

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 4 February 2016.

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

In attendance: Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council),

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

97 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

98 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident referred to the recent approval of the planning appeal relating to housing development at Valley Road and enquired about the timescale as the removal of the roadside hedge would be required and the nesting season was shortly to commence. He was advised that construction was unlikely to start for some time and that conditions would be attached to prevent hedge removal at the wrong time.

99 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record subject to deletion of 'near to the bungalows in Bailey Avenue' from minute no 87 and substitution of 'at the rear of a bungalow in Valley Road'.

100 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN

Mr D Bateman, Neighbourhood Warden at South Derbyshire District Council, addressed the Council on the enforcement measures available for dealing with dog fouling. There were now 3 Wardens and they had powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices if sufficient evidence was available. This could be by the Warden seeing the offence or by a member of the public reporting details in writing or by submitting a photograph. Anonymous complaints could be acted upon to the degree that the offender could be identified and warned.

Shortly, new Public Protection Orders would replace the present controls and strengthen enforcement powers. Details were given of the Green Dog Scheme, involving giving dog owners free bags and a lead to encourage owners to clean up after their pets.

The Wardens dealt with a number of other matters as well as dog control, including fly-tipping, neglected animals and prosecutions where relevant.

101 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

101.1 District Council. District Councillors were disappointed with the recent granting of the appeal concerning development at Valley Road and the approval of development at Acresford Road. However, the appeal relating to development at the rear of Overseal Manor, Hallcroft Avenue had been dismissed.

Members felt that Overseal was receiving more than a fair share of housing developments, and it was pointed out that until the Local Plan was approved, the District Council could do little to prevent applications from succeeding. It was hoped that approval of the Local Plan would occur shortly.

The Planning Enforcement Officer was checking on activities at the rear of 149 Woodville Road, where housing had been approved, but large quantities of stone had been delivered. The pavement had been badly damaged during those operations and the County Council would insist on repairs being effected.

Rubbish dumped on the Nature Area had now been moved to the car park. It had been established that the car park was owned by the County Council and leased to the District Council, and that the County Council would carry out essential repairs in the near future.

101.2 Police. Crime statistics for January again showed that Overseal had the highest number of reported crimes in the area. With large new developments on the horizon, the Police would be asked to provide Police Officer cover.

101.3 County Council. No matters were raised.

102 CLERK'S REPORT

102.1 Progress report. A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). In answer to a question, the Clerk reported that the District Council had no suitable Byelaws which could be adopted and that primary legislation covered illegal camping and parking and should be relied upon. The District Council would also be asked to enforce the S.106 Agreement relating to the land at Manor School View as there had been no progress.

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

The Gala Committee had indicated that the proposed new access to the Recreation Ground from Hallcroft Avenue would not necessarily meet their requirements. After some discussion, implementation of the project was deferred for the time being.

102.3 Dates of meetings.

The District Council needed to use the Village Hall as a Polling Station for the Police & Crime Commissioner elections on Thursday 5 May 2016. As this would normally be the date for the Council meeting, the District Council had agreed to the use of the back room for the Council meeting, subject to access being via the computer room end of the building, with suitable signs being erected so that people who wished to attend the Council meeting could find their way. This was agreed.

It was agreed that the calendar of meetings for the year would be:

May 5 (Annual Meeting)	November 3
June 2	December 1
July 7	January 12 (Budget meeting)
August 4	February 2
September 8	March 2
October 6	April 6
	May 4 (Annual Meeting)

102.4 Notice board at the church. At the last meeting, it had been reported that the notice board was in need of repair and, as it did not belong to the Council, consideration was deferred to this meeting. Enquiries were being made by the people who had organised its installation originally and their response was awaited.

102.5 ‘Councillors’ reports’ on agenda. Further, more detailed advice had been received from DALC and it was clear that some adjustment needed to be made to our procedures for reporting items. Briefly, it would be inappropriate for non-urgent matters which did not appear on the agenda and required action to be brought up and decided at the meeting, unless some form of delegated authority was given beforehand. The advice received may be summarised as:

- Urgent matters would require prior delegated authority;
- Non-urgent matters can be for report only. If they require action, they can be reported and noted and then put on the next agenda for decision; if no action is required, then the report is received and noted. So reporting potholes would be acceptable because all it requires is for the Clerk to inform the relevant authority so that they can take action, but acceptance of a quotation for work would not;
- An additional planning application which is identified after the agenda is published may be raised because the item ‘Applications for decision’ appears on the agenda and therefore the public (and other councillors) know that planning applications will be discussed.

Members felt that there needed to be facilities for (a) reporting matters which had been raised by residents, perhaps as recently as the day of the meeting, and (b) matters which required urgent action and which had been identified after the agenda had been published. While items could be added to the agenda by contacting the Clerk up to a week prior to the meeting, later items raised at the meeting would require some form of delegated authority to be given so that action could be taken.

RESOLVED: That authority be given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to determine the course of action to be taken for urgent matters raised without prior notice, and for non-urgent matters if considered by them to warrant action to be taken at the time, and that such decisions be submitted to the next meeting for ratification.

102.6 Village Hall bookings. The system for bookings for events at the Village Hall had not been reviewed for some time and anomalies had crept in over the years. Also, three charity events were to take place and in two of those cases, the organisers had assumed that there would be no charge for use of the Village Hall because they had not been charged in the past. Members felt that each such event should be decided by the Council and that written applications should be made in all future cases. A lengthy discussion took place on the decisions made at the last meeting to increase charges, as requests had been made for these to be reviewed.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the charges for all regular bookings be increased to £12.50 per hour from 1 April 2016 and to £15.00 from 1 September 2016;

(b) that the concessionary charges for the Darby & Joan Club and the Computer Club be as previously agreed and the concessionary charge for the Pre-school be as agreed at the last meeting;

(c) That one-off bookings all be at the currently prevailing rate approved by the Council; where bookings had been made in advance for the next financial year and a deposit had been paid, that booking be honoured.

(d) That all requests for concessionary rates be decided by the Council on an individual basis and that these be one-off approvals unless otherwise specified; and that two current requests (HD and VS) for charity events be at no charge and the third (LS) be at 50% discount;

(e) That authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman to determine any urgent requests of this nature (as set out in minute no 102.5 above;

(f) That the organisers of events pre-booked for 2018 be informed that the booking was secure but that the rate would be subject to review.

102.7 Suggested Village Hall Sub-Committee. It had been suggested that the operation of the Village Hall should be through a Sub-Committee of the Council and the council was asked to determine this question. At present, the system was:

- Day-to-day decisions on bookings, time allocation, cleaning and caretaking etc were carried out by the Caretaker;
- Individual repairs and contract servicing (e.g. safety checks) and budgetary control were organised by the Clerk together with billing the regular users; he also dealt with detailed operational queries, allowing speedy decisions to be taken;
- Overall strategy, special concessions and major contracts were dealt with by the Council.

A Sub-Committee would require proper meetings, agenda, minutes etc to comply with the law, and depending on the powers and responsibilities given to them by the Council, could result in delays in determining matters. It could not deal with detailed matters in any other way. There were no perceived financial advantages or disadvantages to such a system as there would be if an external Village Hall Committee were to be established - VAT, rates, close control of the budget etc would all be affected.

In answer to questions, the Clerk indicated that the Caretaker was responsible for day-to-day matters involved in running the Village Hall and reported to the Clerk who, in turn, was responsible to the Council. Any matters which required members to determine were referred to the Council.

It was agreed that a Sub-Committee be not established but that a regular item be included in the Council agenda to enable matters related to the Village Hall to be considered.

102.8 Electricity Sub-station, Woodville Road. In reply to an invitation to renew the lease of the land on which the sub-station stood, Western Power Distribution had offered to purchase it. The lease contained an option to renew for 21 years at £100.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree in principle to sell the site to Western Power Distribution but that further discussions take place on the purchase

price and the possibility of replacing the surrounding fences with metal fences to match those at the Village Hall.

A Member pointed out that the fence on the Village Hall frontage required re-painting and the Clerk would enquire of the District Council whether volunteer labour was available.

102.9 Consultation on South Derbyshire Open Space, Sport & Community Facility Strategy. The council was invited to suggest schemes which could be worked up and brought to fruition. When finalised, the Strategy would be the basis for assistance and support from the District Council and others and it was therefore desirable that any projects be included.

- Repair of the changing rooms floor to enable the building to be brought back into full use;
- The projects identified in the feasibility study conducted by Wainwright Landscape Architecture in the context of the football pitch improvement, i.e. cricket pitch, training area, more fitness equipment;
- Facilities for teenagers (yet to be identified);
- Increase the size of the MUGA to accommodate netball and other sports;
- Possible wider use of the public rights of way network.
- A fence was required adjacent to the bottom pitches to prevent players from running into the hedge and footballs being lost or damaged.
- Cllr P Murray also mentioned the need for a leisure centre in the southern part of the District.

102.10 Telephone kiosk, Shortheath. The Telephone kiosk had been smartened up a while ago, but now could be brought into a productive use. A small library was one suggestion and this would require some shelves to be erected.

It was agreed to arrange for suitable shelving to be installed.

102.11 Changing rooms floor. Castele Consultancy had agreed to seek grants to allow the repair of the changing rooms floor and asked that an up to date quotation for the work be obtained. The contractors who refurbished the Village Hall toilets in 2012 had expressed an interest at that time in quoting for the work and had now agreed to provide a quotation on the basis of the Structural Engineer's report and recommendations, involving the excavation and rebuilding of the floor etc. On receipt of that quotation, the feasibility of the project could be assessed and applications for grants could be made. Noted.

102.12 Allotments. The Clerk reported that there was one vacancy at the Burton Road/Edward Street allotments, and no applicants on the waiting list. Noted.

102.13 Local Plan (Part 1) major modifications. The Clerk reported that a consultation document had been received from the District Council inviting comments on the Inspector's proposed major modifications by 11 March 2016. A report would be submitted to the next meeting.

102.14 Website. It had been suggested that a regular item be included in the agenda seeking to identify items which could be added to the website. This was agreed.

102.15 Buses serving Gresley Surgery. Midland Classic did not provide such a service and no other services now did.

103 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been approved subject to finalising a S.106 agreement:

1063 Outline application for up to 70 dwellings, land off Acresford Road.

The following appeal had been allowed subject to finalising a S.106 agreement:

2014/0431 Outline application for 64 dwellings, land at Valley Road

104 ACCOUNTS**104.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2252	S Ruddle	Caretaker	409.00		409.00
2253	J M Summerfield	Litter	96.40		96.40
2254	E Evans	Litter	104.20		104.20
2255	L Baxter	Caretaker	350.68		350.68
2256	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	28.73	5.75	34.48
2257	Schoolgrounds	Cut back hedge to Burton Rd allotments	50.00		50.00
2258	ESPO	Paper	12.80	2.56	15.36
2259	SK Plumbing	Gas safety checks	80.00		80.00
2260	Back2New Carpets	Cleaning fabric chairs	81.00		81.00
D/D	Southern Electric	Supply to Village Hall	616.89	123.37	740.26
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	20.50	4.10	26.60

104.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	610.00
Various	Allotment rents	30.00
Surgery	Wreath	25.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	4319.11

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

105 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

105.1 Dangerous wall, Moira Road. This matter had now become urgent and the Clerk was asked to report that the wall was moving regularly and could be in danger of collapse from expanding tree roots.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chairman