

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 6 August 2015.

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mrs S Jones, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs M Elton and Mr M A Knight.

## 33 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 34 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

## 35 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record, subject to correction of 2 typographical errors and substitution of 'Woodville Road' for 'Moirra Road' in minute no 29 (Planning applications - application no 0211, erection of a building to provide residential accommodation with associated parking and amenity areas, 2 Woodville Road).

## 36 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**36.1 District Council.** Cllr Mrs Hall expressed thanks to the Chairman for her recent work in securing the removal of the travellers from the recreation ground. She reported that the village shop at Netherseal would be temporarily closed due to illness. Members reported that Coronation Street footpaths were badly in need of clearing of dog faeces, and the Clerk would contact the District Council to request cleaning. Also, the grass verge near to the bus stop adjacent to the Baptist Chapel was overgrown and the District Council would be asked to cut it.

**36.2 Police.** Crime statistics for July showed a low level of reported crime. The PCSO would be asked whether he had obtained any information about trees being cut down at the Nature Area.

**36.3 County Council.** The footpath in Woodville Road near to the Hooborough Brook was badly in need of surface repairs and this contrasted with recent surfacing of new paths in Newhall and Repton. Other paths in need of repair were the length at Burton Road between nos 29 and 49, and the section of Moira Road adjoining Overseal Manor grounds.

Following enquiries made at the recent Area Forum it had been ascertained that the programme for surface dressing of highways for the current year did not include Moira Road. Members were disappointed that the length between the junction with Gorseley Lees and Laguna Park and a further length near to the county boundary were not included and would seek a review.

Additionally, the pothole near to the Laguna Park entrance had been repaired but still constituted a danger to vehicles.

### **37 CLERK'S REPORT**

**37.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). The District Council were to press for progress on land at Manor School View.

**37.2 A.444 - request for traffic count.** The County Council had replied to the effect that the A444 was designated as one of the more appropriate roads for through traffic travelling through the area. The authority was of course sympathetic to villages located on such routes and tried to maintain safety through the village, manage the congestion in peak periods whilst generally trying to keep traffic flowing in the interests of business and industry which was also important to the economy. They were unable to suggest what could be done to assist a driver pulling out of a driveway onto a busy road and acknowledges that it could take some time, especially in the peak periods. However, they had a permanent traffic counter on the A444 at Acresford near the county boundary that could provide a historical and current view of traffic using the A444 albeit at Acresford 2km or so south of Overseal. This would provide useful trend information on the A444 as this site had been in continuous operation more or less since the early nineties. There was also a classified manual traffic survey undertaken at the junction of the A444 and Lullington/Moira Road that was undertaken in 2013. While further traffic counts could be undertaken, they would require the cost to be met. The statistics showed a slight decline in numbers from 2010 to 2012 and then a steady increase, both generally and at peak hours.

**37.3 Auto-enrolment.** The Clerk had set up the necessary account with NEST (National Employment Savings Trust). The Council's staff would all be contacted in due course with details about their options, using templates provided by NEST. The scheme must be fully operational by the Staging Date, 1 March 2016. NEST did not currently make any charges to employers.

**37.4 Emergency planning.** The system for dealing with emergencies had changed recently. The County Council had agreed to discharge the responsibilities of all the Districts in Derbyshire and would act as the lead and co-ordinator in any major emergency. If and when they wished to use local knowledge, distribute advice or warnings etc at Parish level, they would contact one of the local contacts for emergency purposes nominated annually. The aim was then to cascade contacts so that one person telephoned a small number of others and so on until the information was spread throughout the Parish.

An organisation entitled Derbyshire Emergency Volunteers had also been established and would act in a number of events. These would be evacuating people to a rest centre (and/or supporting them when evacuated), severe weather including flooding, a health incident, staffing an information telephone line or anything else where a person could help. The volunteer could choose any or all of these items, and would normally act locally, but if willing, could do so anywhere in the county at any time. This was purely voluntary and there was no compulsion to turn out.

**37.5 Recycling centre and car park.** The District Council agreed that some work on the car park was necessary and would be arranging for a contractor to carry it out; this would involve closing the car park for about a week, so they had been asked to do so in the school holidays. They would monitor use of the recycling centre for about a month and if this showed that it was not being adequately used, elected members would be asked for authority to remove it.

A contractor had been asked to cut back vegetation on the section of the recreation ground adjacent to the car park, and to spray to prevent re-growth; the cost would be £400.

**37.6 New Council houses, Lullington Road.** Construction of the new houses had just begun.

**37.7 Co-operation on planning matters.** Castle Gresley Parish Council felt that they were unable to support the representations regarding the 60 dwellings at Acresford Road as they felt that they had limited resources and could only represent the village of Castle Gresley. They did however agree to exchange reports, agendas, minutes and other information as with Ashby Woulds Town Council.

**37.8 Audit of accounts for 2014/5.** The audit had been completed by Grant Thornton UK LLP. All matters are satisfactory, but the following additional comment was attached:

*The RFO'S signature on section 1 of the Return was dated 18/5/15 which was four days after the Council approval date of the 14/5/15. The Regulations require that section 1 of the Return should be certified by the RFO on or before the same day as the Council approval date.*

**37.9 Leicestershire Minerals draft plan.** The Council had been consulted on this plan, which may be inspected online at: [www.leics.gov.uk/minerals\\_and\\_waste\\_local\\_plan](http://www.leics.gov.uk/minerals_and_waste_local_plan)

The New Albion site was the location which had most relevance to Overseal.

The plan proposed that an area to the south west of the lake and fronting to Spring Cottage should be subject to the following policies:

- Retention and enhancement of the existing boundary vegetation.
- Rationalisation of the current stocking and blending area to achieve a reduced footprint of the working area.
- Timely restoration of those areas no longer utilised to stock and blend clay.
- Transportation of the materials by road is recognised as potentially causing problems and the policy relating to this says that permission will be granted when:
- Proposals for minerals and waste development involving the transportation of material by road will be granted where it is demonstrated that:
- road transport is the only practicable and environmentally preferable alternative;
- the proposed access arrangements would be safe and appropriate to the proposed development and the impact on road safety of the traffic generated would be acceptable;
- the highway network is able to accommodate the traffic that would be generated and would have an acceptable impact on the environment of local residents;

- the proposal is in close proximity to the County's lorry network and would not result in unnecessary impact on residential areas and minor roads; and
- in the case of new waste management facilities, the proposal is in close proximity to the waste arisings that would be managed to minimise the transportation of waste.

The position seemed to be that the identified area would continue to be used for stocking clay and that there will be periodic movement of the site by road. Previously, this had been well managed.

Noted.

**37.10 National Living Wage.** The National Minimum Wage would rise from £6.50 to £6.70 from 1 October 2015 for all employees over 21 years of age; this had been catered for in the budget for the current year. However, from 1 April 2016, the new National Living Wage would come into effect and for employees over 25 years of age, this would be £7.20 per hour. This would need to be included in next year's budget to avoid claims for unfair dismissal. The approximate additional cost to the Council would be £1154 p.a.

**37.11 Proposed solar farm, Shortheath.** The applicants had asked for ideas of projects which would benefit the community if planning permission were to be granted. The Council suggested solar panels for the Village Hall roof, a fence at the lower pitch to prevent footballs going into the hedge, and additional fitness equipment.

**37.12 Football pitch improvement.** The Consultant had arranged for the contract, when finalised, to start on 24 August (after the scheduled event) and had asked that no bookings of any sort be accepted between that date and 1 October 2016. That would obviously affect Bonfire Night, next year's Gala and other events organised by the Gala Committee. They had been informed of the position so that they could plan accordingly.

The temporary fencing would exclude the public from much of the top area initially, while work was being carried out. This included the area of land to the rear of the MUGA, which was to be used as a storage area by the contractor. However, when the contract was finished - probably the second half of October - the only area which would be fenced will be the pitch plus about 4 metres on all sides, while the grass became established. This would remain the position until 1 October 2016, though a review would take place in August/September 2016 to see whether it could be unfenced earlier.

The contract price would include drainage of the boggy area to the rear of the Village Hall as well as a limited start on fitness equipment designed for teenagers, which would also be suitable for adults. A number of options existed for siting this equipment. The area to the rear of the Village Hall was labeled as a teen fitness zone, and several pieces of equipment could, in the longer term, be sited there. Alternatively or additionally, a form of trim trail could be established around the perimeter of the land.

If the contract price would not accommodate both the drainage of the area to the rear of the Village Hall and the fitness equipment, it was suggested that the former be included. If the drainage were not to be done, then the land could not be used for many purposes, and equipment may be purchased later, either by including an amount in next year's budget and/or by seeking grants.

It should be appreciated that there would be considerable disruption during the contract period. Access would be via the Village Hall car park entrance to the recreation ground, and heavy machinery would be operating on site for several weeks. Deliveries of sand and other materials would also have to use that route. It would be the contractor's responsibility to manage access, including ensuring that cars were not parked so that they blocked the entrance. A3 size plans with some explanatory text would be exhibited on the boundary fences. Full details of the tender for the work were explained, including confirmation that the boggy area drainage was included in the contract, as was provision of four pieces of fitness equipment.

A confidential report on the tender for the work was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Sport England had been recommended to approve the negotiated prices and revised tender, but had not yet responded.

RESOLVED: (a) That the fitness equipment should be separated, similar to a trim trail;

(b) That authority to accept the tender outlined in the attached report be granted subject to any minor adjustment of the contract price if Sport England required any changes to the individual prices.

**37.13 Dementia friendly communities.** A local branch of a global organisation - Purple Angel - had invited the council to join a campaign to improve the lives of people suffering from dementia and their carers and families. This would involve agreeing to one or more actions to improve the service or support for customers living with dementia, such as raising awareness of staff so that they could recognise symptoms and know what support can be offered.

**37.14 Request for grant.** The Bowls Club would be applying for grants to enable them to construct fences to match the iron railings on the remaining two edges of the green surrounds and had asked for assistance from the council from next year's budget. The total cost was being ascertained but was expected to be around £10 - £12000; the request was that the council provide 25% i.e. £2500 - £3000.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting to allow the Club to obtain further prices.

**37.15 Recreation ground security.** Following the recent occupation of the recreation ground by travellers, additional security measures were considered necessary. Protected locks had been ordered for the two entrance gates and an estimate had been obtained from DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd for 'goalpost' type barriers. It was agreed to proceed with these urgently and to restrict the height so as to allow passage by cars but nothing taller.

The Clerk was asked to review the possibility of byelaws to provide an additional legal support for action in future such cases.

## **38 GOVERNANCE**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). The report was approved.

## **39 FORWARD PLANNING**

Recent examples of forward planning included the provision of security measures for the recreation ground, and the District Council had been requested to review security for their land in the Parish. The Police had been

asked for their advice in dealing with future incursions by travellers, but had not responded.

The County Council would be asked to provide current statistics of traffic on A.444 every 6 months.

#### 40 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### The following applications had been approved:

0216 Detached 2-storey dwelling with ancillary detached double garage, land adj. 300 Burton Road;

0400 Extensions, 227 Burton Road.

##### Applications for decision:

0577 Outline application for 2 dwellings, land at Gorsey Lees. No objection (following consultation with members)

0589 Erection of a bungalow, The Conifers, Park Road. The Parish Council is concerned that this introduction of permanence should not create an intention to extend the caravan site towards the county boundary. It is noticeable that the immediate neighbour has not submitted a letter of support and that those who have done appear to have a direct connection to the site. (following consultation with members).

0602 Detached dwelling, land r/o 149 Woodville Road. The Council was very concerned about the drive to this development, which was very narrow and would make turning or passing by vehicles difficult. Permission for 4 dwellings had already been granted for the site and this additional one would result in over-intensive development of the land. It was understood that the applicant had found difficulty in proceeding with that development because of the difficulty of getting materials delivered onto the site. Traffic and parking problems would be exacerbated, especially having regard to the fact that the entrance is close to the school and on-street parking is prevalent in the immediate vicinity.

00717(NWLDC) Increase the number of caravans from 3 to 8, all of which can be static mobile homes, and to amend the site layout to provide a driveway and parking & turning area, land adj 81 Shortheath. The Council object to this application.

The expansion of this site had been predicted when the original permission had been granted for 3 caravans and it was disappointing that these concerns had not been recognised. The increase would result in many more vehicles using the site and there were already sufficient approved travellers sites in the area.

#### 41 ACCOUNTS

##### 41.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2185	L Baxter	Caretaker	408.58		408.58
2186	J M Summerfield	Litter	77.90		77.90
2187	T Stewart	Litter	156.00		156.00
2188	J Kirby	Cleaner	201.30		201.30

2189	St Matthew's Church	Grant towards mowing churchyard	300.00		300.00
2190	South Derbyshire District Council	Refuse collection & dog bin emptying	1318.74	179.06	1497.80
2191	Grant Thornton UK LLP	Audit fee	300.00	60.00	360.00
2192	Greenhatch Group Ltd	Topographical survey of football pitch	450.00	90.00	540.00
2193	R Croxall	Mowing Daisy Lane & clearing footpath to Woodville Road	200.00		200.00
*2194	Schoolgrounds	Spraying brambles, Daisy Lane	45.00		45.00
D/D	Southern Electric	Electricity to Village Hall	485.31	97.06	582.37
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.50	3.70	22.20

\* This account had been paid between meetings as it was urgent.

## 41.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	540.00
S Warner Diet & Fitness	Use of Village Hall	130.00
Overseal Junior FC	Use of lower pitch for 2015/16	550.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept (2nd instalment)	13500.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	1743.43

**41.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents were inspected.

**41.4 Quarterly Budget Report.** The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Noted.

## 42 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**42.1 Advertising signs.** A sign had been fixed to the wall at the junction of A.444 and Moira Road, and it was thought to be a distraction to motorists. The District Council would be asked whether planning permission was needed and had been obtained.

Signs for events associated with Conkers were often left in place for extended periods after the events had taken place; this would be brought to the attention of the organisers.

**42.2 Boiler house door.** This door at the Village Hall needed securing - the Caretaker would be asked to effect repairs.

**42.3 District Council training events.** Details had just been received and would be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

**42.4 Telephone kiosk.** The kiosk in Main Street was in a poor state of repair and BT would be asked to improve it.

**42.5 Overgrown hedge.** A hedge at Rickman's Corner prevented use of the footpath and users had to step into the road. The County Council would be asked to deal with it.

- 42.6 Street nameplate.** The nameplate for Hallcroft Avenue at the junction with Woodville Road needed reinstalling.
- 42.7 MUGA lights.** The switch box on one of the columns was open and there was damage to the top of the column.
- 42.8 Defibrillator.** The Chairman had been asked to review the decision not to provide a defibrillator at the Village Hall. The Surgery had this equipment and it had never been used, and there was an ongoing cost in maintaining it. The matter would be considered further at the next meeting.
- 42.9 Conifers on the recreation ground.** Some conifers had been cut down elsewhere by travellers and dumped on the recreation ground and required removal or shredding. The District Council would be asked to assist.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

**Chairman**