

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 6 January 2011

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
Mr J Astle, Mr D Baldaro, Mr R J Forsyth, Mr A R Hart, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien and Mr M S Patrick.

**In attendance:** Cllr J Grant (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan (PCSO).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr S C Sharpe.

## 80 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 81 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

## 82 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 83 CLERK'S REPORT

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

**83.2 Accidents, Burton Road.** Cllr C Jones agreed to press for updated information about these accidents.

**83.3 Street Games Programme.** The District Council had offered provision of street games based at the MUGA on February 28, March 7, 11, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11. All sessions would run from 7.30 – 8.30 pm and there would be no cost to the Council or the participants. The programme was agreed, but enquiries would be made to see whether earlier times could be allocated.

**83.4 Summer sports programme.** In recent years, provision had been made during the school summer holidays to hold at least one event per week. The programme last year was:

Date	Times	Event	Cost
Thursday 29 July	2 – 4 pm	Inflatable laser games	185
Friday 6 August	2 – 4 pm	Sports/Playmobile	185
Thursday 12 August	2 – 4 pm	Sports/Playmobile	185
	6 – 8 pm	Climbing Wall	210
Friday 20 August	2 – 4 pm	Sports/Playmobile	185
Thursday 26 August	2 – 4 pm	Wheels mobile	155
<b>Total cost</b>			<b>1105</b>

The events for next year were virtually the same cost (except the Sports & Playmobile which had increase by £5 per session) A new event was offered – 'Wacky Sports Mobile' – at a cost of £130; this was a variety of sports on a grass surface, including Tri Golf, Ultimate Frisbee, Rocket Ball, Rounders,

Dodgeball and Sumo wrestling. This could be combined with Laser games and Sports mobile into a single event for £350.

It was agreed to increase the budget provision to £1250 for next year and to incorporate at least one 'Wacky Sports Mobile'.

- 83.5 Windows to old changing rooms.** A quotation had been obtained from a local contractor for replacement of the windows with upvc frames, each with three fixed panes, wired glass externally and plain glass internally. The cost would be £630.00, which was within the budget. It was agreed to accept the quotation and to arrange for the rear windows to be blocked up.
- 83.6 Bollards, Coronation Street junction.** The County Council had said that they would not replace the bollards as they had been vandalised rather than damaged as a result of an accident. The County Council had been asked to reconsider and their response was awaited.
- 83.7 Drakelow development.** A copy of a letter from Cllr Chris Jackson of Derbyshire County Council was considered. Members felt that it was self-evident that significant amounts of traffic from the new development would head towards the A.42 and onward destinations.
- 83.8 Localism Bill.** The Government had published the Bill, which had 6 main aims.
- Lift the burden of bureaucracy, by reducing unnecessary regulation;
  - Empowering communities to do things their way, by creating rights for people to direct the development of the community;
  - Increased local control of finance;
  - Diversifying the supply of public services, by ending public sector monopolies;
  - Opening government to public scrutiny, by publishing information on how money is spent;
  - Strengthening local accountability, by enabling people to change services by participation, choice or the ballot box.

The Bill also included a new Power of General Competence to replace the Power of Well-Being, currently available to Quality Councils.

The Bill was lengthy, but was mainly a series of powers, which would be brought into effect and details spelt out in subsequent Statutory Instruments. For this reason, it was widely expected that the main provisions were unlikely to be brought into force in less than 18 months at the earliest.

- 83.9 Clustering.** While sharing of service delivery had been discussed for several years and, in some cases, was put into effect at the discretion of Councils, NALC had asked if any Council or Clerk had a view on "Are you willing to work within a cluster of local councils for representation, service delivery and campaign purposes?"

It was unclear to what extent clustering was intended, or whether any form of requirement to take action was to be introduced, but views were to be sent to NALC by an unspecified date in January, so that they could publish their findings in March.

Overseal had joined with selected other Councils for certain campaigning matters and worked fairly closely with others where there was a common interest, as well as recently expressing an interest in exchanging information with a neighbour or working together on matters of common interest.

However, the range of such action could, for example, extend to jointly bidding for services from the District and County Councils, one Parish Council providing a service on behalf of several (such as street cleaning or grass cutting), or commissioning some administrative functions (e.g. finance) by several councils to one of their number (as some District Councils had already done). The Clerk reported that DALC's view was that, while sharing service delivery was likely to be encouraged, merging of Parish Councils was not likely to be pursued in the foreseeable future.

**83.10 Budgets of Principal Councils.** In mid-December, each principal council was informed of its central government grant, and therefore had to determine the effect of the inevitable budget reductions which would flow from the reduced settlements. Although in most cases, work had already begun in anticipation of these reductions, final decisions would take place during the first few weeks of 2011.

Many Parish Councils were expecting that the principal councils would, in addition to reducing or stopping some services, invite Parish Councils to take over some service provision or enter into partnership arrangements for their delivery. In Leicestershire, the Police were also having to make significant savings and had approached several Parish Councils to provide accommodation to replace Police Stations which were to be closed, by free use of a room and perhaps office services. Several Parish Councils had already agreed to this and expected that having a resident Officer would improve local Policing cover in their area. No such approach had yet been made in Derbyshire.

**83.11 Barrier in passageway.** A quotation had been obtained for installation of a barrier in the passageway between the Village Hall and the Changing Rooms, to prevent use by motorcyclists. DSK Engineering had quoted for four hoops at £525.00 plus VAT and a separate quotation for two larger hoops had been obtained. It was agreed to ask the Company to provide two staggered barriers initially, bearing in mind that if a third was required, it could be added later.

**83.12 Spring Cottage gritting.** Leicestershire County Council had declined the request to include Spring Cottage in the gritting route schedule at present as they concentrated their resource on class A roads, some class B roads and major bus routes. These were those routes with at least 2 buses an hour in rural areas and 8 buses an hour in urban areas. Spring Cottage was treated as a local road only. However, a review of the service was carried out at the end of each gritting season and Spring Cottage would be considered at that time. Leicestershire County Council would be pressed to consider gritting a short length at the junction with the Reservoir Hill, as there had been several instances of vehicles sliding into the main road during the recent snowy conditions

**83.13 Poppy Parties.** The Royal British Legion was promoting the arranging of these parties in June 2011 to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and details would be forwarded to the local organiser.

**83.14 Darby & Joan Club accounts.** The Club had submitted their accounts for 2009/2010. Noted.

**84 PLANNING APPLICATIONS****Application for decision:**

1073 Residential development of 2 dwellings, land adjacent to 27 Moira Road (outline).

The Parish Council has no objection to the principle of development of the site. However, it urges the District Council to require submission of access details at this stage and not to treat them as a reserved matter.

The site fronts to Moira Road, which is narrow at this point and is always subject to a line of parked vehicles on the same side of the road as the site. It is also opposite the entrance to the new development at Manor School View, which will generate traffic movements. In order to keep the entrance to the site useable, it will be necessary to lose several on-road parking places.

Traffic to and from Conkers uses this road and there have been many instances when cars towing caravans, and coaches, have been held up because the road is reduced to a single lane by the parked cars.

The Council consider that the question of access is so important that it needs to be dealt with at this stage and not simply treated as a reserved matter.

**85 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS**

**85.1 Police.** Mr McMillan presented the latest crime statistics for the area. It was reported that vehicles were collecting materials from certain containers at the recycling compound during the early hours of the morning; Mr McMillan advised that contact be made with the operators to enquire whether they were aware of the incidents. Motorcycle tracks had been observed on the recreation ground recently, and the PCSO would continue to try to identify the persons concerned. Some trees had also been removed.

**85.2 District Council.** Members congratulated the District Council's Recycling and Refuse Collection staff on their service during the recent festive season.

**85.3 County Council.** It was reported that a gully in the road outside the school had been mal-functioning for at least 3 years and that it had been reported to the County Council on several occasions. Recently, water had flowed from the gully and subsequently frozen, causing dangerous conditions for motorists; water was now flowing consistently from the gully. Cllr Jones agreed to press the relevant officers to secure action to remedy the problem.

**86 BUDGET FOR 2011/2012**

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

The projected year end for the current financial year and the list of variations from the original budget were noted.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the charge for use of the Village Hall by the Darby & Joan Club be increased to £5.00 per hour, being a 50% concession;
- (b) That no change be made to the remaining hire rates and wages;
- (c) That provision be made in the budget for 2011/2012 for the following:
  - Seeding the upper football pitch - £500;

- Possible development costs for the allotment site at Lullington Road - £2000;
- Summer sports programme increased provision increased to £1250;
- Chairs for the Village Hall - £500;
- Christmas celebrations - £750;
- Nature Area - £2000.

(d) That the draft budget be otherwise approved;

(e) That a new dog bin be provided at Clifton Close, and locks provided for all grit bins during the current financial year;

(f) That a further £5000 be earmarked for the specified Repairs and Renewals;

(g) That the Precept for 2011/2012 remain at £28,000.

Consideration was given to the County Council's enquiry as to whether the Parish Council would take a lease of the Nature Area at Woodville Road; it was pointed out that the side boundary fence was in a very poor state of repair and that parts of the land were wet. Considerable expenditure would probably be necessary to enable the land to be used by the public. It was agreed that Derbyshire County Council be informed of the state of the fence and asked to repair it as a safety measure, without prejudice to the future consideration of a possible lease.

## 87 ACCOUNTS

### 87.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1651	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	9.58		9.58
1652	L Baxter	Caretaker	426.46		426.46
1653	J M Summerfield	Litter	71.15		71.15
1654	T Stewart	Litter	142.32		142.32
1655	J E White	Salary & expenses	1372.81		1372.81
1656	HMRC	PAYE	354.83		354.83
1657	Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd	Grit bin	117.20	20.51	137.71
1658	South Derbyshire District Council	Service litter bins, dog bins & refuse collection from Village Hall	813.36	142.34	955.70
D/D	Plusnet	Internet service	16.00	2.80	18.80

### 87.2 Receipts

The following amount had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	410.00

**87.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents were inspected.

**88 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL**

The Precept, which had been kept at the same level as last year but with improved services; responsible dog ownership, including use of bins, not trespassing off public rights of way.

**89 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**89.1 National Forest Company Awards.** Mr Knight reported on a recent meeting, at which he had enquired about applying the Freewoods Scheme to the Nature Reserve. It appeared that tree cover was already high and that therefore the scheme would not be relevant.

**89.2 Footpath, Lullington Road.** It was reported that a length of the path between the Post Office and Main Street junction had been very slippery during the recent snowy conditions and consideration was given to ways in which a gritting service might be provided. It was pointed out that these conditions had applied at many places in the village, though Members would be willing to have a supply of grit and distribute it in similar conditions in future if this could be arranged. An approach would also be made to a neighbouring property owner in Lullington Road to see whether he could help.

**89.3 Village Hall letting.** Details were reported of a complaint concerning an event at the Village Hall and the Clerk was asked to deal with it and reply to the complainant. An emergency contact telephone number would also be displayed at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

**Chairman**