

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 12 January 2017.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mrs M Elton, Mr J Howes, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mrs T A Rogers and Mr S C Sharpe.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

120 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

121 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Former Towpath Site. A representative of Spring Cottage Fisheries attended the meeting to discuss plans for further development of the former Towpath Site. The company held a long lease of the site and its main focus would be the development of fishing ponds, together with tree planting, landscaping and preservation of the public rights of way. They had liaised with NWLDC, Natural England and the Environment Agency and intended the site to become an asset to the area.

The Chairman circulated copies of the original planning proposals for the site and it was agreed that the company would study these and subsequently discuss them with Members, perhaps at a site meeting. Meanwhile, clearing mud from the public footpath would be undertaken. In answer to questions from Members, the ropes around the ponds were to deter cormorants, and the former access which had been blocked off had been cleared because it had been thought that it had only been to deter trespass, whereas in fact it was a planning requirement.

Litter. Accumulations of litter on the outskirts of the village were reported. The main concern was the end of Lullington Road, through to Netherseal, which had now been scheduled for clearance by the Clean Team. The centre of the village was regularly cleared by the Parish Council's staff.

122 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

123 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

123.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Hall reported that she had received complaints from residents of Valley Road about the construction of a large fence immediately at the rear of their properties. This had been erected by the developers and would be removed when building was complete. Details of the litter on the outskirts of the village were passed on, together with a request of a litter bin at Crabtree Corner.

There had been some fly-tipping at Coronation Street and it was thought that the County Council's recent decision to charge £3 per 25kg bag of rubble would lead to more fly-tipping.

The car park at Woodville Road had now been determined as owned by the County Council and had been subject to a lease to the District Council, which

had lapsed. The District Council had not requested a renewal but the County Council considered that the District Council nevertheless had power to effect repairs. Cllr Mrs Hall and Cllr Mrs Lauro agreed to take up this matter with their respective authorities.

- 123.2 Police.** The PCSO submitted the crime statistics for December, which showed that Overseal had suffered the highest number of reported crimes in the District, including several thefts from vans. However, the PCSO reported that thefts from vans had occurred all across South Derbyshire and elsewhere and appeared to be organised crime. A resident of Manor School View had had his van broken into and tools stolen.

Members were also concerned about reports from residents that 101 had not been answered after 20 minutes and the caller had given up. Similar problems occurred with 999 calls. It was suggested that this be raised at the next Safer Neighbourhoods meeting.

- 123.3 County Council.** Cllr Mrs Lauro reported that, other than the budget, this was a relatively quiet period. Members reported a street light out in Lullington Road; 2 barriers damaged at the roundabout at the junction of A.444 and Park Road, and a damaged sign in Park Road.

There were several signs on lamp posts related to housing developments and Cllr Mrs Lauro was asked about the County Council's attitude to this. The County Council was opposed to such signs as they could prove a distraction to motorists as well as being collectively an eyesore. She would report the problem and see whether the signs could be removed.

124 LOCAL PROBLEMS

Members expressed concern about the level of crime over the Christmas period; this matter was discussed at minute no 123.2 above.

The amount of litter on the outskirts of the village, particularly at Lullington Road towards Netherseal, was also of concern. The Clean Team had been asked for assistance.

126 CLERK'S REPORT

- 126.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). It was further reported that blocked drains in Lullington Road and Hallcroft Avenue had been cleared.

- 126.2 Forward Planning.** The Council received the report on Forward Planning issues (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). The eventual replacement of the Village Hall was discussed; a feasibility study would be needed as a first step in due course.

- 126.3 Donation.** At the last meeting, it was agreed not to grant a concessionary rate for a charity event to an organisation which wished to support the Derby NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) but to consider a donation direct if the booking went ahead. The charity had now decided not to proceed with the booking as the preferred date was not available. No further action was taken.

- 126.4 Swings.** The quotation of Mant Leisure had been accepted and they had confirmed that the supports for the swing seats would be chains. Installation should be in February and payment would be made direct by the solar farm company.

- 126.5 Pavilion repairs.** The Clerk gave details of faults which required attention. The District Council advised that the roof trusses needed bracing and this required installation of a hatch to the roof space. They had also said that slabs on the greenside elevation need to be lowered as there was evidence of rising damp, and the roofing felt needed repairing in some areas. Harvey & Clarke had provided a quotation for this work in the sum of £1046 plus VAT and it was agreed to accept the quotation and to proceed before the start of the next season in April. Minor internal repairs would also be commissioned.
- 126.6 Village Hall booking agreement.** A draft Agreement and booking form were submitted. It was agreed to adopt these documents subject to a minor amendment to designate the MUGA as the meeting point in case of fire or similar emergency.
- 126.7 Wreaths for Remembrance Day.** Contributions from organisations which required wreaths had been received and the Council was asked to determine the additional amount to be paid on its behalf. A donation of £50 was agreed.
- 126.8 External audit.** Grant Thornton would no longer be providing external audit services to Parish Councils in Derbyshire. Their replacement would be announced shortly.
- 126.9 Public Service Ombudsman.** A Bill currently before Parliament would introduce this concept, which would result in Parish Councils being covered by the Ombudsman regime for the first time.
- 126.10 Village Hall heating.** The heating system in the Village Hall broke down in December, with the internal structure breaking up and shedding pieces of metal into the pump. The Caretaker had to dismantle part of the pipe-work and flush out the pump each day to keep it going at all.
- Peach Properties were asked for a quotation and recommended that replacement of the boiler and upgrading it to meet the requirements of the building should be carried out. A quotation, based on the worst case scenario, was obtained in the sum of £8000, which included VAT.
- Normally, competitive quotations would be obtained, but the urgency (and the time of year) made this impracticable. The quotation had, therefore been accepted and the work was to be carried out in January. This action was confirmed.
- 126.11 Land at Manor School View.** Last June, the District Council had been asked whether it could prevent a path within the land from becoming a through route by installation of larger gates. The relevant minute (16 of 2016/7) summarised the council's views:
- A local resident attended the meeting following the recent agreement to install a gate at the Daisy Lane end of the land. He pointed out that the entrance to the land from Manor School View was owned by certain local residents, subject to a right of way for maintenance purposes; it was not a public right of way. Consequently, he wished to ensure that unauthorised access was prevented and, after some discussion, it was considered that taller gates at the Manor School View end would be the best which could be achieved.*
- The developers had installed a gate at the Daisy Lane end as agreed at a site meeting, but this was inadequate as it was small and there were large gaps on either side. While the land was still in the ownership of the developers, it would in due course be transferred to the District Council's ownership. It was agreed to approach the District Council and to suggest that they replace the existing gates*

at Manor School View with gates which were at least as tall as the adjoining fences and either re-erect them at the Daisy Lane end or replace the new gate there with a taller gate and suitable fences on either side to prevent access. It was also agreed to erect signs on both entrances saying that this was not a public right of way.

No response was received but the resident had now raised the question again as security seemed to be a problem; the land had now been transferred to the District Council's ownership. A neighbour explained the aspirations of the resident. The Council considered that they had done everything they could to assist in this matter but, as the land was now in the ownership of the District Council, further requests should be addressed to them.

126.12 Land at Overseal Manor. The owner of a property at Overseal Manor wished to make it plain that he had no connection with Pinehouse Developments, owners of a nearby property. This was noted.

~~It was known that all owners of property adjoining footpath 18, including Pinehouse, were responsible for maintenance of the hedges on both sides of the path.~~

It was known that the owners of the part of Overseal Manor grounds adjoining footpath 18, namely Pinehouse, were responsible for maintenance of the hedges on both sides of the path.' (Correction to minute)

126.13 Village Hall - Request for concession. The Council agreed to reduce the charge for use of the Village Hall by 50% for a fund-raising event by a local group.

127 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

The main outstanding issue was ground levels in the entrance to the recreation ground, which would be dealt with when the weather was suitable.

128 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

1041 Extensions and alterations, Sealview, Green Lane

1052 Extensions and alterations, Greenacres, Green Lane

0679 CCTV system around the perimeter of the Solar Farm, Shortheath

0895 Extensions, 368 Burton Road

0678 Installation of cable to serve the solar farm, Shortheath (amended route)

Application for decision:

0680 Re-consultation: Variation of planning conditions concerning the access to the compound, which now crossed the public footpath. Accordingly, a revised Footpath Strategy is required. No objection.

1309 Extensions and alterations, Sealview, Green Lane (amended scheme). No objection.

129 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None raised.

130 WEBSITE

Minor alterations to content were suggested.

131 ACCOUNTS

131.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*2373	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Mowing Daisy lane & church corner	80.00		80.00
*2374	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	68.63	13.73	82.36
2375	S Ruddle	Caretaker	524.82		524.82
2376	E Evans	Litter	148.80		148.80
2377	J M Summerfield	Litter	147.60		147.60
2378	J E White	Salary & Expenses	1143.17	3.50	1146.67
2379	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	692.20		692.20
2380	Yee Group Ltd	Call out for security alarm fault	105.00	21.00	126.00
2381	Mrs C M Knight	Reimburse cost of kitchen equipment	22.96		22.96
2382	D Walker	Christmas lights	250.00		250.00
2383	J Howes	Travel costs - training course for new councillors	50.48		50.48
2384	J Elton	Heating system repairs	150.00		150.00
2385	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Repairs to 2 floodlights at the MUGA	793.44	158.69	952.13
2386	Peach Properties	Boiler repairs	250.00		250.00
2387	South Derbyshire District Council	Rent of land at Lullington Road	100.00		100.00
2388	ICON	Sport England sign re. Pitch improvement	84.75	16.95	101.70
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	21.70	4.34	26.04
D/D	NEST	Pension contributions	25.42		25.42
D/D	SSE	Gas to Village Hall	442.48	88.49	530.97

* These accounts had been paid between meetings as they were urgent.

131.2 Receipts

The following amount had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
S Ruddle	Village Hall lettings	1405.00

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

132 BUDGET FOR 2017/2018

The Council considered the report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That no changes to the charges be made for use of the Village Hall;
- (b) That no change be made to charges for football clubs' use of the pitches, but that the charge for the top pitch be revisited as and when the changing rooms floor is repaired;
- (c) That tenders be invited for a 3-year contract for maintenance of the top pitch from September 2017 and provision be made in the budget for up to £6000;
- (d) That the current charges for the allotments and the land at Lullington Road remain the same;
- (e) That, in view of the excellent performance of the Caretaker, her salary be increased by 3% from 1 April 2017;
- (f) That the summer sports programme as outlined in the report be confirmed at a cost of £1360;
- (g) That the use of the existing fitness equipment be monitored before additional equipment is considered;
- (h) That the proposed new entrance to the recreation ground be kept on the forward planning list, but not included in the budget for the ensuing year;
- (i) That provision be made for junior goals and associated security measures in the sum of £2500;
- (j) That external painting of the Village Hall, Pavilion and changing rooms be carried out at a total estimated cost of £2000, of which £1000 for the Village Hall is to be met from the Repairs & Renewals Fund; the suggested installation of pvc soffits etc was not considered to be cost-effective given the long payback period;
- (k) That provision for painting the fence on front of the Pavilion to the War Memorial be included at £700;
- (l) That no action be taken on the suggested Chairman's Allowance, designed to deal with items for which no other legal authority existed.
- (m) That the sum of £3400 be included in the Repairs and Renewals Fund as a start towards the process of providing a replacement Village Hall;
- (n) That a Precept of £29200 be levied, representing an increase of 3.36 pence per week for a Band D property;
- (o) That the draft budget be approved subject to the above amendments.

133 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

133.1 Periodic litter picking. A group of residents were considering periodic litter picking and asked for provision of suitable equipment. The council supported the idea, provided the group organised themselves in a proper manner, and referred them to the District Council to help with equipment.

133.2 Daisy Lane. Volunteers had removed turf from around the bases of the trees and had been advised to lay weed suppressing membrane around each tree; this would cost around £80-£100 and it was agreed to meet the cost.

133.3 Footpath way-markers. The Footpaths Group proposed to install 2 markers on footpath 31 and asked the council to meet the cost of the posts. This was agreed and it would be charged to the Rights of Way budget.

133.3 Annual Wassail. Arrangements had been made for this to take place on Saturday 28 January. It was to be an annual event on the last Saturday of January.

133.4 Recycling. The recycling bins at the car park were widely misused; people were dumping all types of rubbish in the bins and around them when they were full and there was also fly-tipping. Paper was now recycled through the home collections so the service at the car park was no longer required.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Chairman