

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Pavilion, Woodville Road, Overseal on Thursday 1 August 2019.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mrs M Elton, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr D E Patrick, Mr S C Sharpe and Mrs S M Ward.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs A Wheelton (South Derbyshire District Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Cox, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mr M A Knight and Cllr A Brady (South Derbyshire District Council) .

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

48 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident reported that the public were using the wrong route of a public right of way at the rear of properties in Woodville Road and in so doing, crossed part of her land. They also left dog faeces, rubbish and other materials. The Council confirmed that the correct route of the right of way was across the middle of the field.

Members of the Residents Association serving Ashwood Park advised the Council that there were several matters which the Developers should have completed but had not, and that the District Council Planning Officers had been asked to take action on them. However, the public areas had been retained by the Developers had transferred them to a maintenance Company based in Scotland and the residents were required by their deeds to contribute annual sums for their maintenance, plus additional costs if extra work or materials were required. They asked whether the Council could consider taking over the public areas and the residents' contributions could be paid to the Council to defray the expenditure. The matter was deferred to the next meeting so that consideration of the implications could be given.

49 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2019, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

50 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

50.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Wheelton summarised a report from Cllr Brady on a number of matters concerning the District Council or County Council, including Community Speedwatch, accidents at the bend on Acresford Road, the surfacing of Hallcroft Avenue, parking restrictions at the junction of Hallcroft Avenue and Woodville Road and installation of LED street lamps. Trial planting of wildflower areas was being undertaken at several locations in the District, though this incurred costs for the initial years before becoming virtually self-sustaining.

50.2 Police. The number of reported crimes in Overseal was by far the highest in the District and yet the village was served by a single PCSO, whose area was extensive; several other villages had an Officer plus a PCSO.

- 50.3 County Council.** Members pointed out that Cllr P Murray had last attended a meeting of the Parish Council in May 2018. Although he had suffered periods of ill health, it had proved impossible to obtain assistance or responses from him on matters where the council needed them. The Clerk was asked to write to the Leader of the County Council with copies to the District Council and Member of Parliament complaining of the difficulties which this caused.
(Cllr Mrs A Wheelton left the meeting at 7.55 pm)

51 CLERK'S REPORT

- 51.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

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

- 51.3 Enlargement of the MUGA.** Contractors from Loughborough examined the MUGA with a view to enlargement to accommodate netball and five-a-side football and offered to provide a quotation. However, they had now said that they were unable to do so because of pressure of work. Alternative Companies had been approached, including Wicksteeds who provided the original structure, and quotations should be available shortly. A separate quotation would be needed for the re-siting of the lights and a suitable company was identified.

- 51.4 Contribution towards the repairs to the church roof.** The Clerk advised that unfortunately, the Council did not have the power to make a contribution for this purpose as it was forbidden by the Local Government Act 1894, which created Parish Councils..

However, the council's existing contributions towards churchyard maintenance were acceptable but the council was prohibited from contributing towards the repair of the church itself. Further consideration would be given to this matter at the next meeting when additional information would be available

- 51.5 Land at Daisy Lane.** The District Council had apologised for mowing the land when the wild flowers were still in bloom. The reason given was that the cut scheduled for April did not take place because of equipment issues. The long grass required a flail mower to be used and it was taken to various parts of the District; it was used for whatever was needed for that equipment when it was in the area.

The District Council concluded that the issue was one of communication and resources, which they would address.

A suggestion had been made that the District Council should be asked to pay the Parish Council the amount which they would have spent on maintenance of Daisy Lane and for the Parish Council to undertake that work throughout the year. The District Council would be contacted on this basis.

- 51.6 Health & Safety Policy Statement.** Ellis Whittam had provided a statement for adoption by the council (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). This was a basic document which was required and formed part of the compliance aspects. A separate Policy Handbook had also been provided and was to be accessible by all employees – copies would be placed in the Village Hall and the Pavilion and, in due course, the attention of all employees would be drawn to it and to any subsequent documents.

RESOLVED: That the policy statement be adopted by the Council.

51.7 Planters at the Village Hall. It was thought that the three planters could be re-sited to provide additional car parking spaces and the matter was deferred at the last meeting. It appeared that there would be insufficient width to allow cars to be parked adjacent to the building unless they were parked parallel to it. Noted.

51.7 Councillors training course. A further course was to take place at Cromford on 18 November 2019 – 6.00pm – 8.30pm and a place had been provisionally reserved for Mr D Patrick. The reservation was confirmed.

51.8 Public Toilets. The document transferring the toilets to the Parish Council had been signed and the effective date was 1 August.

52 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

Generally the grounds were in very good condition and the only matter reported was that a weed-suppressing membrane was showing through the surface of the verge adjoining the entrance to the Village Hall car park. The best remedy was through to be removal of the membrane, which would allow grass to re-establish.

53 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0571 Single storey extension, 29 Manor School View

0403 Extensions and loft conversion, Cosyglen, Green Lane

Applications for decision:

0728 Variation of conditions, 6 dwellings at Lullington Road – comments had been required prior to the meeting and, after consulting Members, a response of *No objection* was sent.

APP/F1040/C/19/3221939 – appeal against enforcement notice – change of use of land r/o Overseal Manor Stables to use for the storage of a caravan. comments had been required prior to the meeting and, after consulting Members, a response *objecting to the change of use and the storage of old chairs and an old bath in addition* was sent.

0545 Change of use of a commercial building to a dwelling, land r/o 193 Acresford Road. The Council strongly objected to this application; the site is outside the village envelope and allowing the proposal would set a precedent for further development thereby extending the village. The access is a public footpath which joins the A.444 at an accident blackspot; the appearance of the building is totally out of keeping with the appearance of the dwellings on the frontage.

54 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

There had been no water pressure when the Village Hall was used for the recent Gala – involving considerable use of the supply – and this had occurred at previous large-scale events. There was no storage tank and the supply was direct from the mains. It was thought that the type of taps may be unsuitable or use of a cisterniser to regulate the supply of water to the toilets may help. Advice from a plumbing Company would be sought pending a

response from South Staffordshire Water on the adequacy of the supply to the building.

Advertisements on the fence needed to be removed as they had now exceeded the permitted time.

55 WEBSITE

Mr Cox had made enquiries about improving the appearance of the website.

56 ACCOUNTS

56.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*2721	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Mowing pitch, , church corner, Village Hall	480.00		480.00
*2722	D Bowley Plumbing & Heating	Replacing heater etc in disabled toilet at Village Hall	419.95		419.95
*2723	M Veckungs	Repairs to Village Hall & football store room	245.00		245.00
*2724	PHS Group	Sanitary Disposal Service	258.70	51.74	310.44
*2725	P Stone	Mower repairs	59.00		59.00
*2726	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Electrical safety testing	873.16	174.64	1047.80
2727	S Ruddle	Caretaker	584.57		584.57
2728	E Evans	Litter	147.78		147.78
2712	J M Summerfield	Litter	110.84		110.84
2729	V Barker	Deputising for Caretaker	44.53		44.53
2730	South Derbyshire District Council	Refuse collection from the Village Hall	572.00		572.00
2731	P Stone	Maintenance of Pavilion grounds & rights of way maintenance	302.00		302.00
2732	S Fern	Painting Pavilion windows	210.00		210.00
2733	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Emergency lighting repairs	185.00	37.00	222.00
2734	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Mowing pitch, Daisy Lane, church corner	675.00		675.00
2735	A W Cook	Reimburse materials to install dog bin	22.24	0.84	23.08
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	12.77	2.55	15.32
D/D	NEST	Pension contributions	38.04		38.04
D/D	SSE	Electricity to Village Hall	231.76	45.15	276.91

56.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
S Ruddle	Village Hall lettings	682.50
L Hardwidge	Pavilion Lettings	444.00
J Summerfield	Donation from Community Cafe	200.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept (2 nd instalment)	15500.00
Overseal Junior FC	Use of pitches and changing rooms for 2019/2020	900.00

- 56.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents were inspected.
- 53.4 Quarterly budget report.** The Council considered the report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). The report was received.
- 57 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**
- 57.1 Dog bin, Ashwood Park.** The new bin had now been installed at Valley Road and a suitable site at Ashwood Park had been identified which could be accessed from the road and was not on the land owned by the Developers
- 57.2 WiFi for the Pavilion.** In response to a question, it was stated that the necessary materials had been ordered by A & J Bartlett Ltd and that the equipment would be installed shortly.
- 57.3 Allotments, Burton Road/Edward Street.** A Member reported that some of the plots were overgrown and it appeared that the tenants had not maintained them as required by the tenancy agreements. The Clerk would write to the tenants concerned.
- 57.4 Overgrown shrubs, Valley Road.** The occupier of a property in Valley Road would be asked to cut back shrubs overhanging the footpath.
- 57.5 Planters.** The planters at Acresford Road and Burton Road were obscured by branches from the adjoining hedgerows. Mr Sharpe kindly volunteered to cut them back.
- 57.6 Footpath 18.** The owners of the land at Overseal Manor would be asked to cut back the hedges on both sides of the path adjoining their land as they were now badly overgrown and damaging adjoining fences.
- 57.7 Use of the bowling green.** The organisers of the group wishing to use the bowling green had decided not to proceed with the project because of lack of support in running the organisation from local people. The maintenance of the green would be considered at the next meeting.
- 58 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.**
RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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.
- 59 CLERK'S REPORT**
The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). The contents were noted.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman