

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 10 March 2011

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

In attendance: Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan (PCSO).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M A Knight and Mr S C Sharpe.

99 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

100 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The owners of 167 Burton Road attended the meeting to hear the discussion of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of a dwelling on land to the rear of this property. Under the circumstances, the Council agreed to vary the agenda and to discuss the matter at this time.

Appeal. An appeal had been lodged against the refusal of permission for erection of a dwelling on land to the rear of 167 Burton Road (2010/0575). The Council strongly objected to the proposal on the grounds that PPS3 had removed the previous presumption in favour of development of garden land and local planning authorities were now free to make their own decisions on such applications. In this case, the site was at the rear of an existing property and would lead to cramped development of the site. It could set a precedent for development of the rear gardens of several neighbouring properties. The highway authority clearly had reservations about the access drive between the existing dwellings, use of which would be intensified. The District Council refused the application on 3 grounds:

- Development outside the village confines;
- Out of character with the line of the existing buildings as it is in the rear garden;
- Access via a narrow driveway and would have a detrimental effect on the amenity of the neighbours.

The owners spoke in favour of their application and sought the Council's support in the appeal. They were concerned that lack of suitable sites could mean that younger people would not be able to remain in the village, and that the site was not visible and the proposal was supported by several neighbours.

Following careful consideration, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council's previous objections to the original application be repeated as representations on the appeal.

101 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2011, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record, subject to correcting the final line of Minute no 93.1 (Progress report) to read 'planting' instead of 'plating'.

102 INSPECTION OF VILLAGE HALL

The Council inspected the Village Hall; the premises were in good order.

103 CLERK'S REPORT

103.1 Progress report. A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). It was agreed to press for progress on:

- 37.4 – sub-station fence;
- 31.3 – accidents, Burton Road – details of the causes of the accidents from the Police;
- 36.5 Land at Manor School View – tree planting;
- 59.3 – former telephone exchange, Burton Road – more rubble was now on the site.

103.2 Request for pedestrian crossing. A request had been received from a local resident that the Council ask for provision of a pedestrian crossing on the A.444 Burton Road near to the supermarket. Children were among those crossing the road regularly and many of them had to cross the road at this point to go to the bus stop. It would have the benefit of controlling parking in the immediate vicinity. A member of the public attended the meeting in respect of this matter and reported that she regularly encountered difficulty crossing the road near to the supermarket because of heavy traffic and restricted visibility because of parked vehicles. Members pointed out that vehicles often parked at this spot and that there were conflicting vehicle movements from the entrances/exits from the supermarket car park as well as traffic in both directions on the main road. Previous representations to the County Council had resulted in a site meeting, which coincided with an unusually quiet time; consequently, the County Council had decided that action was not warranted.

However, Members considered that the problem had become more acute and it was agreed to make further representations to the County Council to reconsider providing a pedestrian crossing at this point.

103.3 CCTV system. The Clerk reported three quotations for replacing the CCTV system with a more modern system with better definition cameras. A further quotation was expected from another company, which had surplus equipment, and it was agreed to await that before reaching a decision.

103.4 Community Fire Safety. The Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service had introduced this scheme and was seeking Community Fire Safety Champions, volunteers who would act as links between the Fire Service and the community, distributing press releases, campaigns and promotional material. They would raise awareness of the importance of installing and testing fire alarms, planning an escape route and the general causes of fire. The Council would co-operate as far as possible on distribution of materials.

103.5 DALC consultations. Members were invited to comment on:

- Code of recommended practice on data transparency; representations by 7 March (received 22 February)
- Community right to buy assets of community value; representations by 16 April;
- Community right to challenge; representations by 16 April.

Data Transparency. Most of the data to be published was already contained in Minutes or other documents which the Council published as a matter of course. While there had been some concern about publication of some information – mainly financial – in csv format, this would enable people accessing the Council's website to download and perform their own calculations, but not to alter what was published online. Noted.

Community Right to Buy. The aim was to provide a framework to allow community organisations to buy assets threatened with closure e.g. village shops. Noted.

Right to Challenge. In this case, the aim was to allow community groups to bid to run local government services. It was considered that there was a danger that enthusiasm might decline after an initial surge. Noted.

103.6 Skateboard facilities. A quotation had been obtained to provide a strip of concrete to allow skateboarding. There would be a smooth concrete strip, either 3m or 4m wide and 15m long at the end of the MUGA. This would start at the access footpath and extend across the full width of the MUGA. Following an inspection, it was considered that the chosen site would restrict vehicle movements when lorries had to access the recreation ground and that a better site would be the other end of the MUGA.

RESOLVED: (a) That the quotation of DG Beeston Building Services of Ashby de la Zouch be accepted in the sum of £1540.00 for a 4m wide strip, but that it be sited at the other end of the MUGA;

(b) That the Council's Insurers be informed of the project;

(c) That an application for financial support be made to the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership;

(d) That Cllr C Jones be thanked for his agreement in principle to provide match funding.

103.7 Local Development Framework. The Localism Bill currently before Parliament was to abolish the Regional targets for house building and review the system for preparing Local Plans. Communities would be able to prepare their own Neighbourhood Plans (though not all were expected to do so), which would then be subject to independent review to ensure some degree of conformity with Local Plans. The first stage was for landowners and developers to suggest sites which they would like to be available for development, but the second phase, planned for early 2012, was to select from those sites and produce a draft Local Development Framework. This would be accompanied by a revised 'encouragement' for communities through incentives rather similar to the S.106 agreement process. It was expected that the Localism Bill would become law early next year.

103.8 South Derbyshire District Council Budget. The District Council had proposed a standstill in its Council Tax for 2011/2012 but the Government's financial settlement had meant budget reductions of 14.2%, or £1.7 million, and 12.2% the following year. This had been achieved by a variety of methods, including a large number of staff being transferred to Northgate, a private sector employer, and a top management review. The new management structure comprised the Chief Executive and one Director, with three Heads of Services. The S.136 grant to Parish Councils would not be affected.

103.9 Electoral Review. The review had been completed and would come into effect at the May elections. There was no change to representation for Overseal, which remained in a 2-member Ward. However, there would now be 15 Wards (previously 17) and the 36 members would not change in total.

103.10 Planning consultations. A new system was to be tried for consultations on planning applications. The Clerk would receive notice of the consultation by email, including a hyperlink to the application concerned. The timetable for responses would remain unaffected and therefore the current system of including information in the agenda would not change. However, plans would not be available at the meeting unless they were printed at A4 size.

In the case of urgent consultations where a response was required before the next meeting, the Clerk could forward the relevant letter to Members by email and seek responses to the Chairman to co-ordinate; alternatively, the present system of circulating printed details and reduced size plans could continue.

It was agreed to operate the email consultation system for urgent applications and to inform that District Council that the small size of plans made it very difficult to express cogent views on applications.

103.11 Bowling green hedge. The Bowls Club had arranged for the hedge to be cut back at a cost of £65 and had asked that the Council make a contribution towards it. It was agreed to contribute £50.00.

103.12 Village Hall concession. Swadlincote Lions were to hold a charity race evening in support of Newlands House at Netherseal and requested a concessionary hire rate. It was agreed to reduce the normal cost of £80 by 50% in accordance with previous practice.

104 REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS

104.1 Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre Trust. The Trust had requested a donation towards their work and it was agreed to make a donation of £25.00 in accordance with previous practice.

104.2 Sharpes Pottery Heritage Trust. The Trust's Chairman had made an appeal for support for provision of a children's play area at the museum. It was agreed to make a donation of £25.00.

105 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications for decision:

0136 Retention of a lamp post, Barratt Mill, Shortheath. No objection.

0140 Erection of a shed for storage of ground maintenance equipment, Barratt Mill, Shortheath. The map of the site provided was extremely old and out of date and the small scale made it difficult to identify the location of the shed. The District Council would be informed of this. Provided the District

Council was satisfied that the location and design of the shed did not conflict with the recent appeal decision (see below) the Council had no objection to the application.

0159 Erection of an extension and conservatory, Georgeland House, Green Lane. The only document available online in respect of this application was the application form; there were no plans indicating the location and extent of the proposals. Therefore, the Council felt unable to comment.

Appeal decision:

2009/0030 Enforcement notice requiring the removal of a shed, Barratt Mill, Shortheath. The appeal had been dismissed and the deemed planning application refused. The shed was sited in woodland and was visible from the public footpath, and it was contrary to saved Environment Policy 1(iii) which required that development outside settlements protects and safeguards the character of the countryside. The Inspector had found that this development was in conflict with that policy.

106 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

106.1 District Council. No matters were raised.

106.2 Police. The PCSO reported crime statistics for the month, which showed a reduction against the previous month.

106.3 County Council. Cllr Jones was appraised of the discussion about provision of a pedestrian crossing on Burton Road (minute no 103.2) and agreed to support a further assessment by the County Council. However, he advised that the financial situation was tight. He provided a plan, issued in confidence, indicating the locations of accidents on A.444 and whether they involved injuries.

107 ACCOUNTS

107.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1668	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Replace water heater at Village Hall, & lights to changing rooms	652.34	130.47	782.81
*1669	L Baxter	Caretaker	414.27		414.27
*1670	J M Summerfield	Litter	56.96		56.96
1671	T Stewart	Litter	177.90		177.90
1672	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd	Barriers in passageway at Village Hall	290.00	58.00	348.00
1673	MACE	Intruder alarm service contract	164.36	32.88	197.24
1674	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Toilet & cleaning supplies	60.12	12.02	72.14
1675	Moirra Replan	Photocopying charges	192.75		192.75
1676	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Modification of the electrical system and safety check, Village Hall	1357.02	271.40	1628.42

1677	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	9.92		9.92
1678	J Kirby	Deputising for Caretaker	100.81		100.81
1679	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	185.09		185.09
1680	A M Norris Ltd	Service 2 boilers & safety checks	134.01	26.80	160.81
1681	Overseal Memorial Bowls Club	Contribution towards hedge cutting	50.00		50.00
1682	Sharpes Pottery & Heritage Trust	Donation towards children's play area	25.00		25.00
D/D	Plusnet	Internet charges	16.00	3.20	19.20

* These accounts had been paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

107.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	307.00
Various	Allotment rents	204.50
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	1680.00

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

108 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

None.

109 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

109.1 Overhanging hedge. A hedge near to the Robin Hood public house was overgrown. Mr Patrick agreed to contact the probable owner.

109.2 Bus shelter, Shortheath. The bus shelter was in a poor condition; the County Council would be asked to effect repairs.

109.3 Land at Lullington Road. Lorry tyres had been dumped on the roadside at this site; Mr Hart would refer this to the Clean Team.

109.4 105 Lullington Road. Extensive rubbish deposited at this Council house had been reported to the District Council. They would be pressed to take action to improve the appearance of the premises.

109.5 Floodlights, supermarket, Burton Road. The lights at the rear were powerful and distracting and the owners would be asked to adjust them.

109.6 Litter, A.444. Several Members referred to the large amounts of litter in the hedgerows on the A.444 and other roads and it was suggested that the Community Payback personnel might clear it. The Probation Service would be asked whether this could be arranged.

109.7 Litter clearance. The Clerk reported that, following a previous discussion on the extent of the Council's litter clearance scheme, he had arranged for one of the Lengthsmen to clear several other roads on a regular basis. This would involve additional working hours amounting to 2 hours per week. This was agreed.

109.8 Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership. The Chairman reported on a recent meeting which she had attended. Arrangements had been made for young people to be involved in a variety of outdoor activities. An application for grant towards the cost of the replacement CCTV system could be made to the Partnership.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chairman