

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Pavilion, Woodville Road, Overseal on Thursday 4 February 2021.

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

In attendance: Cllr Mrs A Wheelton (South Derbyshire District Council) and Cllr P Murray (Derbyshire County Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Elton, Mrs R O'Brien and Mr D E Patrick.

128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

129 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

130 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

131 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

131.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Wheelton reported that the transfer of Manor Glade was almost complete and suggested that photographs should be taken showing the condition of the property and identifying what work should be undertaken promptly. The site could be linked with others, such as Daisy Lane, Forest View and others, with the intention of a comprehensive approach to their future maintenance and development.

Members reported that several abandoned fridges in Woodville Road had been removed by District Council staff, who had also removed two from Spring Cottage Road. Cllr Mrs Wheelton was asked to pass on the Council's thanks to the staff involved.

(Cllr Mrs Wheelton left the meeting at 7.10pm).

131.2 Police. The statistics of reported crimes for January showed a further reduction. The PCSO's hours of work had been significantly reduced.

131.3 County Council. Cllr Murray had received a report that the gullies at the traffic lights had been cleaned and asked whether this could be confirmed. If they had not been cleaned, he would be informed.

Major work was shortly to begin on the school buildings, which would require the car park to be used as a site compound; the school would be advising parents of this as it would affect parking.

The surfacing of Hallcroft Avenue was shortly to begin, with kerbing being among the first work to be carried out.

Cllr Murray announced that he would not be seeking re-election when his current term of office ended. While the elections were scheduled for May 2021, the Government had not yet decided whether they should be postponed.

(Cllr Murray left the meeting at 7.25 pm)

132 CLERK'S REPORT

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

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

132.3 Hallcroft Avenue verge reinstatement. At the last meeting, it was agreed to consider what steps should be taken to reinstate the verge where it had been damaged by parking. Members were asked to send their suggestions prior to the meeting so that proper consideration could be given to suggested measures. A number of ideas had been put forward.

It had now been confirmed that work on resurfacing was likely to take place in late February and that it would include kerbs in the vicinity of this reinstatement area. The Engineer in charge of the project had agreed to raise the kerbs as high as practicable and to grass the damaged area, but he advised that the request for permission to install bollards to prevent vehicles from parking on the restored surface was unlikely to be approved. He suggested that soft planting and/or planters might assist.

Members welcomed the kerbing and reinstatement but felt that some form of obstruction to prevent vehicles from mounting the kerb was essential. It was pointed out that when vehicles were parked on the verge, the view for drivers exiting Daisy Lane was obstructed; one Member had seen a dog run over because of this. Planting as a wildflower meadow was favoured and this could link with the Council's land opposite. The County Council would be asked to permit wooden bollards as a temporary measure until the verge became established.

Photographs would be taken to show the current very poor state, which was the direct result of parking.

133 Data Protection. The Council's registration had been renewed until January 2022.

133.1 Spring Cottage. Leicestershire County Council and North West Leicestershire District Council had taken action on the various complaints about conditions in Spring Cottage. The gullies problem related to a collapsed pipe, which would be dealt with in March.

It was reported that little appeared to have been done, despite promised actions from both Leicestershire County Council and NWLDC. Abandoned fridges, derelict vehicles and litter persisted and, though it was possible that initial warnings had been given but not yet complied with, the authorities would be pressed to improve the situation.

133.2 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order Woodville Road. The County Council were proposing to make an Order which would prevent parking at any time on the 'School Keep Clear' markings outside the school. Comments may be made up to 8 February, when a formal consultation would take place before confirming the Order. Noted.

133.3 Mobile speed camera. Mercia Park developers had said that the terms of the Community Fund did not allow 'highway infrastructure to be supported financially but they had no objection to including Overseal in the list of Parishes able to use the camera which they were funding. Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe &

Acresford Parish Council (ODAPC) were preparing protocols, agreements and an information pack for use by all councils involved. When this had been approved by ODAPC and Mercia Park, they would be sent to the councils involved, including Overseal. This should result in Overseal being able to make use of the equipment from time to time, probably with intervals of several months.

- 133.4 Summer sports programme.** The District Council had confirmed that the programme from 2020 had been rolled forward to this year, restrictions permitting.
- 133.5 Footpath no 1, Woodlands Road-Forest View.** The County Council had inspected this path and noted that the hedges had been cut back. However, the path was still very difficult to negotiate and they had written to the owners requiring further cutting to widen the path.
- 133.6 Appointment of Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.** The post had been offered to Mrs Karen Turrell and she would be starting on 1 March. The present Clerk would act as consultant until the planned finish date of 31 May, giving support and guidance as necessary. The appointment would be subject to three months' probation.

Members queried the official hours of work as it was known that the present Clerk regularly worked more than the specified time. The Clerk advised that a request for some increase could be made and that Mrs Turrell had been advised to keep a timesheet after the initial settling-in period, to provide the information needed to assess the situation if a request were to be submitted.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Mrs K Turrell be designated as Proper Officer for the purposes of the statutory duty to carry out all the functions of the Clerk, and in particular to serve or issue all the notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer, with effect from 1 March 2021;
 - (b) That she be designated a signatory on the Council's bank accounts from 1 March 2021;
 - (c) That the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 1.3, be changed in accordance with section Authorised Signatories and the current mandate will continue as amended;
 - (d) That Mr J E White be removed as a signatory from 31 May 2021.
- 133.7 Business interruption grants.** South Derbyshire District Council were now dealing with applications for grants relating to closures or partial closures during the November 2020 restrictions and an application had been submitted. This may result in a grant of £1334 and could be followed by a further grant relating to the lockdown which started on 5 January 2021.
- 133.8 South Derbyshire Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-25 consultation.** The Council's views were submitted and the District Council had replied that the plan covered accessibility issues and they had agreed that this was an area the District Council would need to focus on. They would continue to work with organisations to support residents who supported people who did not have access to digital platforms.

They had produced an at-a-glance version of the action plan which was available to view on the council website: Equality, diversity and inclusion action plan at-a-glance/South Derbyshire District Council

134 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

The inspections had been carried out in recent days and the main problem was that the pitches were very wet and muddy in some areas. The gym equipment had not been inspected as part of the scheduled inspection, but Mr Cook indicated that he saw them almost daily and there were no apparent faults.

135 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications for decision:

2020/1362 Certificate of Lawfulness for the construction of new road with bridge over the River Trent near Walton-on-Trent. No objection.

2020/1439 Single storey side extension to form garage, 25 Ferny Close. No objection.

2020/1451 Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey extension, 38 Forest View. No objection.

2020/1187 Extension, 3 Hallcroft Avenue. No objection. It was noted that the building was an attractive example of a 1920's property with many period features. The owner was known to want to keep these, though the extension would be of a modern design.

139 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None.

140 WEBSITE

None.

141 ACCOUNTS

141.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
	Total salaries & wages costs				*
** BACS	Swadlincote Aerials & Home Security Ltd	CCTV system for Village Hall	2288.00	657.60	3945.60
BACS	LRALC Ltd	Internal Audit fee	250.00		250.00
BACS	Eden Tree Care & Fencing Ltd	Trim allotments hedge	120.00	24.00	144.00
D/D	Information Commissioner	Data Protection registration	35.00		35.00
D/D	Opus Energy Ltd	Electricity to public toilets	16.69	0.83	17.52
D/D	SSE	Electricity to Village Hall	269.60	53.92	323.52
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.00	3.60	21.60
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	568.48	113.68	682.16

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

141.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
Various	Allotment rents	225.00
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	2226.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Grant towards CCTV	1644.00
South Derbyshire District Council	S.136 refund	13532.00

141.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents had been inspected.

142 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

142.1 Parking on pavements. Vehicles were regularly parked on the pavement at the junction of Woodlands Road and Coronation Street, and often these prevented pedestrians from remaining on the pavement. The PSCO would be asked whether he could improve the situation.

141.2 Potholes. There were several large potholes in Coronation Street and their locations would be reported on the County Council's website.

It was pointed out that residents could report these directly rather than via the Parish Council, and that submission of many complaints should have more effect than a single one from the Council. Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner agreed to post contact information on the Facebook page.

141.3 Footpaths, Acresford Road development. Mr Knight was meeting the Footpaths Officer on site to discuss the problems relating to footpaths which passed through Poplars Farm.

It was pointed out that there was no satisfactory pedestrian route from the Acresford Road development to the school, other than by car as there were no connected rights of way through to Moira Road and no pavement on that side of A.444. That meant that pedestrians had to cross and re-cross the main road, which was clearly unsafe.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Chairman