

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 16 June 2011.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr R J Forsyth, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

In attendance: Cllr S J Frost (South Derbyshire District Council) and Mr R Cox.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Baldaro, Mr A R Hart and Mrs R O'Brien together with Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council) and Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council).

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr R Forsyth declared a prejudicial interest in Minute no. 21 (Planning applications) specifically in application no. 0314 erection of a stable block consisting of 2 stables and hay store, land at Sealwood Lane. He had left the meeting before that item was discussed.

17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

18 MINUTES

18.1 Annual Meeting. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

18.2 Annual Parish Meeting. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 May 2011 were received.

19 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported expressions of interest from four residents, all of whom had been invited to attend the meeting. Mr R Cox was in attendance and, at the Chairman's request, gave some background information about himself, before leaving the room while the matter was discussed.

RESOLVED: (a) That Mr R Cox be co-opted to membership of the Council to fill the existing vacancy;

(b) That the other applicants be thanked for their interest.

20 CLERK'S REPORT

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

20.2 DALC Executive Committee. Nominations were invited for membership of the Executive Committee, to serve for four years from 3 September. No nomination was made.

20.3 Traffic, Woodville Road. A Member of the Council had witnessed a van and a bus travelling along Woodville Road, mounting the pavement when vehicles were travelling in the opposite direction in the middle of the road whilst overtaking parked cars. This was clearly dangerous as a child could have been coming out of one of the houses at that time on their way to school.

20.4 Gas supply contract. E-on had offered a further contract at a fixed price per unit for a year from 7 September at 12.545p per day standing charge and 3.56p per kWh; the current year's charges were based on 11.96p per day and 3.39p per kWh. The increase represented approximately 4.89% on the standing charge and 5% on the rate per unit. A further quotation had been received from British Gas at the rate of 3.274p per unit, with no standing charge and free supply for the first month up to a maximum of £100.

RESOLVED: That the quotation of British Gas be accepted.

20.5 South Derbyshire Standards Committee. Two Parish Council representatives plus substitute members were to be elected to the local Standards Committee, which dealt with matters arising from Parish Councils. No nomination was made.

20.6 Part night street lighting. The County Council were considering reducing costs by reducing the night-time hours when street lighting was provided and were seeking information on the likely impact on the community. Also permanently switching off any lighting which was no longer providing a community benefit was under consideration. Places where part –night lighting was not to be used were:

- on main traffic routes
- in town centres
- locations with a significant night-time traffic accident record
- areas with an above average record of crime
- areas provided with CCTV local authority or police surveillance equipment
- areas with sheltered housing and other residences accommodating vulnerable people
- areas with a 24hr operational emergency services site including hospitals and nursing homes
- formal pedestrian crossings, subways and enclosed footpaths and alleyways where one end links to a road that is lit all night
- Where there are potential hazards on the highway (roundabouts, central carriageway islands, chicanes, speed-humps etc.)

Members suggested that the County Council could operate a trial in part of the County for a few months to gauge reaction.

20.7 Nature Area. The County Council were looking at the need to repair the fences and would then consider the use of the land for a nature area/recreation area. They had said that they would consider a lease for up to 20 years but with no security of tenure; 10/15 years uninterrupted use would be provided for but if the County Council acquired development rights, they would be able to retrieve occupation of the land. They had accepted that development at present would be out of the question. However, in a subsequent message, the County Council now were to be recommended to put the property up for auction along with others, with any subsequent increase in development value resulting in an appropriate return for the County Council. The site had previously been laid out with a stone path, pond and planters and could be put back into that state for a modest cost.

Members were extremely disappointed with this approach, which could result in a developer acquiring the land for possible future development. It was agreed :

- To enquire about a Tree Preservation Order on the many trees on the site;
- To write to Cllr C Jones and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for environmental matters objecting to the suggested approach;
- To enquire of appropriate agencies whether there were any protected species of animals or reptiles on the site;
- To respond to the message expressing the Council's disappointment and seeking immediate remedial work to the fences and tidying up the site if it was not to be leased to the Council;
- To enquire the likely cost of acquisition.

20.8 Bus shelters, Shortheath. The County Council had asked the District Council to remove the shelters at Shortheath as the bus service that was to be reinstated would only be travelling in the one direction, which meant these shelters would not be used.

20.9 Football pitches. Three applications to use the pitches for the 2011/12 season had been received, two of which were from existing users

Gresley Rovers had asked whether account could be taken of the fact that they incurred additional costs of £120 last season finding alternatives as the pitch was re-seeded. This was noted.

It was agreed to continue with the present arrangements whereby St Matthews FC and Gresley Rovers share the top pitch and Overseal Junior FC used the bottom pitch; the charges would be as agreed as part of the budget review in January.

20.10 Sustainable Communities Act. Leiston Town Council had drafted a proposal that applicants for planning permission for a major development would be required to:

- Attend a meeting of the Parish Council or of a duly convened Parish Meeting to answer any questions on the application; and
- Fund the Council or Parish Meeting to commission an independent report on the application and critique of any reports that the applicant has submitted in support of the application.

The Council fully supported the proposals.

21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0160 Retrospective application for a new dwelling, double garage with Workshop/study and bathroom and a shed/bin store, land r/o 181/183 Burton Road.

0208 Residential development of 2 dwellings, land adjacent to 27 Moira Road (outline).

0140 Erection of a shed for storage of ground maintenance equipment, Barratt Mill, Shortheath.

0136 Erection of a lamp post, Barratt Mill, Shortheath.

2010/1131 Retrospective application for 2 structural alterations made to the former telephone exchange, Burton Road. (Advice included that no change of use is permitted by this application).

Applications for decision

0207 Erection of a second storey extension and replacement roof at The Grange, Moira Road. The following comments were sent to South Derbyshire District Council following consultation: The Parish Council has no objection to this application as the impact of the proposals is primarily a matter for immediate neighbours.

0257 Change of use of the site for a mixed use of gypsy caravan site and general caravan site for persons of non-gypsy status together with the addition of 3 mobile homes at The Conifers, Park Road.

The Parish Council strongly objects to this application.

The original application for part of this site was for a single caravan on compassionate grounds that a small child needed to attend hospital in Birmingham on a regular basis. However, this rapidly turned into a site with 3 caravans to accommodate relatives and subsequently it expanded further to 6 units plus shower block etc.

The owners of the site also own a large strip of land and the Parish Council consider that the intention is to expand the site gradually to turn it into a large caravan site occupying most or all of the land.. The Planning Authority has not listened to the views of local people and have allowed the continuous expansion of the site.

There are sound planning reasons for rejecting the current application, namely:

- There are several sites in South Derbyshire where caravans can be sited;
- There is a caravan site directly opposite this site;
- There are other sites just over the county border with Leicestershire;
- The site is remote from essential amenities such as shops, Post Office, school etc. and car journeys would be necessary to access any of these;
- The Localism Bill currently before Parliament would change the approach to such applications substantially and a decision should therefore not be taken at present but await the intentions of Parliament.

The Council also asked that this application be submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration rather than being determined by Officers.

0314 Erection of a stable block consisting of 2 stables and hay store, land at Sealwood Lane. Supported.

The following application had been withdrawn

0123 Thinning of horse chestnut trees, Overseal Manor, Hallcroft Avenue.

22 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

22.1 District Council. The District Council had tidied the car park at Woodville Road following fly tipping; however, the bushes close to the recycling bins were now overhanging the bins and prevented access to the rear of the bins, resulting in only the front portion being used and the remainder placed on the ground.

22.2 County Council. Request a 'cul-de-sac' or 'No through road' sign at the entrance to Stanleigh Road. The dangerous junction of Hallcroft Avenue/Woodville Road/Woodlands Road also needed urgent measures to improve visibility and therefore safety, particularly in view of a recent accident when a car had overturned.

22.3 Police. The Chairman reported recent crime statistics which she had received from the PCSO. The Police would be asked to support action to remedy the problems outlined above.

23 ACCOUNTS

23.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1701	L Baxter	Caretaker	396.48		396.48
*1702	J M Summerfield	Litter	88.95		88.95
1703	T Stewart	Litter	237.20		237.20
1704	Came & Co	Insurance premium	1998.03		1998.03
1705	I R Popejoy	Block windows in old changing rooms	437.00		437.00
1706	ESPO	Chairs	489.00	97.80	586.80
*1707	A&J Bartlett Ltd	Replace faulty light control	226.65	45.33	271.98
1708	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	65.16		65.16
1710	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	10.47		10.47
1711	C M Knight	Reimburse kitchen equipment for Village Hall	27.45		27.45
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	28.00		28.00
D/D	Plusnet	Internet charges	16.00	3.20	19.20

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

23.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	440.00
Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness	Use of Village Hall	270.00

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

24 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

Fires had been lit overnight at the fishing lake at the former Towpath site, creating potential danger. Also dates for the Summer Sports Programme would be published.

24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 24.1 Planters.** RF Gardening would be asked to include the planters at the Village Hall in the contract.
- 24.2 Village Hall equipment.** It was reported that the kitchen lacked some basic equipment and the toilets required soap dispensers. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mrs S Jones would determine what was needed and arrange for its purchase.
- 24.3 Bus fares.** A resident had complained that Arriva fares were high and had been referred to the Cash Saver discount scheme. Enquiries about this scheme would be made from Arriva.
- 24.4 Old changing rooms.** The Gala Committee's thanks for renovating the changing rooms were expressed.
- 24.5 Village heritage.** Mr Knight drew attention to the fact that 2012 was the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession and he had received a suggestion that a photographic archive showing the present condition of the village should be made and subsequently updated every few years. Ashby Woulds Town Council was understood to be considering a similar project, which would therefore combine to produce a current history of the Woulds area.
- The idea was supported and voluntary arrangements would be commenced.
- 24.6 Overgrown rights of way.** Several rights of way were known to be overgrown and Members were asked to note them and report to the next meeting.
- 24.7 CCTV equipment.** The Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership had approved a 50% grant towards the cost of installing the new equipment. The Council welcomed this.
- 24.8 Sculpture Trail.** In addition to making suggestions for the proposed Sculpture & Arts Trail, Members were asked to note items of interest which already existed in the village and to draw them to Mr Knight's attention.
- 24.9 Date of meeting.** The meeting scheduled for 1 September was rearranged to 25 August.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm

Chairman