

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 5 April 2018.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mrs M Elton, Mr J Howes, and Mr S C Sharpe.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council) and Cllr P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council).

148 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs M Elton declared an interest in minute no. 155 (Planning applications - 0215 Extension, Middle Hayes, Green Lane).

149 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident drew attention to the fact that the footpath between Valley Road and Netherseal was now virtually impassable because of vehicle ruts and mud. Photographs had been sent to the National Forest Company and they would be asked to improve the situation urgently.

Attention was also drawn to the problems caused by vehicles being parked close to junctions, specifically Coronation Street/Burton Road, Coronation Street/Woodlands Road and Woodlands Road/Woodville Road. In the former case, the refuse vehicle had been unable to access Coronation Street because of this parking. This would be reported to the Police for action.

150 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

151 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER

The Clerk reported that the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs T-A Rogers had been advertised in accordance with the legal requirements and there had been no requisition for an election. The Council should therefore fill the vacancy by co-option and it had been advertised locally following usual practice.

An expression of interest had been received from Mrs S Ward and she was duly co-opted to membership.

Mrs Ward signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

152 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

152.1 District Council. Work at Spring Cottage Fisheries, on the Derbyshire side of the site, appeared to be the construction of tracks and a car park. This would be referred to the Planning Department to check whether planning permission was required.

No decision had yet been taken on the possible closure of the recycling centre and the bins which had been blown to the wrong side of the car park had not been returned to their proper position. This resulted in people who wished to use those bins having to stand in water and mud to do so. The District Council would be pressed to deal with this matter urgently.

The drain outside 60 Moira Road had still not been cleared and the District Council would be pressed to deal with this.

152.2 Police. No report had again been received from the Police and the Inspector would be asked to provide another point of contact for this information while the PCSO was not available. Speeding in Coronation Street was a problem and would be reported.

152.3 County Council. Several potholes had been reported, notably in Hallcroft Avenue, Coronation Street and Woodlands Road. Most roads in the area were in a poor state of repair.

The District Council had cleared the drains in Woodville Road near to the brook but Leicestershire had not yet done so; they reported that they had not identified the problem and had referred it to a technical officer to investigate. However, it could take an extended time to get to this one. The brook passed under the road in two culverts, one of which was blocked; to be referred to the Environment Agency.

153 CLERK'S REPORT

153.1 Progress report. A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). The possible upgrading of the public toilets and the seeding of the grass verge near to the electricity sub-station in Woodville Road would be chased.

153.2 Forward Planning. The Council received the report on Forward Planning issues (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

153.3 Overseale House. The Heritage Officer had carried out a partial inspection recently and a further visit was planned for 5 April.

153.4 Footpath diversion. The Council had been consulted on a proposed diversion of footpath 26 which crossed the proposed development at Poplars Farm, Moira Road. No objection, but the footpath at the top end of the site needed clearing, and the stile and marker post replaced.

153.5 Footpath, Acresford Road. Both landowners had been contacted about establishing a permissive path through their land as an alternative to the narrow footway adjacent to the road. One had declined because of the legal implications and the other had not yet replied. Noted. One landowner also farmed land affected by the footpath between Acresford Road and Netherseal and he would be asked to reinstate this path, which had been ploughed to allow crops to be planted.

153.6 Request for concession for use of the Village Hall. The Junior FC were holding two fund-raising events and asked for a concessionary rate for use of the Village Hall. The events were Easter community chocolate bingo night on the 6th April and also a family and presentation fun day on the 30th June. 50% discount was allowed for both events.

153.7 Parish/County Liaison Meeting. All Parish Councils were invited to this meeting on 10 May between 6 and 8 pm at County Hall, Matlock. Noted.

153.8 Minerals Local Plan. The County and City Councils were consulting on the next stage of the Plan, which contained:

- A draft vision, objectives and sustainability proposals;
- A draft strategy for each of the important minerals;
- Draft policies for sustaining supplies until 2030;
- Draft allocation of specific extraction sites.

The majority of the document dealt with rock and the Peak District, though there was mention of the sand and gravel deposits. Several drop-in events were planned, but the places concerned were all in the north of the county. Noted.

153.9 Risk assessment. The Council previously agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should carry out an annual review of the various risk factors each April. This had now been done and no action was required. A copy of the schedule of risks reviewed was available on request. The Council received the report.

153.10 Calendar of meetings, 2018/2019. It was agreed to adopt the following calendar of meetings for the next municipal year:

2018	2019
April 5	Jan 10
May 3	Feb 7
June 7	March 7
July 5	April 4
August 2	May 9 (elections will be May 2)
Sept 6	
Oct 4	
Nov 8	
Dec 13	

153.11 Data Protection Regulations. Current advice was that the Council would become the Data Controller (i.e. the body overseeing the keeping and use of data) and that Clerks could become Data Processors (i.e. using the data). DALC had organised a training session on 23 April at a cost of £45 and the Clerk had provisionally reserved a place, subject to the Council's approval. The legislation was still going through Parliament but was due to come into force on 25 May. NALC had issued an advice document running to 60 pages, and the Clerks' Society (SLCC) had also issued further advice and templates. The Clerk's attendance at the training event was confirmed.

153.12 Consultation on ethical standards. The Committee on Standards in Public Life had recently launched a consultation as part of its review into local government ethical standards. The review would include an examination of the structures, processes and practices for maintaining and enforcing councillor code of conduct, investigating breaches fairly, sanctions, declaring interests and managing conflicts of interest and recommendations for improvement.

Briefly, the consultation sought views on:

- Whether the Code of Conduct is satisfactory;
- Whether allegations of councillor misconduct investigated and decided fairly and with due process;
- Whether existing sanctions for councillor misconduct are sufficient;

- Whether existing arrangements to declare councillors' interests and manage conflicts of interest are satisfactory;
 - What arrangements are in place for whistleblowing, by the public, councillors, and officials:
 - What steps could local authorities and central government take to improve local government ethical standards? and
 - What is the nature, scale, and extent of intimidation towards local councillors?
- It was considered that there needed to be effective sanctions where the Code was transgressed and that there should be protection for whistleblowers.

154 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

The reports were received and no actions were required. Previous outstanding matters had been dealt with.

155 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been approved:

1386 Rear extension and new front porch, 87 Lullington Road.

Applications for decision:

0208 Garage, Park Farm, Acresford Road. No objection.

0215 Extension, Middle Hayes, Green Lane. Supported.

(Mrs M Elton declared an interest in this application and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

0273 Demolition of existing garage and erection of extensions, 354 Burton Road. No objection.

156 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None. However, following improvements to the Pavilion and the purchase of new furniture, wider use of the building was beginning. It was agreed:

(a) to provide a Hiring Agreement and appropriate booking forms, as with the Village Hall;

(b) that the Clerk would discuss with the Bowls Club whether they wished to continue to deal with bookings and collection of hire fees;

(c) that fire assembly point notices and direction signs be provided for the building;

(d) that the Caretaker be asked to clean the premises approximately monthly and the work be treated as extra hours for payment.

157 WEBSITE

North West Leicestershire District Council were seeking support for the reopening of the Burton to Leicester railway line, known as the National Forest Line. This would be included in the website and included in the agenda for the next meeting.

158 ACCOUNTS**158.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*2540	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	120.23	24.95	144.28
*2541	S Fern	Internal painting of Pavilion	1055.00		1055.00
2542	S Ruddle	Caretaker	542.07		542.07
2543	E Evans	Litter	128.00		128.00
2544	J M Summerfield	Litter	90.00		90.00
2545	J E White	Salary & Expenses	1068.45		1068.45
2546	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	658.80		658.80
2547	DALC	Subscription	641.13		641.13
2548	Fisher German	Fees - rent review re land at Lullington Road	222.00	44.40	266.40
2549	P G Curzon	Carpet cleaning at the Village Hall	60.00		60.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	23.95	4.79	28.74
D/D	NEST	Pension contributions	25.42		25.42
D/D	SSE	Gas to Village Hall	233.72	12.18	255.90

* These accounts were paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

158.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
S Ruddle	Village Hall lettings	637.50
Various	Allotment rents	45.00
R Leedham	Rent of land at Lullington Road	1117.00

158.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents were available for inspection.

159 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

159.1 Telephone kiosk, Shortheath. Mr Cook had inspected the kiosk with a view to installing some shelves and he would proceed with this. The internal light was not working and the best solution seemed to be to replace the fitting and install an LED bulb. While the kiosk was leaning a little, it appeared secure and not dangerous.

159.2 Traffic lights. The sequence of the traffic lights needed further checking as they only allowed 2-3 cars from the side-roads.

159.3 Litter pick. Several residents had asked the council to organise a litter pick, especially along the bottom of the lower football pitches and into the adjoining land. There were potential problems with this, not least of which was that the adjoining land did not belong to the council. It was suggested that Persimmon be asked whether they would arrange suitable litter pick, with assistance from the Council by obtaining equipment and ensuring that volunteers were insured.

160 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in pursuance of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

161 CLERK'S REPORT - FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Council considered the report of the Clerk on the provision of fitness equipment and play equipment, and the funding implications.

RESOLVED: That authority to deal with this matter be delegated to the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman so as to progress the project urgently, in the light of the District Council's decisions on S.106 funding.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Chairman