

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 26 June 2014.

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

In attendance: Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council).

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

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in planning application no. 0448 (minute no 31) as close relatives lived near to the site. He took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Tenants of the allotments at Burton Road/Edward Street enquired whether a water supply could be provided by means of a standpipe as the public supply in Edward Street was very close to the site boundary. It was accepted that those tenants who used the supply would have to meet the cost of the water and that security for the meter and access to the supply would need to be provided. The Clerk was asked to enquire the likely cost of such an installation.

Representatives of Gresley Junior FC asked that training sessions be allowed until the start of the playing season in September, in order to retain the interest of young players. It was agreed that each team be allowed one session per week lasting about one hour, and that sessions be held on different days to avoid more than one team using the same pitch at the same time. All such sessions would be subject to the pitches being in a playable condition.

25 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

26 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

26.1 District Council. Concern was expressed about recent collections of garden waste; the contractors had left waste on the road and on a subsequent collection had not returned bins properly. Cllr Frost agreed to pass on these concerns, but thought that there may have been recent changes of routes which could have caused the problems.

Two trees planted in the open space at Forest View had been mown down and a third badly damaged. This had happened previously and residents had replaced the damaged trees, but the contractors should be told to take more care. Cllr Frost agreed to pass this on and it was agreed to provide tree guards. Grass cutting generally was unsatisfactory in that the grass had been left too long between cuts and when cut, the cuttings were spread around.

26.2 Police. Parking on Lullington Road was causing problems for drivers approaching the village from the Netherseal direction. Vehicles parked on the inside of the bend meant that drivers had to drive on the right hand side of the road, approaching a blind bend, which was clearly a dangerous situation. The Police would be asked for assistance.

26.3 County Council. No action appeared to have been taken on several matters reported to the County Council, namely the dangerous tree near to 62 Lullington Road, the surfacing of A.444 at the traffic lights and overhanging trees at Woodville Road near to the Village Hall. The Clerk would ask Cllr Mrs Lauro to press for action on these matters.

A resident who occupied property near to the traffic lights had complained that traffic using A.444, particularly at night, was held up unnecessarily and caused noise nuisance and pollution; he had reported the problem to the County Council who were to undertake a site visit. However, it was felt that a site visit during the day would not diagnose the problem and a practical solution would be to arrange for the lights to be permanently on green on A.444 during the night, except when sensors in the side roads indicated the presence of traffic. This would be referred to the County Council.

Members expressed concern about the poor standards of secondary education at the schools serving the area. Standards were among the lowest in the country. While the effects of budget cuts were recognised, there appeared to be too much focus on preparing for Ofsted inspections and basic functions such as marking pupils' work was neglected. A thorough overhaul of the service was necessary. The Clerk was asked to write expressing the Council's concerns to the Education Authority.

27 CROFT ORCHARD, DAISY LANE

Mr Knight reported that a voluntary group had offered to maintain the areas around the trees to ensure that they were kept free from weeds and the District Council would be advised of this. It had previously been agreed that the District Council would cut the grass twice a year and that the Parish Council would arrange two more cuts at suitable intervals. The District Council would be asked to confirm this and to suggest suitable dates for cutting, bearing in mind the need to protect wild flowers and wildlife. It was also understood that the District Council was arranging for the construction of the footpaths.

It was agreed to take no action for the time being on a suggestion that the land should be protected from invasion by travellers.

28 SPORTS CHANGING ROOMS

A meeting had taken place with senior officers of the District Council to discuss possible assistance with repairs to the changing rooms floor and the provision of drainage for the top pitch, in respect of which a grant application to Sport England had been unsuccessful. The officers had been very positive in their approach and had suggested a possible way of financing the floor repairs. They also suggested that a consultant who had been used before might assist with grant applications for both the repairs and the pitch drainage, though she would not be available until September. These suggestions were supported.

29 PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Chairman had discussed the need for more equipment with the Village Games Organiser, who would identify possible fitness equipment shortly. A suitable site could be the area to the rear of the Village Hall if drainage measures enabled its use.

30 CLERK'S REPORT

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

30.2 Burton Road allotments. Complaints had been received about the overgrown state of plot 19 and it was clear that it had not been cultivated for some time, probably not at all this year. The Clerk had written to the plot-holder on 5 May asking that he improve the state of the plot by the end of May, but an inspection on 3 June revealed that nothing had been done. There were also what appeared to be the remains of a shed lying on the ground. Notice to Quit had therefore been issued expiring on 20 June. The plot had now been allocated to another person. This action was confirmed.

30.3 Solar panels for the Village Hall. The Clerk reported that provision of solar panels to reduce energy bills could be dealt with in a number of ways. In some cases, the supplier effectively rented the roof area and retained ownership of the equipment, paying the Council only a small amount; however, the savings arising from the lower use of national grid electricity reverted to the Council. In more common cases, the Council would buy the equipment (possibly with grant aid), receive a subsidy through the government scheme and receive a payment for surplus electricity which would be fed into the national grid. As capital cost may be involved, information on the Council's requirements and likely cost was being sought as well as the likely savings.

It had been ascertained that the Government was to introduce a grant scheme for business premises in the Autumn and further information would be awaited.

30.4 CCTV camera for the Village Hall. Suitable suppliers had been invited to recommend appropriate equipment and to submit a quotation. Grant support may possibly be available through the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership, but their next round of grants was not until September.

30.5 Sport England grant application. Sport England had now formally refused the grant application for drainage of the top pitch, without prejudice to a further application next year. They said that competition for grants was very high, and that they had received 146 applications asking for £8.2 million. Areas for strengthening any future application had been highlighted and the main points included the bid being community led, the need for sustainability and a budget for initial maintenance costs after the drainage had been carried out. 'Sustainability' in this context included pitch maintenance, marketing and management and provision of a sinking fund for future replacement.

30.6 Grant towards churchyard maintenance. It was agreed to donate £300 for this purpose.

30.7 Publication of agendas. The Government was to pass a Statutory Instrument to allow agendas to be sent to Members electronically rather than requiring paper copies. Noted.

37.8 Cleaner. The Clerk reported that the Cleaner was to start work that weekend.

31 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been approved

0356 Proposed use of units 1, 2 and 3 for alternative B1, B2 and B8 uses, Swains Park Employment Site, Park Road.

Applications for decision:

0448 Extensions, 60 Valley Road. The Parish Council found difficulty in understanding exactly what is proposed and has been informed that the District Council is seeking better plans from the applicant. The Parish Council would submit its views when those plans were available.

However, the Council had been informed that work on the extensions had already started without planning permission. This should be stopped until the plans had been received and approved.

(Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in this application as close relatives lived near to the site. He took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

0483 Replacement dwelling, The Oaks, Green Lane. This application was to be clarified as it was understood that the existing dwelling was very recent.

0541 Pitched roof on existing flat roof and conservatory to the rear and porch to the front, 12 Main Street. Supported.

0487 Installation of 2 Juliet balconies, 1 Shortheath. Supported.

0526 Erection of 5 detached dwellings, land r/o 137 – 149 Woodville Road, Overseal. The Parish Council has serious concerns about aspects of this application. The development would result in a considerable increase in traffic emerging from the site on to a narrow, heavily parked road. It is cramped development of a backland site. The driveway is very narrow and may not be wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass – if they cannot, conflicts will be bound to occur, and vehicles may have to reverse into the road. The only possible passing place is intended as a parking space for existing properties.

0578 Conservatory, 35 Burton Road. Supported.

32 ACCOUNTS

32.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*2049	DDS Sleep Eazee Electrical	Fit 4 LED lights in Village Hall & resite existing close to ceiling	828.00	72.00	900.00
2050	L Baxter	Caretaker	404.61		404.61
2051	J M Summerfield	Litter	60.52		60.52
2052	T Stewart	Litter	151.44		151.44
2053	J E White	Salary & expenses	1040.20		1040.20
2054	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	654.00		654.00
2055	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Safety checks of fire alarm & emergency lighting systems	204.15	40.83	244.98
2056	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Leaning materials & equipment	111.33	22.27	133.60

2057	St Matthew's Church	Grant towards churchyard maintenance	300.00		300.00
D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	138.58	27.71	166.29
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	11.98		11.98
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	239.78		239.78
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	37.00		37.00

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

32.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	300.00
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	1680.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Use of Village Hall as Polling Station	120.00

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

33 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

33.1 Planters. There had been a considerable delay in replanting the beds and planters; the Clerk had been informed that the work would be completed by the weekend.

33.2 Rights of Way maintenance. It was agreed to ask Schoolgrounds to clear footpath 18 (Moirra Road to Daisy Lane) which was overgrown. New Walk was still blocked and it was understood that the District Council normally cleared this path at the request of the County Council. It was pointed out that the section of this path near to the school was the school's evacuation route in case of emergency and that the work was, therefore, urgent. The District Council would be asked to deal with this.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Chairman