

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 29 May 2014.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr R Cox, Mr A R Hart, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mr M S Patrick, Mr S C Sharpe and Mr I Sheppard.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs R O'Brien, Mr D M Holloway, Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council).

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in minute no. 20 – Planning applications - concerning application no. 0431 residential development of 61 units with access, land at Valley Road as a relative lived close to the site. He took no part in the discussion or voting thereon, but spoke during the public question and answer session, at which the matter was raised by the public.

14 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

13 members of the public attended the meeting in connection with the planning application for 61 residential units at Valley Road, Overseal. They all objected strongly to the application and set out their reasons. The Council agreed to take these into account when considering the application later in the meeting.

A further resident referred to the burger van which was now regularly parked outside the car showroom at Woodville Road. He reported that lorries often parked in the adjoining bus layby while their drivers purchased food, and that this could cause difficulties if a bus needed to use the layby. The PCSO would be asked to look into this problem and the Chairman explained that the District Council had already been asked to check whether a planning application for a change of use from a car showroom to a joint use of car showroom, furniture shop and sales of fast food was required.

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

16 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

16.1 District Council. Complaints had been received that the District Council appeared to have stopped strimming, particularly around trees and on the boundaries of land. However, it was explained that herbicides were being used instead. Members referred to the trees outside the Village Hall, which required suckers to be removed from the base and ideally, attention by a tree surgeon.

Footpath 20 (New Walk) was now almost completely blocked by growth and the Footpaths Group had recently cleared the nearby footpath 31. The District Council were known to schedule the clearance later in the year, but children using the paths to get to school could not now do so. The District Council would be asked to schedule the work earlier in the year in future and to deal with the current problem. A black bin had been left outside 35-37 Woodlands Road since the previous week and should be removed.

A hedge was obstructing the footpath at 28 Coronation Street and the hedge at the junction of Moira Road and Hallcroft Avenue was also overgrown. These matters would be drawn to the attention of the County Council.

The grass at the land at Daisy Lane was to be cut imminently and organisation of the new footpaths was to take place during June.

16.2 Police. No matters were raised.

16.3 County Council. Cllr Mrs Lauro referred to the request that repairs to the carriageway surface at the traffic lights be effected and reported that a request for the necessary finance was to be considered by committee in the next few days. Temporary patching had been carried out at Moira Road. Flooding had occurred at Acresford Road and efforts were being made to contact the landowner concerned.

17 SPORTS CHANGING ROOMS FLOOR

The Chairman reported that a meeting to discuss this matter with an Officer of the District Council had been arranged for 19 June.

18 NEW ALBION SITE.

The Clerk reported notification from the site owners of their intention to seek an extension of landfill operations to 2024. A questionnaire was completed, which broadly recognised the necessity of completing the landfill operations and that the delay had largely been caused by factors outside the control of the operators. Further extensions of time should be avoided and efforts should be made to control the litter emanating from the site and visiting vehicles.

19 CLERK'S REPORT

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

19.2 Sign, Spring Cottage. Ashby Woulds Town Council had referred this matter to Leicestershire County Council some time ago and it had now been covered with a new, correct sign.

19.3 Village Hall kitchen updating. The work had been carried out on 10 May.

19.4 Cleaner. Mrs J Kirby had been appointed as part time cleaner based on 7 hours per week, subject to review. Members asked that she commence her work as soon as possible.

19.5 Play equipment. The Chairman referred to the possibility of providing items of equipment suitable for adults or older children, based on fitness. It was also understood that there could be some assistance from the District Council. The matter would be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been approved:

0273 Display of signage, 91 Woodville Road.

Applications for decision:

0405 Felling 7 Lawson Cypress trees at 5 Alice Gardens, protected by TPO 281. No objection but the trees should be replaced with a more appropriate form of planting.

0431 Residential development of 61 units with access, land at Valley Road.

The Council strongly object to this proposal.

- The access to the proposed development from Valley Road is unsuitable, being situated at the crown of a hill, on a bend in a narrow road and opposite a public footpath; a public footpath also runs through the site.
- Traffic using Valley Road would increase substantially and add to the problems of accessing A.444. Other traffic is already using Valley Road as a way of avoiding the traffic lights.
- The site is outside the village boundary.
- The site is a greenfield site and other brownfield sites exist elsewhere in South Derbyshire which should be used.
- The bus services referred to in the application have been changed and no longer exist.
- Although there is proposed to be a S.106 Agreement, part of which would contribute towards future educational provision, there is no guarantee that this would be used to benefit Overseal. Indeed, the school is full and there are two very old temporary classrooms and no room on the site for any further expansion. Other public services are also over-stretched e.g. the Doctor's surgery.
- The proposed development would distort the character of the village and tend towards a commuter village rather than providing for local need.
- There is likely to be disturbance to the occupants of the nearby elderly persons' bungalows and lack of privacy for those residents living close to the site.
- The site has certain characteristics which should be preserved; notably, it is a ridge and furrow site and this has existed for over 1000 years. Additionally, there is a geological fault through part of the site near to Valley Road.
- There are known to be bats roosting in two trees immediately adjoining the site, and no wildlife survey appears to have been carried out.
- A traffic count which has apparently been carried out should have been approved by the County Council, but no permission was sought or granted. It should be disregarded. Traffic speeds near to the proposed access can be expected to be slow because of the crown of the hill and the narrow road.
- The application should not be considered in isolation, but should await the next stage of the Local Development Framework, when sites throughout the village would also be considered and a balanced judgement can be made on the local need.

Finally, the District Council's Planning Committee would be asked to visit the site and all Members requested to attend so that they could see the problems before making a decision.

(Mr S C Sharpe declared an interest in this application as a relative lived close to the site. He took no part in the discussion or voting thereon, having spoken during the public question and answer session.)

0448 Resubmission of application no.0131 for extensions at 60 Valley Road. As this application had only been received the previous day, Members would be asked to notify the Chairman of their views so that a balanced view could be agreed.

21 ACCOUNTS

21.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*2038	Current Force Electrics Ltd	Lights for Village Hall	745.00	147.00	882.00
2039	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials & plastic cutlery	120.03	24.00	144.03
2040	L Baxter	Caretaker	511.20		511.20
2041	J M Summerfield	Litter	75.65		75.65
2042	T Stewart	Litter	151.44		151.44
2043	Linton & District Poppy Appeal	Wreath	20.00		20.00
2044	R Coates	Repair Village Hall floor & door	185.00		185.00
2045	DDS Sleep Eazee Electrical Ltd	Replace lights in Village Hall & foyer	668.00		668.00
2046	IH Properties Ltd	Upgrade kitchen cupboards & worktops, replace door to disabled toilet	2550.00	510.00	3060.00
2047	PHS Group	Sanitary disposal contract for the Village Hall	282.13	56.43	338.56
2048	Schoolgrounds	Refurbish telephone kiosk	450.00		450.00
D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	365.05	73.00	438.05
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	36.00		36.00
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	711.99	142.39	854.38

* This account had been paid between meetings as it was urgent.

21.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	710.00
Overseal Gala Committee	Refund cost of wreath	20.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept & Local Tax Support Grant	15801.00

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

22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 22.1 Rubbish at Lullington Road.** It was reported that a resident was leaving rubbish at the side of the road near to his property; as this constituted fly-tipping, the PCSO would be asked to investigate.
- 22.2 Hedge r/o properties in Edward Street.** The rear boundary hedge was trimmed by the owner of the adjoining farm, but not properly cut back for fear of damage to cars. The farmer would be asked to liaise with residents when next cutting they hedge so that the cars could be removed to avoid damage and to enable a proper cut to be carried out.
- 22.3 Temporary signs.** Several temporary signs around the village, advertising events in other villages, or properties for sale, were often left in place longer than necessary. This was to be deplored and it was understood that some were removed by residents.
- 22.4 Footpaths Group.** The Group had requested that the Council meet the cost of two grass hooks to assist their work. This was agreed and the cost would be reimbursed on production of an invoice.
- 22.5 Planters.** Members considered that refreshment of the planting was often not carried out sufficiently promptly after a request had been made to the contractors. The contractors would be asked to deal with this problem and in particular to ensure that the planters were replanted before Gala Day in July.
- 22.6 Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership.** A report on a recent meeting was submitted; Police priorities were traffic matters and speeding, which was in accordance with expressed wishes. Recently, Police had stopped large numbers of vehicles and had found many people without seatbelts, or using mobile telephones, vehicles which needed attention and in some cases which were unfit to continue their journeys. Members supported these initiatives and hoped that they would be carried out regularly.
- It was understood that grants may be available for certain works and an application to fund an additional CCTV camera would be made.
- 22.7 Community Fund.** Mr Knight drew attention to this national fund, which enabled Parish Councils to borrow money over an extended period, to fund community projects in their area. While a suggestion had been received that land be purchased to control development, it was understood that this was not the sort of project which would receive support, but rather preserving or providing community facilities such as libraries faced with closure.
- 22.8 Solar panels.** The Clerk was asked to investigate the feasibility of providing panels for the Village Hall.
- 22.9 Music Festival.** Mr Patrick reported that the Festival had been very successful, despite adverse weather conditions, and that it would probably become an annual event. He thanked the Council for the use of the facilities.
- 22.10 Village Hall drainage.** There had been some surface water flooding outside the Village Hall and the cause would be investigated and remedied.

22.11 Dreamscheme. The project sought clarification of a number of matters which they were considering assisting with in August. The Clerk would contact the group and clarify what was required.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

Chairman