O'Donnell introduced himself to the Parish Council and thanked the Parish Council for their friendly welcome. Cllr Jordon to pass on any items unresolved by previous County Cllr including potential, funding for Goal Posts and a new Litter Bin as well as further information on 2025 Local Transport Plan requests and potential renewing the 686 Bus Service.

Action: Cllr Jordon

6. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 20th April 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

7. To nominate Council's representatives on other bodies:

The following appointments were agreed:

Ovingham Joint Burial Committee (2) - Cllrs Swinburn and S Gray

East Tynedale Parish & Town Councils Forum (2) - Cllrs Jordon and N Gray

Reading Room Committee (1 or 2) - Cllr Jackson and Cllr Downing

Playing Fields (2) - Cllr Ford - with assistance from Cllrs Jordon and Swinburn

Allotments and Orchard (1) Cllr Jordon

Essity (1) - Cllr Gray

8. Matters Arising

- **Bus Transport**

Letter to be forwarded to County Cllr O'Donnell re- request for 686 Bus Service. Action: Cllr Gray

- **Fencing on Castle View**
Rotten sections have been replaced by Northumberland Estates
- **Waste Bin – Castle View bus stop.**
Goal Posts for Playing Fields
These are both subject to funding, Cllr O'Donnell has offered to fund, further discussions to take place.
- **Tree Inspection**
Ivy removal on trees in village and any large branches
Action: Cllr Ford and N Gray
- **Phone Box**
PC objected to the removal / closure of this. Email received from NCC on categories we can submit a further appeal to i.e. Accidents & Emergencies and Flooding issues.
Action: Cllr N Gray and Clerk.
- **Steppingstones**
Cllr Jordon met with Tim Fish at Burn Foot, steps will be reset but this is not a priority. Potential wooden rail to be fitted at the entrance to the steps.
Action: Cllr Jordon to obtain quotes.
- **Pavilion fire equipment inspection.**
This has now taken place. Cllr Jackson requested 3 smoke alarms be ordered for the Pavillion, Cllrs agreed.
Action: Clerk

9. Accounts to pay/paid since previous meeting

- £227.76 HMRC (Bacs)
- £303.68 A Turnbull Clerk Salary Mar (Bacs)
- £303.68 A Turnbull Clerk Salary Apr (Bacs)
- £87.36 EDF Electricity (DD)
- £20.00 West Northumberland – Pat Test (Bacs)
- £200.00 John Pigg (Bacs)

Credits

- £8000.00 Precept
- £30.00 A Ingham – Rent
- £60.00 J Robson – Rent
- £30.00 M Houghton – Hire Pavillion

Ovingham Parish Council and Village Trust agreed to transfer funds of £1,263.24p to the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the Village Trust.

Financial Report for 2024/25

The Financial Report had previously been circulated by the Clerk who summarised the main points.

11. To review assets for audit purposes

The Asset Register had previously been circulated by the Clerk, after discussion, amendments and additions are to be made, Clerk to present to Chair before agreeing this is a true record.

12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/2025

Clerk explained as the Parish Council expenditure was over 25k this year, all relevant documents will be sent to external auditor.

Action: Clerk

- **To agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor**
The Internal Auditor raised no issues raised and approved
- **To approve the Annual Governance Statement**
Cllrs approved the Annual Governance Statement
- **To approve the draft annual accounts for 2024/2025**
Cllrs approved the Annual Accounts
- **To approve the accounting statement and explanation of Variances**
Cllrs approved the accounting statement, explanation of variances.
- **To confirm and approve the Certificate of Exemption**
This is not needed as exceeded 25k threshold.

13. Planning Applications

- 34 Wheatfield Close – Granted
- Model Cottage Main Road – new application submitted – create office space in building at rear of site – no objections
- Laburnum Cottage – removal of tree with ash die back – no objections.

14. Play Inspections

To contact Karen Wainwright to find out date of inspection.

Action: Clerk

15. NALC Website and Emails

It has come to light that Website may be closed and emails to be used are preferred gov.uk proposal being Councillors do not use personal emails. Further information to be investigated

Action: Clerk

16. Village environment and action plan update

Noticeboards to be tidied and repairs carried out

Action: Cllrs to follow up

Parking issues at Bewick Lane - to be followed up

Action: Cllr Jordon

NWL contractor issues – re – damage to field entrance related to dumping of waste in the field opposite the First School

Action: Clerk

17. Committee Reports

- **OJBC**– Cllr Swinburn gave an update re ongoing issues at the lodge, an extra ordinary meeting took place discussions are still on going.
- **East Tynedale Forum** – No Meeting has taking place.
- **Reading Room** – Cllr Jackson reported upcoming Goose Fair would have beer tent and entry charge has been raised to £3.
- **Allotments** - Cllr Jordon attended May Meeting, which was well attended, she reported it was pleasing to see a big improvement related to the plots and the upkeep of hedges Further discussion on ivy and height of boundary hedges to take place after bird nesting season in September.
- **Playing Field** - Cllr Swinburn gave update that play equipment, and Paving Stones have been laid.
- **Essity** – No Meet has taking place.

18. Correspondence

River Safety meeting on July 5th - Cllr Gray to attend.

19. Any Other business

Cllr Jordon reminded the meeting that election forms to be sent back by Councillors with nil returns

20 Date of Next Meeting.

Date of Next meeting 17th July 2025, Cllr N Gray has put apologies in for this meeting.