

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the online Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 6 August 2020.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mr D Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mrs S M Ward and Cllr P Murray (Derbyshire County Council).

In attendance: Cllrs A Brady and Mrs A Wheelton (South Derbyshire District Council) and Mr G Tench.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr R Cox and Cllr A Brady declared interests in the Progress Report insofar as it related to Overseale House, of which they were neighbours.

43 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr Tench, who managed Overseale House, considered the minutes of 2 July to be an unfair report on the condition of the premises. While the District Council had referred the matter to Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust, they had not offered practical assistance, but he was seeking help to resolve outstanding issues. The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council was not criticising him, but wanted to secure an improvement in the appearance of the building which was situated in a prominent position at the gateway to the village. She agreed to meet him on site on the following day to discuss matters further.

44 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2020, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

45 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

45.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Wheelton had reported a number of matters during the past month in order to keep Members up to date. The most recent concerned the land at Manor School View, which was in the final stages of transfer from the Developers to the District Council.

45.2 Police. The reported crime statistics for July were submitted, showing that the numbers of reported crimes in Overseal were still significantly high. The Police had attended the recreation ground when called because children were jumping from the roof of a building to the adjoining one, and they had stopped this.

45.3 County Council. It was reported that there had been a fire in a conifer hedge and that a neighbour had called the Fire Service as sparks were blown into their property; however, the Fire Service had initially said that they did not deal with garden fires, though they subsequently attended and dealt with it. Members were concerned at the initial response of the Fire Service and the Clerk would write to the Chief Fire Officer.

46 CLERK'S REPORT

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

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

46.3 Old changing rooms doors and Village Hall fire escape doors. A Member had suggested that these doors be painted grey to match the colour scheme of the public toilets. However, it was thought that they should remain white as they matched the rest of the Village Hall doors and windows.

46.4 Play area repairs. The District Council had confirmed that they would carry out the two repairs before the play areas were reopened. The repairs were to the rubber matting and under a piece of equipment. All the play areas across the District were being opened in mid-late July with the District Council having done a Risk Assessment and providing suitable advisory notices. No public toilets were likely to be reopened in the immediate future, although those in the centre of Swadlincote were opened because they could be continuously staffed and sanitised.

The play area repairs had not yet been completed and the Clerk would contact the District Council to press for completion.

46.5 Edward Street Allotments. Two plots had recently been let, though both were rent-free because of their poor condition. In one case, there were materials on the plot which required a skip to remove them and this had been provided. The tenant had asked whether he may mow any other disused plots to make compost and had been given permission. This would have the benefit of keeping the weeds down and hopefully making the plots easier to re-let.

46.6 Water supply to the Village Hall. South Staffordshire Water had provided a quotation for replacing the water pipe across the road and the length between the Village Hall boundary and the meter. The quotation was for £13279.58 plus VAT and was considerably more than anticipated. The Clerk had raised a number of queries with SSW and asked the contractors who did the work inside the boundaries of the Village Hall for advice and costs. He had also approached the District Council for grant assistance.

It was agreed that alternative quotations be obtained from services contractors.

46.7 Village Hall Re-opening. The Pre-school would be starting back on 2 September and several other bookings had been made; also the Pavilion bookings were re-starting. A meeting had been held that day with the Council's H&S Consultants to deal with all the covid-19 implications, including Risk Assessments of all the buildings. In addition to preparing a number of documents, supplies of sanitiser, notices and other measures would be needed before the buildings could be reopened.

(Cllrs A Brady and Mrs A Wheelton left the meeting at 7.25 pm)

47 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

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

It was agreed to send representations to the Local Government Association on the lines of those of the Society of Local Council Clerks, namely that the current draft is too focussed on principal authorities and there should be a separate version for Local Councils. Also, as the Code required each Council to have an internal procedure to deal with allegations, the Government should provide a model procedure.

48 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

Mr Patrick had carried out the inspections during July and everything was generally in order. Exceptions were that there was a great deal of litter near to the MUGA and on the recreation ground – 5 bags of litter (mainly plastic bottles) had been collected from there in one day.

Matters for attention were the incomplete repairs to the play area and replacement of a gutter end cap at the Pavilion.

49 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been withdrawn:

2019/1246 Change of use of land to provide holiday let accommodation etc., The Conifers, Park Road.

0330 Erection of 6 dwellings, r/o 69 Woodville Road.

50 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None.

51 WEBSITE

Some information was out of date; Mr Cox asked that Members inform him of events or changes relevant to the website. It was agreed that the calendar be omitted for the time being.

52 ACCOUNTS**52.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
	Total salaries & wages costs				*
2867	Mrs C M Knight	Reimburse postages & hosepipe for Pavilion	47.24		47.24
2868	Elton Properties Maintenance Ltd	Mowing footpath edges at Daisy Lane (2)	70.00	14.00	84.00
2869	P Stone	Strimming footpaths 1 & 16, also 2 plots at the allotments, mowing at Pavilion	387.00		387.00
2870	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Mowing pitch (2)	390.00		390.00
2871	Golding Skip Hire Ltd	Skip for allotments	116.67	23.33	140.00
D/D	SSE	Electricity to Village Hall	112.03	5.60	117.63
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.00	3.60	21.60

* Details of the salaries and wages costs were provided separately for Members.

52.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
Overseal Junior Football Club	Use of pitches for 2020/2021	900.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept (2)	15965.00
Foodbox	Use of Village Hall car park	45.00
J E Martin	Use of Village Hall car park	40.00

52.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents had been submitted to a Member for inspection during July and she would deal with the current month shortly.

52.4 Quarterly Budget Report. The report of the Clerk was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Members noted that the predicted year-end balance was considerably lower than planned because of the loss of income from the Village Hall and the Pavilion. Unplanned expenditure would be kept to a minimum for the time being.

53 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

53.1 Litter – Ashwood Park. The litter bin which had been provided by the Developers at the play area at Ashwood Park was perpetually full and its design made removal of the contents difficult. It had been established that the Developers were still responsible for this but appeared to be satisfied with the situation and would be transferring responsibility to a management company in due course. The Clerk was asked to contact the Developers to urge an improvement in their service.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

Chairman