

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the online Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 2 July 2020.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr S C Sharpe and Mrs S M Ward.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs A Wheelton (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr P Murray (Derbyshire County Council).

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs C M Knight declared an interest as a neighbour in respect of minute no 37 (Planning applications), application no 0330 0330: Outline application (matters of access and layout to be considered now with matters of scale, appearance and landscaping reserved for later consideration) for the construction of 6 dwellings on land to the rear of 69 Woodville Road.

32 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

33 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020 and the adjourned meeting held on 5 June 2020, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

34 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

34.1 District Council. None.

34.2 Police. The reported crime statistics for June were submitted, showing that crimes in Overseal were significantly higher than anywhere else in the area. Details were given by Members of some of the offences where they had more detailed knowledge of the events. In addition, there had been groups of young people congregating at the rear of the Village Hall and in the adjoining woodland, which had resulted in litter, broken glass and many bottles being left behind. This anti-social behaviour had given rise to complaints from neighbours.

The Police would be asked to increase their presence in the village to deal with these matters and would also be asked why they had not done so before.

34.3 County Council. In response to a question, the Clerk reported that the County Council was the owner of the car park, but that they had passed responsibility for it to the school. He was asked to seek clarification as to who was ultimately responsible for damage to people or property arising from the poor condition of the car park.

The footpath on the south side of Woodville Road had been patched, but the work had been left in an unacceptable condition. While this had been reported to the County Council, they would be requested to resurface the whole length of the footpath from Main Street to Hallcroft Avenue as it was in a poor condition.

35 CLERK'S REPORT

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

Discussion ensued on the poor condition of Overseale House. While it was noted that steps were in hand to obtain assistance from various official sources, the windows were almost falling out, being packed with cardboard and cloth, the porch at the side was faulty and the dividing wall adjoining the neighbouring property was being damaged by trees. The general appearance of the building was one of dilapidation and it was in a prominent position at the gateway to the village. The points would be drawn to the attention of the Heritage Officer.

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

35.3 Review of Documents.

35.3.1 Standing Orders. The Council's Standing Orders were last reviewed in 2018 and were therefore fairly up to date. The only change necessary was that item 17b, which related to Financial controls and Procurement, needed to correspond with the relevant provision in the Financial Regulations, approved at the last meeting. It currently read:

Financial Regulations shall be reviewed regularly and at least annually for fitness of purpose;

The review period should therefore be 'at least every two years'.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the above amendment, the Standing Orders be confirmed and published on the website.

35.3.2 Asset Register. A copy of the current Asset Register, which had been brought up to date, had been previously circulated (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). The updated document was approved.

35.3.3 Freedom of Information. The main statutory responsibility was to have a Publication Scheme and to make it publicly available – the Council had just reviewed it and published it on the website. There was a formal procedure to deal with questions or requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Information Commissioner had published a flow chart to show how to deal with such matters. The Council had never received a formal request but treated any request for information as normal business. In the event that a formal request were to be received and not able to be dealt with in that way (e.g. if there were repeated and vexatious requests on the same subject), then the flow chart would be followed and formal notices issued – these were available as templates from the Information Commissioner.

Under these circumstances, no further change to the policy was required.

35.3.4 Code of Conduct. The Council's Code was adopted in 2012, following publication of regulations under the Localism Act 2011; a copy was on the Documents section of the website. It was still up to date, though some authorities have adopted a more 'plain English' version. However, work was being undertaken nationally to produce a new Code and a consultation draft had just been published, with responses being invited up to mid-August. A report on the new Code would be submitted to the next meeting.

35.4 Pre-school. Having consulted parents, the Pre-school had confirmed that it would not be reopening before September.

- 35.5 Football.** The Junior FC resumed training on 14 June with a suitable regime in place to comply with Government guidance and requirements. The changing rooms remained closed because it was not practicable to implement social distancing in the showers (other than by limiting use to one person at a time) and to sanitise them after each person had used them. The public toilets remained closed for the same reason.
- 35.6 Summer sports programme.** The District Council had had to cancel the programme, which would normally take place during the school summer holidays. The intention was to reschedule several of the planned sessions, once restrictions were lifted, on evenings, weekends and during half term holidays
- 35.7 A.444 – average speed cameras.** A suggestion had been made by the Members of Parliament that the Council should organise a petition calling for the installation of average speed cameras. Cameras were mentioned at the May meeting when it was decided to call for traffic calming measures when the development at Chilcote was operational. However, the volume of overnight traffic had increased considerably, and this included many motorcycles being ridden at high speed through the village, together with many HGVs which gave rise to a noise nuisance. These matters would be reported to CREST with a request for assistance through enforcement measures. However, it was not thought appropriate for the council to organise a petition, which would have limited impact in any event.
- 35.8 Grant for churchyard maintenance.** It was agreed to give a grant of £300 towards the cost of churchyard mowing as in previous years.
- 35.9 Proposed steps across the verge to serve the Pavilion.** The County Council had refused this application on the grounds that (a) the gradient was not steep, there was a bus stop adjacent to the location and access could be gained by going to the car park entrance and using the footpath. The Clerk had queried this with Cllr Murray, who would be asked to press the County Council to review the decision.
- 35.10 Water supply to the Village Hall.** South Staffordshire Water advised that it was likely that the Council would have to pay for the cost of enlarging the supply from the water main to the boundary of the Village Hall grounds; as the main was across the road, this was likely to be significant. While the Clerk was seeking further information and firm advice from SSW, he had also asked whether any financial assistance may be available via South Derbyshire District Council.

A quotation had been obtained from the company which had installed the new pipe within the Village Hall boundary, for the additional pipe and connexion to the meter. However, it was thought that this may be based on incorrect information about the final location of the new pipe, which was inside the gate to the adjoining public toilets. This meant that the length of pipe required was only 1.5-2 metres and the quotation appeared to be too high. This would be checked. The District Council had suggested that Awards for All might fund the work or possibly a contribution from the District Council with match funding from us

It was also thought that the pipe crossing the road may be an old lead pipe, which the water authorities were keen to remove for health reasons. This would be checked with South Staffs Water.

- 35.11 Footpaths Group.** The Group had asked whether a donation might be available in recognition of their work this year, totalling 72 hours. A donation of £150 was approved, comparable to the donation made the previous year.
- 35.12 Acresford Road development.** The developers had asked whether the Council wished to adopt the open spaces and the pond. The reason for asking was that Severn Trent required a decision from the Council before they would approve the drainage arrangements. It was agreed not to adopt either the open spaces or the pond.
- 35.13 Lullington Road.** A resident had asked a few weeks ago whether the 30 mph limit could be extended to include the bend just outside the village, as there had been an increase in the numbers of pedestrians and there was potential danger. While that would not be feasible because there must be street lights, pavements etc for a 30mph limit, Derbyshire County Council had been asked what they could do to improve the situation. They had agreed to paint 'Slow' markings on the carriageway on both sides of the bend.
- 35.14 Hallcroft Avenue.** No reply had yet been received from County Council about improving the unofficial layby near the Daisy Lane junction.
- 35.15 Allotments.** One of the plot-holders had asked whether the Council could arrange to spray the thistles on the two plots nearest to Edward Street to prevent seeds blowing on to his and several other plots. A quotation had been obtained from John Mason Ltd for this work for £175. The quotation was accepted.

36 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

A detailed report had been submitted to the Clerk, who had instigated all necessary actions to deal with the outstanding matters.

37 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0373 Approval of details (A444 footway works), land at Acresford Road.

1425 Approval of details, demolition of existing garage and erection of a bungalow, 35 Main Street.

Application for decision:

0330 Outline application (matters of access and layout to be considered now with matters of scale, appearance and landscaping reserved for later consideration) for the construction of 6 dwellings on land to the rear of 69 Woodville Road.

While not objecting to the principle of development, Members considered that, as the existing shop would be retained as a dwelling and six new ones were proposed, this would result in over-development of this site, with inadequate parking provisions. Additionally, dealing with surface water disposal by means of soakaways was not feasible as the site was clay based.

(Mrs C M Knight declared an interest in this application as a neighbour and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

38 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None.

39 WEBSITE

None.

40 ACCOUNTS**40.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
	Total salaries & wages costs				*
**2854	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	92.16	18.44	110.60
2859	St Matthew's Church	Grant towards mowing churchyard	300.00		300.00
2860	Robert Lewis Signs	Footpath sign, Church Walk	75.00	15.00	90.00
2861	A&J Bartlett Ltd	Replace shower & Circuit breakers in changing rooms	277.85	55.57	333.42
2862	P Stone	Mowing at Pavilion, allotments & rights of way	424.00		424.00
2863	B Morson	Donation to Footpaths Group	150.00		150.00
D/D	SSE	Electricity to Village Hall	139.91	6.99	146.90
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.00	3.60	2160
D/D	Opus Energy	Electricity to public toilets	7.81	0.39	8.20

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

40.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
Martyn Ladkin	Market at Village Hall car park	65.00
Kinston Foodbox	Crepes stall at car park	30.00
HMRC	VAT repayment	2582.51

40.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents were to be submitted to a Member for inspection.

41 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

41.1 Overgrown footpaths. Several footpaths were overgrown and required attention.

41.2 Development at Moira Road. It was pointed out that the Developers at Moira road had been very considerate towards the village during their operations. Additionally, they had displayed banners supporting the NHS, marking VE Day etc. A letter of thanks would be sent to them.

41.3 Use of the football pitches. Following reports that another team had been using the pitches, the Junior FC had agreed to inform the Chairman of their fixtures, so that she could monitor other uses.

41.4 Motorcycle noise nuisance. As this matter was related to speeding, it would be referred to CREST

41.5 Overgrown footpath. It was reported that the surface of Footpath 1 (Woodlands Road – Forest View) was overgrown for the first 20 yards approximately. This would be strimmed.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm

Chairman