

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 5 January 2012.

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

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

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

66 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

67 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

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 Former telephone exchange, Burton Road. Some external work was being carried out at these premises, including tidying up the site.

68.3 Land at Daisy Lane. The District Council had received confirmation from the Administrators of the Developers of this land that they were willing to transfer it to the District Council as required by the S.106 agreement. However, the land would be transferred in its current state and without any sum for future maintenance. The District Council had enquired whether the Parish Council still wished to take over the land in these circumstances and a provisional positive response had been given to them pending a formal decision at this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Council agree to take over the land in its current state and without a commuted sum for future maintenance.

68.4 Land at Manor School View. The problem of access still remained as the gates were permanently locked, preventing purchaser of the properties from using the land for recreation. The District Council would be asked to press for action on this point.

68.5 Lights at the supermarket. While welcoming the actions which had been taken, the central light at the rear also needed to be angled downwards.

68.6 Contract of Employment. NALC and the SLCC had updated the model contract of employment for Clerks, and deputy/assistant Clerks.

The Model Contract derived from the National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of Service of Local Council Clerks in England and Wales. The 2011 Model Contract does not contain any negotiated changes to terms and conditions of employment. It did however contain an increase in leave entitlement of one day for employees with less than five years' service.

This followed a change to Green Book terms and conditions of employment implemented in April 2009.

The 2011 model contract had been jointly prepared by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. It was intended for new Clerks or deputy/assistant Clerks. It did not replace existing contracts of employment. Noted.

- 68.7 Lullington Road allotments.** The Lease from the District Council had been signed and would be exchanged and registered as soon as a discrepancy about the area of land shown on the plan in the Lease had been resolved. Original discussions showed a length of 95 metres whereas the plan showed a length of 75 metres, which would accommodate 15 plots of 118 sq m each; this revised area had been accepted by the Allotment Association and it was therefore agreed to proceed on that basis.

The Parish Council's Solicitors had prepared a draft Sub-Lease to the Association, which appeared to be satisfactory and the Clerk had produced a draft agreement for the Association to let the individual plots, which was being discussed with District Council Officers. It was agreed to submit the sub-lease to the Association for acceptance.

The County Council had supplied a pack giving details of the steps necessary to provide a dropped kerb to act as access to the site, and the costs would form part of the grant application. Planning consent would not be required as the Parish Council had Permitted Development rights for its own development and there was no change of use involved as the last use of the land was agricultural.

- 68.8 Village Hall sign opposite Stanleigh Road.** The County Council said that a sign was erected some months ago. Members confirmed that no sign had been erected and the County Council would be asked to deal with this.

- 68.9 Review of Dog Control Orders.** The District Council was seeking views on the existing Orders. The Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act enabled Dog Control Orders to be made in relation to five possible offences, namely;

- Failing to remove dog faeces;
- Not keeping a dog on a lead;
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, and;
- Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

They asked the following questions by way of demonstrating whether or not changes are needed:

- Do the existing Orders provide a balance of interests between those in charge of dogs and those affected by the activity of dogs?
- If the answer to question 1 is 'no' then;
 - What alterations to the Orders would the Parish Council suggest in order to achieve this balance? and;
 - What evidence is available to demonstrate that the change is 'necessary' and 'proportionate'?

Members pointed out that there was a serious problem of dog fouling throughout the village and that the present arrangements for enforcement appeared unduly weak and ineffective. It was doubted whether any prosecutions had taken place. Footpaths were badly fouled and it appeared that the majority could be attributed to a core of offenders. The District Council would be advised of the situation and asked to remedy the absence of proper enforcement; if this meant a change in the regulations then that should be done urgently.

- 68.10 Bowling green.** The Bowls Club had requested that the Council fence the green as there were holes in the hedge, and there had been one or two incursions. Members pointed out that fences could also be breached and the request was not agreed.

The Club had also requested that the Council insure the green against criminal damage and the Clerk had obtained a guide as to the premium involved, which was small. Members considered that insurance should also be obtained for small scale damage to the football pitches if this was inexpensive.

RESOLVED: That the Council obtain insurance against criminal damage of the bowling green and ascertain the cost of insuring against small scale damage to the football pitches.

69 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning appeal.

NWLDC 11/00018 - Change of use to residential caravan site for two traveller families, each with two caravans, including one static mobile home and an amenity block, land adjoining 81 Shortheath. The Council objected to the original application and the comments expressed would form part of the appeal, which was to be the subject of a hearing. It was understood that a date for the hearing had now been fixed.

70 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

- 70.1 District Council.** The Council's thanks would be expressed to the District Council's Clean Team for clearing the recycling area at Woodville Road car park in bad weather after Christmas. However, improvements needed to be made to the collection arrangements during the Christmas break as there had been serious problems with the bottle bank being overflowing and other refuse containers being full.

The District Council also needed to remedy the problem of the drain in Woodville Road which regularly overflowed during heavy rain and froze during cold weather. Several attempts had previously been made to deal with this, but they had been limited to clearing the drain rather than tackling the root cause.

The street nameplate at Shortheath had not yet been replaced.

- 70.2 Police.** The Clerk reported recent crime statistics provided by Mr McMillan.
- 70.3 County Council.** The footpath in Moira Road between Manor School Road and Gorsey Lees was breaking up and needed repair. There was also a pothole or sunken manhole at the corner in Shortheath. The attention of the County Council would be drawn to these matters.

71 BUDGET FOR 2012/2013

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

The predicted outturn for the current year and information about variations from the budget were noted. The Clerk reported that one of the football clubs had not yet paid the fee for pitch rental for the year and it was suggested that next year an additional £50 should be added to the rent, with a corresponding reduction if paid on time. This was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an additional fee of £50 per team be levied for pitch rent, to be remitted if the rent is paid on time;
- (b) That the following growth items be included in the budget:
- Provision for refurbishment of the top football pitch - £2000;
 - Surfacing the car park extension at the Village Hall - £15000;
 - Purchase of additional grey plastic chairs for the Village Hall - £800;
 - Provision for upgrading the toilets at the Village Hall - £20000;
 - Provision for repairs to the floor of the changing rooms - £10000;
 - Provision for putting the land at Daisy Lane into good order and subsequent maintenance - £2000;
 - That the provision for a grant towards the Allotment Association's running costs for the first year and for initial set up costs of the site at Lullington Road be increased by £800.
- (c) That the CCTV equipment be included in the Repairs and Renewals provision;
- (d) That a further £5000 be included in the Repairs and Renewals provision;
- (e) That the Council levy a Precept of £28,000 being the same as the current year;
- (f) That the draft budget for 2012-2013 be approved subject to the above amendments;
- (g) That a dog bin be provided from this year's budget on the Recreation ground near to the corner of the bowling green hedge.

72 ACCOUNTS**72.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1771	Coalville Glass & Glazing Co Ltd	Replace windows in old changing rooms	212.58	42.52	255.10
*1772	D Walker	Christmas lighting	360.00		360.00
*1773	R F Gardening Ltd	Replant planters	512.00		512.00
*1774	Timms Solicitors	Legal fees & rent, land at Lullington Road	990.00		990.00
1775	L Baxter	Caretaker	404.51		404.51
1776	J M Summerfield	Litter	73.00		73.00
1777	T Stewart	Litter	194.56		194.56

1778	J E White	Salary & Expenses	1445.24		1445.24
1779	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	347.00		347.00
1780	ESPO	Floor scrubber	708.00	141.60	849.60
1781	Aspray	Investigations and report on the floor of the changing rooms	650.00	130.00	780.00
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	42.00		42.00
D/D	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration fee	35.00		35.00
D/D	Plusnet	Internet charges	16.00	3.20	19.20
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	129.86		129.86
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	10.16		10.16
D/D	BT	Telephone line rental	50.28	10.06	60.34

* These accounts had been paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

72.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	535.00
South Derbyshire District Council	S.136 and Lengthsmen refunds	9465.00

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

73 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

None.

74 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

74.1 Youth Service consultation. A Press release had indicated that a consultation was starting about the future of the Youth Service, which appeared to involve further reductions. Details would be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

74.2 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. Mr Patrick reported that the Gala Committee was organising a Party in the Park to take place on 6 June and was given advice about the insurance requirements. Football teams would be advised of the event, which would preclude any matches taking place that day.

Note: date corrected 2 June at the following meeting

74.3 Christmas lights. Members reported that the Christmas lights at the Village Hall had been well received.

74.4 Almshouses – grants. The Chairman reported that two grants made to local people had been much needed, reflecting the difficult financial situation generally.

75 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting in pursuance of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the content is confidential and that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

76 CHANGING ROOMS

The Council considered a report of the Clerk concerning sinkage of part of the floor of the changing rooms.

RESOLVED: (a) That a structural engineer be employed to determine the cause of the sinkage and to recommend ways of repairing the floor;

(b) That the District Council's Building Control section be requested to retrieve the original inspection reports and approvals from archives at a fee of £42.00;

(c) That, pending receipt of the report, the 'Away' team changing and shower accommodation be closed and the teams share the 'Home' team facilities;

(d) That the football teams be advised accordingly.

(e) That £10000 provision be included in the budget for 2012-2013 to fund the repairs.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

Chairman