

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 1 March 2012.

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
Mr A R Hart, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

**In attendance:** Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr R Cox and Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

## 92 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 93 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Overseal Allotments Association asked whether the vacant land between the new allotments at Lullington Road and the houses could be used for car parking to avoid parking on the road pending construction of a car parking area within the site. The Clerk was asked to submit the request to South Derbyshire District Council. The Association also raised the question of a water supply, and it was suggested that they approach a local firm which could supply containers at no cost.

Enquiries were also made as to the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and Mr Patrick outlined the plans made by the Gala Committee for a Party in the Park on June 2 and the beacon lighting on 4 June.

## 94 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record subject to inserting the words 'to be cut back' after 'Nature Reserve' in the second line of the second paragraph of minute no 82.2.

## 95 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**95.1 District Council.** Cllr Frost reported that the possibility of the District Council meeting the cost of the legal fees for the transfer of the land at Daisy Lane had recently been referred to a Committee and that a decision was expected shortly.

A decision on the Enforcement notice appeal relating to the gypsy caravan site at Acresford had been taken and the Inspector had confirmed the Notice and given 6 months for the site to be vacated. However, the principal reason for not granting planning permission concerned the pollution of the River Mease and if this were overcome, the weakened controls brought in by the Localism Act could mean that the position could be changed in the future.

The District Council had frozen the rate of Council Tax for the forthcoming year, by using a significant amount of reserves.

The Clerk reported that the old telephone exchange at Burton Road was currently advertised to let as office accommodation and Cllr Frost agreed to look into this.

**95.2 Police.** The Chairman reported crime statistics for the month which had been supplied by Mr McMillan, and which indicated a rise in burglaries.

**95.3 County Council.**

A letter had been received from a resident of Sealwood Lane requesting provision of a 'No Through Road' sign at the entrance to the lane because vehicles were being directed along it by satellite navigation equipment, and then found that it was impossible to turn. She also requested that a 20mph restriction be imposed on Green Lane. It was agreed to support the request for a 'No Through Road' sign and to refer the other request to the County Council for consideration.

A petition to the County Council had been received from local residents concerned about the amount of heavy vehicles travelling along Woodville Road, which was subject to a weight restriction. This would be forwarded to the County Council.

(Mrs S Jones entered the meeting at 7.45 pm)

**96 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**96.2 Manor School View.** No further progress had been made towards surfacing this road and there was still no access to the open space land at the rear, which was supposed to be available for use by the public. The County Council would be asked to press the developers to complete the road surface and the District Council would be asked to enforce the opening of the open space land.

**96.3 District Council Grounds Maintenance.** The District Council was reviewing the Grounds Maintenance Service and invited comments on the current provision, with particular reference to maintenance of parks, open spaces, highway verges and hedges and grass cutting in residential areas. The Council considered that the general level of service was very good, though the problem of litter on grass verges remained serious. It was recognised that this was a widespread problem and that locally, some of the litter was attributable to vehicles using the tip. The Clerk was asked to contact Veolia as operators of the tip to request them to enforce the sheeting of vehicles using the facilities both before and after visiting they tip.

**96.4 Use of Village Hall.** The Council had made a small grant in September 2011 to enable a community arts project to proceed. The organiser had now requested help with the fee for using the Village Hall for a workshop associated with this project. She had reserved the Village Hall for four hours on 5<sup>th</sup> April (which would normally cost £40) and had asked that the Council waive the fee, or reduce it. It was agreed to reduce the charge by 50% subject to consultation with the Pre-school, who paid for use of the premises on Thursday afternoons, to ensure that they did not need to use it.

**96.5 District Council's Scrutiny work plan.** The District Council were to re-examine their programme of scrutiny in March and had asked that the present programme be brought to Members' attention. Noted.

- 96.6 Street naming and numbering.** The District Council intended to pass a resolution to take effect on 1 April relating to the procedures for street naming and numbering. This was partly to ensure legal regularity and partly to allow the introduction of charges for these services. Noted.
- 96.7 Queen's Jubilee – Dedicating green spaces.** The Circular from DALC was submitted for information (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). It was thought that two areas of land could be considered for designation as 'Jubilee Fields' and the implications would be discussed further at the next meeting.
- 96.8 Flood Liaison meeting.** The Clerk reported an invitation to this meeting to be held on 29 March. Noted.
- 96.9 Request for donation.** A request for a donation towards the work of the Swadlincote Community Transport service, specifically to enable them to purchase wheelchair restraints and safety equipment. It was agreed to make a grant of £50.00.
- 96.10 Pre-school.** The Clerk gave details of difficulties which had occurred recently which had caused the Pre-school to have to cancel a day's sessions. He had apologised on behalf of the Council that this had occurred and read a letter of explanation from the Pre-school.

## 97 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### Applications for decision:

0088 Formation of a vehicular access, 15 Lullington Road. Supported.

0068 Erection of stable block consisting of 3 stables, Oak Close Castle Gresley (near to Overseal boundary). Supported

### Planning appeal

Change of use to mixed use of gypsy caravan site an 3 mobile homes, The Conifers, Park Road. The appeal was against the refusal of planning permission and subsequent enforcement notice and the Clerk submitted representations which had been sent as part of the appeal documentation. This was confirmed.

## 98 ACCOUNTS

### 98.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1794	Aprays	Second floor investigation to changing rooms	650.00	130.00	780.00
1795	Meon Marketing	Spray paint	8.85	1.77	10.62
1796	A Cox	Ploughing Lullington Road allotments	50.00		50.00
1797	L Baxter	Caretaker	416.67		416.67
1798	J M Summerfield	Litter	58.36		58.36
1799	T Stewart	Litter	194.56		194.56
1800	Overseal Gala Committee	Grant towards Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	450.00		450.00

1801	A M Norris Ltd	Replace stopcock to Pavilion	177.37	35.47	212.84
D/D	British Gas	Electricity bill	146.95	29.39	176.34
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	23.95	4.79	28.74

## 98.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	200.00
BT	Refund of telephone charges	5.12
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	720.00
Various	Allotment rents	96.00
Derbyshire County Council	Rights of Way refund	380.00
St Matthews Football Club	Use of pitch and changing rooms	150.00

**98.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents were inspected.

## 99 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

The Precept for 2012/2013 and major investment plans.

Dog fouling item to be repeated later in the year.

## 100 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**100.1 Village Hall.** A list of keyholders would be produced. The numbers of tables for use in the Village Hall was also queried, but a later conversation with the Caretaker confirmed that there were sufficient.

**100.2 Replacement trees.** Mr Patrick reported that replacement fruit trees for the recreation ground and replacement lime trees for those which had died had been located and would be obtained shortly.

**100.3 Land at Daisy Lane.** It was pointed out that, if improvements to this land were to take place this year, it was necessary to carry out some preparatory work urgently. The land still belonged to the Developers and therefore permission of the Liquidators would be needed. However, Mr Knight agreed to contact specialist advisors to seek information about establishing the land as a wild-flower meadow.

**100.4 Protection of property – 'Smart Water'.** The Chairman reported information about the use of 'Smart Water' to identify property if it were to be stolen, and reference was also made to an alternative, known as DNA. Promotion of these measures by using them to identify Parish Council property was considered to be worthwhile and Mrs O'Brien agreed to obtain further information from the Police.

## 102 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

## 103 CIVIC AWARD

Nominations had been received for an Award, and would be considered further at the next meeting.

#### **104 SPORT CHANGING ROOMS**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Clerk seek initial advice from a local, specialist Solicitor on the strength of the Council's position, subject to this involving only a modest cost.
- (b) That, subject to not receiving legal advice to the contrary, a direct approach be made to the District Council to discuss the matter.

#### **105 QUOTATIONS**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the quotation of Davies Builders of Coton-in-the-Elms in the sum of £17860.00 for the total refurbishment of the toilets at the Village Hall be accepted and the work arranged for the Easter break;
- (b) That people who had booked the Hall during that period be contacted and arrangements made for the bookings to continue if practicable, using the alternative toilets at the other end of the Village Hall.
- (c) That no decision be made on quotations for the surfacing of the car park extension but that further alternatives be discussed with the contractors concerned and revised quotations obtained on a directly comparable basis.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

**Chairman**