

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 4 December 2014.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr R Cox, Mr A R Hart, Mr D M Holloway, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick, Mr S C Sharpe and Mr I Sheppard.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

64 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in Minute No. 68.9 (proposed development at Valley Road), as a relative of a neighbour.

65 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Fire & Rescue Service. Two representatives of the Fire Brigades Union attended the meeting and drew attention to the trial of a new system of night cover at Swadlincote Fire Station from 6 January 2015. The proposal was to use Retained Staff rather than full-time staff during the night and the Officers felt that this would mean delays in responding to calls, as the retained staff were based away from the Fire Station. An alternative, which would save a similar amount of money, would be to base staff at the houses at the rear of the Fire Station, as had been done previously, though this would require some refurbishment of the houses, which had been empty for 2-3 years. Staff would therefore be on call and nearby for 96 hours per week.

The Council agreed to support the Officers and to write to the Chief Fire Officer, with a copy to the Member of Parliament, asking for details of the criteria against which the success or otherwise of the trial would be judged, and suggesting the alternative system advanced by the Officers.

Parking problems, Lullington Road/Valley Road junction. A local resident pointed out that traffic entering Valley Road from the Netherseal direction sometimes met other vehicles exiting Valley Road which, because of parking at the junction, were forced to reverse, to mount the footpath or stop quickly to avoid an accident. There was also a speeding problem in Lullington Road and the resident suggested traffic calming to reduce this and improve safety at the junction. The Council agreed to ask for Police assistance and for their views on traffic calming in Lullington Road.

Proposed development, Poplars Farm, Moira Road. Two agents for the owner of this property attended the meeting to consult the Council on a proposed development of 10 houses to be built in a 'farmstead' style and provided draft plans for comment. The Council welcomed the prior consultation and pointed to possible improvements in the design relating to access and parking. The views from Hallcroft Avenue would be preserved by locating the open space appropriately and it would be necessary to divert a public footpath around the field - a route which was often used already by walkers. The Ramblers were generally in favour of the plans. Formal consultation by the Planning Authority would take place when the plans had been finalised, but they would be for a full application so that the details of the development were clear from the outset.

Request for donation. Representatives of the newly formed Rangers Section of Overseal Guides attended the meeting and outlined their aims, including the need for assistance in meeting set up costs. They needed to acquire kitchen, camping and other equipment to allow them to take part in Duke of Edinburgh Award activities and camping, as well as to establish and run their group. They were undertaking fund raising events and requested financial assistance from the Council. It was agreed to make a donation of £100.

66 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

67 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

67.1 District Council. The District Council would be asked to investigate a possible change of use requiring planning permission, relating to the delivery of many cars to Barratt Mill, Shortheath.

67.2 Police. The Chairman reported recent crime statistics, which were very low. In addition to the problems caused by parking at Lullington Road/Valley Road referred to in minute no 65 above, a similar situation was evident at the junction of Burton Road and Coronation Street. Cars parked on both sides of the minor road close to the junction and beyond, meant that vehicles entering Coronation Street could be faced with a single lane which was already blocked by approaching vehicles. The Police would be asked to look into this matter.

67.3 County Council. Concern was expressed that the north of the county appeared to be better funded and provided with more services by the County Council than the southern section. The County Council would be asked for information about this matter and specifically the north-south split.

There were many potholes requiring repair, a Coronation Street was particularly bad. Also an inspection chamber cover had dropped; situated at the junction of Woodlands Road and Woodlands Crescent. These matters would be referred to the County Council for action

Residents of Acresford Road had asked that the speeding issue in the 40 mph section be addressed by the installation of a flashing speed detection sign. The County Council would be asked to do so.

68 CLERK'S REPORT

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

68.2 Daisy Lane meadow. The footpaths were now to be installed in late December or early January.

68.3 Right of Way, Spring Cottage. There appeared to have been no progress towards completing this path and Ashby Woulds Town Council would be asked to pursue the matter.

68.4 Dog fouling. Members had received many complaints about dog fouling, including on routes to the school. While the Lengthsmen had been using the spray paint to highlight deposits, this was not reducing the problem. In addition, the dog Bins were full and appeared not to have been emptied

regularly. The District Council would be asked to clean Coronation Street, which was particularly bad, and to ensure regular emptying of the bins.

68.5 Possible Youth Club. The Village Games Organiser from South Derbyshire District Council was trying to start a new Youth Club and had asked whether the Village Hall could be made available one evening a week. The only evening when there was not already a regular booking was Thursday, which was also the Parish Council meeting date once a month. It had been suggested that the Council could meet in the Sports Pavilion, but this was used when the Bowls Club had matches throughout the summer months and the availability of the Church Centre was also considered. The Council considered that its meetings should continue to take place in the Village Hall, which was well-known as the venue, and the logical place for such meetings. However, the Youth Club could be offered use of the Village Hall on the other weeks. The Chairman agreed to inform the Organiser accordingly.

68.6 Village Hall curtains. Several complimentary remarks were made about the improvements to the interior of the Village Hall and a suggestion was made that curtains should be provided in the foyer. A price was obtained from the supplier of the other curtains and an order placed; the work should be completed in January.

(Mrs S Jones arrived at this point at 7.50 pm)

68.7 Fire alarm and emergency lighting systems. An alternative quotation had been requested on the basis that the work to be carried out would meet the minimum legal requirements for these systems. The same contractor who replaced the lights in the Village Hall advised that there was little more required than tidying up the systems and ensuring public safety; however, the quotation had not yet arrived and the Council agreed to delegate the decision regarding acceptance or otherwise to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

68.8 Planning issues. A full response to the Council's concerns had been received from South Derbyshire District Council (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). A Topic Paper formed part of the documentation in connection with the development Control Policy Process and included the following description of 'key service villages':

These are usually large and contain a wide range of services and facilities. To qualify, they must have a bus service and a convenience store plus at least seven other services. They are considered to be the most sustainable locations for development outside of the urban area.

The other seven services which were counted were Primary school, Village Hall, Doctors, Dentist, business and industry (100 sq m. gross), indoor or outdoor leisure, Post Office, Public House, Library service, Library or mobile, railway service. The Paper also stated:

Key Service villagescan therefore accommodate a scale of development up to and including strategic sites (100 dwellings plus).....Exception sites on the edge of these defined settlement confines will be allowed as affordable or cross-subsidy exception sites of up to 25 dwellings.

Overseal was shown as having an estimated 877 dwellings at present.

One of the difficulties was that most drop-in sessions to explain these matters were held during working hours and most Members were at work at those

times. Further drop-in sessions were to be held, including one on the evening of 18 February, and all Members would try to attend.

- 68.9 Land at Valley Road.** The planning application for 64 dwellings had again been deferred so that an independent traffic survey could be considered and the situation about school places clarified.

(Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in this matter as a relative of a neighbour.)

- 68.10 Footpath 29, Shortheath.** The Rights of Way Officer of Derbyshire County Council had inspected the site and it was now clear of obstructions.

- 68.11 National Forest Grants.** The National Forest was making grants available for various woodland creation schemes, starting at 0.25 hectares.

- 68.12 Poppy Appeal.** The Clerk reported on contributions received from local organisations and those expected. It was agreed that the Council would donate £210 to the Appeal.

69 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0893 Replacement dwelling, The Oaks, Green Lane (amended plans)

0848 Dropped kerb and off road parking, 13 Lullington Road

0852 Alter the approach during construction of 12 dwellings at Lullington Road.

Applications for decision:

1047 Part conversion of garage with associated windows, 42 Woodlands Road - this application had been withdrawn.

70 ACCOUNTS

70.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2105	L Baxter	Caretaker	410.58		410.58
2106	J Kirby	Cleaner	195.00		195.00
2107	J M Summerfield	Litter	77.90		77.90
2108	T Stewart	Litter	156.00		156.00
2109	Linton & District Poppy Appeal	Donation	210.00		210.00
2110	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning supplies	60.58	12.12	72.70
D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	396.37	79.27	475.64
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	12.74	2.55	15.29
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	37.00		37.00
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	350.93	17.54	368.47

70.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	660.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	1052.14
Various	Wreath refunds	85.00

70.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents were inspected.

71 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

71.1 External power point. The Gala Committee had requested permission to install an external power point at the rear of the Village Hall, to allow connections for the various events which they put on. There would be an isolation switch inside the building and they would arrange the installation and meet the cost. Permission was given subject to the Gala Committee ensuring that the socket was switched off after each event.

71.2 Litter. More litter had accumulated in Slackey Lane and the gullies in Moira Road from the junction with Slackey Lane towards Overseal all appeared to be blocked. These matters would be referred to the two District Councils involved.

71.3 Daisy Lane. The trees were now available for planting, and arrangements would be made for January planting.

71.4 Damaged verge, Woodville Road. The verge between the school and the residential home was subject to regular damage from vehicles parking on it, and it was suggested that planting some trees may deter this. It would also extend the existing avenue of trees. The Clerk was asked to seek a Cultivation Licence from the County Council.

71.5 Footpaths Group. The Group now intended to install two sets of steps between the levels in the recreation ground and the wood was now available. It was agreed to meet the cost of the materials.

71.6 Dangerous wall, Moira Road. As no response had been obtained from the County Council, the Clerk would press for action.

71.7 Water quality. A Member reported that the water quality in some parts of the village was poor, sometimes having a chemical taste and sometimes low pressure. South Staffordshire Water would be asked to investigate.

71.8 HGVs, Woodville Road. A Member had identified the firm whose lorries were regularly using Woodville Road, and he had contacted the firm and asked that they advise the drivers to comply with the weight restriction order.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chairman