

DRAFT

Minutes of the Ovingham Parish Council Meeting Held on 27th July 2023 The Pavilion, Ovingham Playing Field, Ovingham

In attendance

Cllrs Jordon (Chair), Gray (Vice-Chair), Jackson, Ford, Swinburn, Downing, Neal and Paul Smith (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also mentioned that there had been two sad bereavements in the Village recently. The Village's oldest resident (Jean Taylor) had died at the age of 103. There was also the recent tragic death of a toddler. The Parish Council have sent sympathy cards.

Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

County Councillor's report

The County Councillor was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Jordon advised that she would send some queries via email (including regarding the Local Transport Plan, Road Closures and Speeding).

Action: Cllr Jordon

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Waddell had submitted her apology.

2. Declaration of Interest (if any)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 18th May 2023

The minutes of both meetings were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

- **Update on Information / Story Board** - Cllr Gray reported that the Story Board has recently been delivered and arrangements are being made to have it installed.
- **Dog Issues Update** - The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a reply from NCC to the queries raised, however he would chase this up. **Action: The Clerk**
- **Waste Bin - Playing Field** - Cllr Jordon reported that the supporting stand was in place, however the Bin had not yet been installed
- **Climate Change Update/Future Action Ideas** - The Parish Council have been asked for ideas re discussion topics at future meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that a member of the NCC Climate Change Team should be asked to attend the next Climate Change Group meeting to give update on their plans. Cllr Ford asked that it be noted he had recently enquired about having solar panels installed and was informed that there would be a £40

charge, just for an initial survey. He felt this would be prohibitive and put many people off.

- **Speed Surveys** - As there are still roadworks in the Village, the speed surveys have been put on hold for now.

5. Accounts to pay/paid since the previous meeting

The following payments were agreed.

- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary May 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk Net Salary June 23 - £324.56 (Paid via Cheque)
- P Smith - Clerk - Reimbursement of Employers PAYE paid to HMRC - £209.56 (Paid via Cheque)
- Doreen Jordon - Reimbursement of Food & Goods for Coronation Event - £71.30 (Paid via BACS)
- Doreen Jordon - Reimbursement re Village Gardens and Tubs exp. - £204.24 (Paid via BACS)
- Firepoint Services - Service of equipment at Pavilion - £156.19 - (Paid via BACS)
- NBB Recycled Furniture - Picnic Table at Orchard - £792.00 - (Paid via BACS)
- Play Inspection Co Ltd - Inspection of Playing field equipment - £89.94 (Paid via BACS)
- T Bell - Grass Cuts Apr-May £360.00 (Paid via BACS)

6. Budget

The Budget sheet had previously been circulated by the Clerk who summarised the main points.

7. Rental Charges for the Pavilion / Field and Football Teams

Various amendments were agreed to the Hire Agreement and Conditions of Hire Form

Action: The Clerk

After discussion, the following charges were agreed

- £250 to hire the pitch per season, per Team (from 1st September 2023 - 31st May 2024)
- £10.00 per extra training session outside of the term above

8. Play Inspection / Action Plan

Cllr Jordon reported that the damaged goal post had been removed, repaired and painted the east end goal post still needed repainting. Cllr Downing reported that the matting on the zip wire was slippery. **Post meeting note - the zip wire has since been taken out of action.**

9. Planning

- 23/00459/PRUTPO - Tree works at the borderline between 2 The Terrace and 3 Nunnykirk - The deadline for comments was 27th July and a decision is awaited. Cllrs Jordon and Gray have met with the applicant on a number of occasions and the OPC position is to remain neutral on the application.
- 23/02359/PRUTPO - Tree works at The Croft, Horsley Road - These works are considered necessary as branches are overhanging the pavement.

10. Local Transport Plan

After discussion of various options it was agreed that the following would be put forward:

- Path in front of Dene Garth Estate
- Resurface Tyne Gardens and Windsor Crescent roads

- Resurface the School Road

11. Defibrillator Update

Cllr Jordon reported that the Defibrillator outside the White Swan had had to be used recently, therefore new parts have been ordered. There is another Defibrillator at the Reading Room. An additional Defibrillator will be installed at the Pavilion, the Football Association have funded this, the Parish Council will cover installation and maintenance costs.

12. Village environment and action plan update

- **Whittle Dene** - Cllr Jordon had attended the recent meeting organised by the CIC and Northumberland Wildlife Trust re plans to purchase 42 acres of land in the immediate area of Whittle Dene.
- **Road Closures** - this had caused disruption and was due to Gulleys being cleared out
- **OPC update for Oracle** - this has recently been provided
- **Surface Water Update** - works are ongoing and speed tables may be installed in the Autumn (subject to funding)
- **Pavilion Door** - needs replacing and a decision is awaited from Bentleys on whether they are able to fund this.
- **Village Action Plan** - items on the playing field action plan are being progressed eg hedges are being cut back and weed spraying is ongoing.
- **Cllr Ford** enquired whether the Parish Council could purchase the land that is on sale and convert it into a car park, for use by the Village, Cllr Jordon replied the Parish Council simply didn't have the funds to do this (which would be very expensive). Cllr Ford also asked whether the Parish Council could purchase 'cardboard Policemen' to help reduce speeding. He was asked to look into how much this would be.

Action:Cllr Ford

13. Committee Reports

It was agreed that the existing reps would continue on each board.

- Burial Board - Cllrs Jordon and Swinburn had attended a recent meeting at which it was proposed to increase Burial Fees by 5%. OPC reps voted against this, however the increase was agreed. Roots from a tree at the cemetery are disturbing a path and need to be monitored, a quote for crowning and pruning branches on the tree is to be obtained, then a planning application will have to be submitted for the tree works.
- East Tynedale Forum - There was a meeting recently at which the Head of Planning at NCC attended, which was very useful.
- Reading Room - Nothing to report
- Orchard and Allotments - Nothing to report
- Playing Fields - already discussed
- Essity - The last meeting was cancelled

14. Correspondence -

Email from resident re Eel screen works - Cllr Downing had received an enquiry which Cllr Jordon had replied to.

Email from Ovingham First School PTA re use of Pavilion - the event went ahead.

Email from Northern Power re works to poles - Cllr Jordon had replied to enquiries from Northern Power re land ownership.

Email from Resident re Bridge Inn extractor fan - The Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding positioning of the extractor fan. All Councillors have been provided with the background to the enquiry and it was confirmed that the final decision re the extractor fans' location was left with the owner of the Bridge Inn.

15. Any other business as considered urgent by the Chair

Cllr Downing provided details of the proposed event (that is to be held at the Pavilion and Playing Field) following the recent tragic death of a toddler in the Village.

Cllr Downing asked for the Parish Council's advice in holding an event to say 'Thank You' to the Village from the family for all the help and support they have received.

Cllr Jackson agreed to provide advice re whether a music licence was required and it was suggested that advice from Ovi Fun should be sought, as to whether their insurance could cover the event.

Action: Cllrs Jackson and Downing

16. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 21st September 2023

Agreed.