

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 7 June 2012.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr D Baldaro, Mr R J Forsyth, Mrs S Jones, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Cox and Mr M A Knight.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

19 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 3 May 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 May 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, were received.

20 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

20.1 District Council. A report had been made to the District Council that the shrubbery in Edward Street was overgrown; the work had been included in the schedule.

The new Universal Benefit was due to be introduced later in the year and Cllr Frost reported that 66% of Council tenants were on some form of Housing Benefit. The new benefits would be paid to the tenants rather than direct to the Council as at present and this could cause difficulties.

It was reported that the public toilets in Woodville Road had no water supply to the taps and that the lights did not work. These items would be reported to the District Council.

The recycling bins continued to be inadequate; Cllr Mrs M E Hall advised that changes were in the pipeline but she would report the problem and ask for more frequent collections or larger containers.

20.2 Police. Mr McMillan reported crime statistics, which were comparatively low. (He left the meeting at 7.10 pm).

20.3 County Council. Cllr C Jones attended the meeting from 8.10 pm and showed a DVD about the new buildings providing advanced care for elderly people. 1600 apartments on 27 sites across the county were to be provided and, when a person over 55 became in need of care, their spouse could join them in buying, part buying or renting an apartment. The level of care provision was very high, catering for advanced dementia if necessary but stopping short of nursing care, which was the responsibility of the NHS. There were ancillary facilities, including a restaurant, bistro/bar, Internet cafe, etc, all of which were available to the public.

The projects were built on a partnership basis involving the Builders, District and County Councils and a Housing Association. Rents and purchase prices had been kept low and appropriate occupants would qualify for Housing Benefit.

Members were very impressed with the initiative.

21 CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that the necessary publicity had been given to the vacancy and that no request for an election to be held had been made. It was agreed to invite expressions of interest and to consider any such requests at the next meeting.

A resident attended the meeting and expressed an interest in the vacancy; she outlined her background and the reasons for her interest.

22 CLERK'S REPORT

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

22.2 Land at Manor School View. No response had been received from the Developers concerning provision of the path through the land. Members reported that there were still containers for plastics etc. on the land from when the site was developed about five years ago; the Clerk would press for their removal.

22.3 Proposed Newsletter. The Clerk reported that the cost of producing a single page of A4 printed both sides, at 1500 copies for each of two issues, would be approximately £220. The main practical matters were:

- Preparation of the document;
- Distribution to every household in Overseal and Shortheath;
- Whether to seek advertising to help with the cost. If so, who would obtain this?

Although there had been some requests from residents to replace the *Free for All*, no volunteers had come forward to help with its production. Requests for volunteers would be included in the website, local shops and the Gala Programme, but pending a positive response, no action could be taken.

22.4 Telephone box, Shortheath. The possible future use of this redundant telephone box was deferred from the last meeting. As an initial step, BT would be asked whether it was still available for disposal.

22.5 County electoral review. The Boundary Commission had been reviewing the electoral arrangements for the County Council and had produced draft recommendations for consultation until 8 June. The total number of County Councillors would remain at 64, of whom 8 would serve South Derbyshire. Seales Division remained unaltered.

22.6 Gas supply to Village Hall. British Gas had provided quotations for a renewal of the existing contract and, after some discussion with them, a three year fixed rate contract appeared to be the best value for money. There was some urgency in accepting any contract as prices fluctuated frequently and, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, a three year fixed price contract had been accepted. The additional cost, based on the consumption for the last year, was minimal and within the budget for the year.

A quotation from another supplier gave a fairly similar annual cost. This action was confirmed.

- 22.7 Planning legislation.** NALC had supported the following Early Day Motion submitted to Parliament for consideration. Its purpose was to support the proposition that Parish Councils should have a right of appeal against planning permissions granted when the Parish had objected to the proposed development. The ballot of Early Day Motions was to take place on 17 May to determine which of them would be discussed.

That this House supports the Planning Applications (Appeals by Town and Parish Councils) Bill introduced by the Hon. Member for xxxx with the support of the Suffolk and the Kent Associations of Local Councils, along with that of the Hampshire Association and the Hertfordshire Association; notes that the Bill would give Town and Parish Councils the right of appeal against the granting of planning permissions to which they had objected and that this policy is backed by the National Association of Local Councils which represents 10,000 Town and Parish Councils in England and by One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru which represents Welsh Town and Community Councils; and hopes that the Bill will become law soon.

- 22.8 Request to re-site grit bin.** The occupant of 177 Shortheath had asked that the bin be re-sited as it was visible directly from the property. The site was near to the bend in Shortheath and it needed to be reasonably convenient to allow safe distribution of grit in snowy weather. The resident had suggested a nearby alternative, but after careful consideration, Members decided that the present site was the most suitable.
- 22.9 Emergency lighting at the Village Hall.** An alternative quotation had been obtained, but was higher than the previous quotation. It was agreed that the quotation of A & J Bartlett Ltd in the sum of £390.00 plus VAT be accepted.
- 22.10 Burton Road allotments.** There had been another recent report of a resident in Coronation Street dumping materials over the fence onto the allotments, but this simply added to a long-standing problem. A solution would require a JCB and skips to remove the material which had accumulated over many years. In view of the cost implications, and because there would be no practical advantage, no further action was contemplated at this time.
- 22.11 Use of football pitches.** A request had been made by St Matthews Football Club that they may have two teams on a Saturday next season. They had contacted the Gresley Juniors who used the pitch in the 2011/2012 season, and said that they would not be using the pitch next season. Subject to confirmation of that, the request was approved.
- 22.12 Sanitary disposal arrangements.** Two quotations had been obtained from companies providing this service. The lower quotation from PHS was accepted in the sum of £258.00 per annum.
- 22.13 Planting at the roundabout on Burton Road.** RF Gardening were unable to quote for this work because of the volume of work to which they were already committed. It was agreed to seek the necessary planting licence from the County Council and to aim for the beds to be provided next Spring.
- 22.14 Football pitch renovation.** The District Council had offered a detailed service for improving the condition of the top pitch, but this appeared to involve measures which would adversely affect the Gala or use of the pitch next season. The Clerk would discuss with the District Council the possibilities of scheduling work for April 2013 or possibly September 2012, depending on the effects on the use of the pitch.

22.15 Code of Conduct. New templates for a Code had been produced by NALC and by Officers of the authorities in Derbyshire. As the information had only become available that day, it was not possible to deal with the detail at the meeting and it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with the Clerk, would examine the documents and submit a recommendation to the next meeting.

23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application for decision:

0415 Erection of 2 detached bungalows and 2 detached double garages and formation of a vehicular access (amended scheme), land r/o 8 Valley Road.

Object. The driveway to the plot is very narrow and delivery lorries would not be able to access the site/properties.

The access has to be shared with number 8, because their garage is at the rear.

There does not appear to be any room for turning vehicles belonging to number 8, or enough sweep off the new drive into the existing garage, unless number 8 are forfeiting all their garden for the development.

Parking, but it could be extremely difficult, as both plots are to accommodate large bungalows, plus the vehicles kept at number 8. It is not unusual these days for properties to have several cars, plus any visitors, tradesmen, service engineers or delivery drivers etc, so it is likely that parking will spill out onto Valley Road near the junctions of Squirrel Walk and the A444.

The two exits from Valley Road on to the A.444 both have very poor visibility.

24 ACCOUNTS

24.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1821	D Hall	Refund of Village Hall hire charge	20.00		20.00
1822	L Baxter	Caretaker	447.79		447.79
1823	J M Summerfield	Litter	72.80		72.80
1824	T Stewart	Litter	194.56		194.56
1825	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Toilet & cleaning materials	126.68	25.34	152.02
1826	J Kirby	Deputising for Caretaker	72.96		72.96
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	23.95	4.79	28.74
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	36.00		36.00

D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	169.93	33.99	203.92
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* This account had been paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

24.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	430.00
Overseal Brownies	Wreaths refund	20.00
Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness	Use of Village Hall	210.00

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

(Mr S C Sharpe left the meeting at 8.17 pm).

25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

25.1 Jubilee celebrations. Mr Patrick thanked the Council for the use of the facilities during these celebrations. Unfortunately, some damage to tarmac at the rear of the Village Hall had been caused by a fire in some refuse bins, believed to have been caused by hot ashes having been put in the bins. The Chairman had obtained quotations for repair of the affected area and also for the surrounding area, which was in a poor state of repair.

25.2 Trees on the Recreation Ground. A tree had fallen down and it transpired that the base was rotten. Mr Patrick agreed to seek a replacement from Chapman's Nurseries.

25.3 Rubbish on footpath. Some stones or gravel had been dumped at the side of the footpath from Woodlands Road. Clearance would be arranged.

25.4 Overgrown footpaths. A number of paths needed strimming and the Clerk would arrange for Mr M Guest to undertake the work as previously.

25.5 Stanleigh Road. Large vehicles were being directed along this road, a cul-de-sac, sometimes en route to the Village Hall. There was a difference in the postcodes, but it seemed that satellite navigation systems were misdirecting them. However, a suitable sign had already been provided and there appeared to be nothing further which the Council could do.

25.6 Overgrown hedge. A hedge in Woodlands Road was overgrown; as this was a Council house, the matter would be referred to the District Council.

25.7 Toilets at the Village Hall. Better flushing of the urinals was required and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

25.8 Footpath sign. The sign pointing to Daisy Lane from Hallcroft Avenue had been removed. The County Council would be asked to replace it.

25.9 Street nameplates. Victoria Court, off Coronation Street, had no nameplates and the District Council would be asked to provide them.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

Chairman