

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Online Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 7 January 2021.

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

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

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mrs S M Ward.

## 117 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr A Cook declared personal interest in minute no 126.4(b) (Budget for 2021-2022/salaries) .

## 118 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

## 119 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 120 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**120.1 District Council.** No matters were raised.

**120.2 Police.** The list of reported crimes showed a reduction on Overseal; it was noted that two entries for Linton actually related to a location in Overseal.

Members reported that a child on a powered scooter had been seen several times on the recreation ground, which had caused damage to both pitches. The child was accompanied by an adult and he had parked his vehicle on the grass verge. Efforts would be made to identify him and a report would then be submitted to the Police.

Dogs were also being permitted to run loose in the MUGA, despite notices to the contrary.

**120.3 County Council.** The gullies at the traffic lights and on Main Street had still not been cleaned; the pavement at Acresford Road at the entrance to Church Walk had been covered in mud from the adjoining farm for about two years and it was now deep, slippery and icy mud, forcing pedestrians to go into the road to avoid it. The County Council would be asked to deal with this urgently.

**120.4 Hallcroft Avenue verge.** A resident had apparently placed some logs on the damaged section of verge in an attempt to prevent vehicles from being parked there, as this had caused the damage originally. It was felt that this reinstatement should be pursued but further thought needed to be given to the nature of the work which should be carried out. The matter would be included in the agenda for the next meeting and meanwhile, Members' views would be assembled prior to the meeting.

## 121 CLERK'S REPORT

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

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

**121.3 Highway verge closure.** Notice had been received that a short length of verge outside 3 Acresford Road was to be closed from 7 January for up to a month to allow work permitted by a planning permission to be carried out.

**121.4 CCTV for the Village Hall.** Three quotations were obtained and an application for grant from the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership was submitted in December and a grant of 50% had been approved. The quotation of Swadlincote Aerials was accepted under delegated powers and the work would be carried out in January.

**121.5 Resident's concerns.** A resident had expressed a number of concerns and suggestions about local matters.:

- Damage to verges by parking – suggested education and signage;
- Litter – structured litter pick to supplement the work of the Council's staff;
- Unruly activities at the recreation ground – suggested switching off the floodlights to deter groups from elsewhere.

The problem of the damaged verge was referred to above and the intention regarding litter was that a structured litter pick should take place at the Nature Area in the Spring, if Covid restrictions permitted. The floodlights had been switched off for about 2 months to avoid problems with groups of people assembling and causing nuisance.

**121.6 Census 2021.** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) was recruiting over 35,000 field staff to encourage householders to fill in their 2021 Census questionnaires and maximise response rates.

**121.7 South Derbyshire Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-25 consultation.**

The District Council and was consulting on its draft strategy; any responses should be submitted by 4 February. It was based on five objectives and an Action Plan had been developed around them (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). They were:

- Enable a diverse workforce;
- Be a leader in equality, diversity and inclusion;
- Involve our diverse communities in decision-making;
- Deliver services that meet everyone's needs;
- Understand our diverse communities.

A copy of the more detailed Action Plan was examined and was broadly accepted, though concern was expressed about accessibility difficulties likely to be experienced by elderly or very young people and those who did not have access to the Internet to use social media for communication.

**121.7 Appointment of Clerk & RFO.** A verbal report on applications received to date was submitted. The Clerk advised that it may become necessary to consider increased hours in the light of experience.

## **122 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS**

Most areas were satisfactory, but it was noted that there was wear to the top pitch, especially in the goalmouth areas, and advice would be sought as to the appropriate repairs.

## **123 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None.

**124 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS**

People were gaining access to the Village Hall roof via the container at the rear. It was thought that renewal of the anti-climb paint was necessary, but Mr Cook undertook to inspect and report back

**125 WEBSITE**

None.

**126 ACCOUNTS****126.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
	Total salaries & wages costs				*
BACS	D Walker	Christmas lights	410.00		410.00
**BACS	L Morris	Cleaning Pavilion (December)	60.00		60.00
BACS	South Derbyshire District Council	Rent of Lullington Road allotment site	100.00		100.00
D/D	SSE	Electricity to Village Hall	294.86	58.97	353.83
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.00	3.60	21.60
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	297.99	14.89	312.88
D/D	Opus Energy Ltd	Electricity to public toilets	16.45	0.82	17.27

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

\*\* This account had been paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

**126.2 Receipts**

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
Dancey's Daycare	Use of Pavilion	360.00
Overseal Gala Committee	Wreath	25.00

**126.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents from last month had been inspected.

**126.4 Budget for 2021/2022**

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

RESOLVED:

- That no alteration be made to hire rates and charges;
- That the salaries of the Caretaker and Litter pickers be adjusted to take account of the increase in the National Living Wage from 1 April 2021;
- That the revised quotation for the construction of a car park at the Edward Street allotments in the sum of £3244.00 be accepted and the work carried out in this financial year;
- That a contribution of £3600 be made to the Repairs & Renewals Fund (to exclude increases for chairs and tables), plus a further £1500 'top up' for the figure for external painting of the Village Hall, to be carried out in 2021;
- That an additional £300 be included for replacing a dog bin at the MUGA;
- That the removal of the chimney on the roof of the Village Hall at a cost of £351 be accrued out this year;

- (g) That the repainting of fences near to the Village Hall be excluded;
- (h) That any expenditure for the Green Flag Community Award be met from the budget for Environmental Improvements;
- (i) That provision be made for the reinstatement of the verge in Hallcroft Avenue in the sum of £4000;
- (j) That no changes be made to the base budget;
- (k) That a Precept of £33,000 be levied for 2021-2022, being an increase of 3.35%.

(Mr A W Cook declared a personal interest in item (b) above)

(Mrs R O'Brien left the meeting at 7.50pm)

## **127 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**127.1 Computers.** There was a shortage of laptops for use by children during the current lockdown and it was suggested that the Council's computers at the Village Hall could be offered to the CVS or Churches Together. The operating systems were obsolete and it would be uneconomic to upgrade the computers to accept current systems. It was agreed in principle to dispose of them.

**127.2 Rights of Way.** Footpath 1 was again almost blocked by both hedges being overgrown. Also, a new footpath serving the Acresford Road development required making safe or diverted; the County Council's Footpaths Officer would be asked to attend a site visit for both of these.

**127.3 Nature Area.** A fence had been installed at the Nature Area, though it was rather flimsy.

**127.4 Spring Cottage.** No action had apparently been taken to deal with the poor appearance of Spring Cottage and Leicestershire County Council and Ashby Woulds Town Council would be asked to expedite matters. The main issues were large amounts of litter (despite voluntary efforts to clear it), fridges had been dumped, large vehicles were on front gardens, some being broken up, and the general appearance was one of neglect. Western Power Distribution would be asked to cut back the hedge and upgrowth at the electricity sub-station.

**The meeting ended at 8.10 pm**

**Chairman**