

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 7 March 2013.

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
Mr R Cox, 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), Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

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

## 127 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 128 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

(Mr S C Sharpe arrived at 7.10 pm)

## 129 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record, subject to the last sentence in the comments on planning application no 0085 – extension, 24 Bailey Avenue (minute no 124) – being corrected to read:

‘The public footpath was used by elderly people, who required good lighting and by youths drinking alcohol and leaving their litter’.

## 130 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

### 130.1 District Council.

Cllr Frost reported that there was a budget shortfall at the District Council, the effects of which had yet to be determined. Members reported that the condition of the former shop at Coronation Street was dangerous and it had previously been reported to the District Council. Cllr Frost agreed to ask the Environmental Health Department to investigate.

**130.2 Police.** The PCSO reported recent crime statistics, which were very low. Although efforts had been made to intercept the motorcyclist who travelled through the village early in the morning at great speed, these had been unsuccessful and it would be necessary for residents to identify the registration number.

The damage to the MUGA gates had resulted in two youths being identified and they were to undertake community work by way of restorative justice.

**130.3 County Council.** Cllr Jones referred to the new residential home, which had now been opened and was a great success. Standards were very high and the public were able to use some of the facilities, including restaurant and bar. A further 27 similar premises were to be provided across the county.

The County Council was near to concluding an agreement to install fibre-optic broadband throughout the county. An apprenticeship scheme was also going well, with 500 apprentices having been recruited by the County Council and roughly a further 500 by businesses.

Periods of heavy rain and freezing conditions had resulted in the sub-base of several roads failing and it had been necessary to suspend all routine highway maintenance so that these problems could be addressed.

Members referred to the ongoing problem with HGVs using Woodville Road and it was reported that no reply had been received to a letter sent some time ago explaining the reasons why the height allowance in the present Order should be discontinued. Cllr Jones agreed to pursue this matter.

### **131 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER**

The Clerk reported that two expressions of interest had been received from local residents; both were present at the meeting and expanded on their reasons for seeking co-option.

RESOLVED: That Mr D M Holloway be co-opted to membership of the Parish Council.

### **132 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**132.2 Land at Daisy Lane.** Following the site meeting with the District Council, residents and the advisor from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, it had been established that the reason for designation of the site as a Wildlife area was related to species of grasses and possibly wild flowers. However, designation did not impose legal duties or restrictions and the species had become impoverished over the years. The Trust would aim for improvement in future plans for maintenance.

The District Council now owned the land and their maintenance section was appraising the needs for maintenance and improvement. A meeting had been held with residents immediately prior to this meeting and the Clerk reported details. Residents favoured planting a Community Orchard with heritage apple trees in two groups, with a feature tree in the centre. The grass would be kept natural and mowed once or twice a year, and hedges would be maintained; the most immediate attention needed was to the hedge at the rear of Hallcroft Avenue and the shrubs alongside the Daisy Lane carriageway. Benches or seats were not favoured as they could attract groups of people similar to those misusing the alley near to Woodville Road. Also, surfacing of the public footpaths through the site was supported.

The suggestions were generally approved for forwarding to the District Council. Mr Knight reported that he understood that the National Forest would be interested in helping with provision of trees for such a project.

**132.3 Litter collection.** The Clerk reported that one of the Lengthsmen wished to reduce her hours from 8 to 6 per week for personal reasons and she had suggested reducing collections in Hallcroft Avenue to once weekly and in Forest View to once monthly. This was agreed.

**132.4 Commemoration of the centenary of the First World War.** Derbyshire Lives was a research project undertaken by Bright Ideas on behalf of the County Council to recognise the approaching centenary and to mark other anniversaries between 2014 and 2018. They were asking whether Parish Councils were getting involved in the commemorations.

Mr Patrick pointed out that the plans for tree planting at Daisy Lane presented an opportunity for one of the two groups of trees to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War and the second group to refer to those from the village who lost their lives during the Second World War. Small interpretation signs could be provided for this purpose.

**132.5 Request for donation.** Victim Support had asked for a donation towards their work in South Derbyshire. They currently supported 8 victims in the District and had one volunteer. It was agreed to make a donation of £25.00.

**132.6 Footpath closure extension.** The closure of footpath 9, relating to works at the sewage works, had been extended until 30 September 2013 or when the works were completed, whichever was the earlier. Noted.

**132.7 Licensing.** On 7th January 2013 the Government announced plans to cut unnecessary regulations around neighbourhood events. The change would mean that community venues – including community centres, schools, village halls and hospitals - would be exempt from licensing restrictions. They would be free to put on cultural events like dance displays and concerts without having to apply to the local council for a licence. Under current rules, eligible organisers either had to apply for a Temporary Event Notice at least 10 days prior to putting on every event, or apply for a premises licence, that on average costed well over £200 for new applications.

Following Parliamentary approval, the measures to deregulate plays, dance and indoor sport were expected to come into effect in England and Wales by April 2013. The remaining legislative measures, including live and recorded music and entertainment activities at community venues would be introduced to Parliament as soon as possible. Noted.

**132.8 Date of Meeting.** The District Council would require use of the Village Hall on Thursday 2 May as a Polling Station and it would therefore be necessary to change the date of the meeting scheduled for that day.

RESOLVED: That the date of the meeting be changed to 9 May 2013.

**132.9 Damage to MUGA gates.** During the weekend of 16/17 February, the metal gate had been wrenched off its hinges, requiring considerable force. The gate was moved to a place of safety and repaired by DSK Engineering at a cost of £100 plus VAT. Within a few days, the gates were damaged again, but the PCSO had identified the two youths responsible and they had admitted causing the damage. DSK Engineering had quoted £280 plus VAT for a strengthened repair.

The strengthened repair was approved and arrangements would be made through the PCSO for the youths to undertake community work by way of restitution.

**132.10 Civic Dinner.** The Chairman of the District Council had invited all Members to the Civic Dinner at Branston Golf & Country Club on Saturday 23 March. Tickets should be requested by 11 March. Noted.

**132.11 South Derbyshire District Council Scrutiny Programme.** The District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed Council services and those delivered by other organisations. The programme was refreshed annually and the Committee invited suggestions as to future work areas.

**132.12 Flood Liaison Meeting.** The next meeting would be held on 21 March at 10 am in the Civic Offices.

**132.13 Request for litter bin.** A request had been received for a litter bin to be sited near to the bus stop near to the junction of Burton Road and Green Lane. It was agreed to find out the cost of a bin and whether the District Council would undertake emptying if the Parish Council paid for the bin.

**132.14 Utility costs.** An approach had been received from LSI Independent Utility Brokers Ltd offering to seek the best terms for provision of gas, electricity, water and telecoms services at no cost to the Council. They currently acted on behalf of a wide variety of local authorities, businesses and public bodies.

RESOLVED: That the company be asked to undertake this on behalf of the Council and their letter of authority be approved.

### 133 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**The following application had been approved:**

1041 Vehicular access, 5 Woodville Road.

**Applications for decision:**

1065 Erection of 3 detached chalet style bungalows, 8 Valley Road. Object. The Design & Access Statement is unclear in some parts and appears to be a copy of the statement attached to the previous application, referring in some cases to two dwellings and in others to three. The proposed development would result in overcrowding of this limited site and the access is narrow and the increased traffic from three houses would make access more difficult. The style of the dwellings is of dormer bungalows and some over-looking of neighbouring properties would still result.

0120 Extensions, 6 Manor School View. Supported.

0062 and 0063 Erection of two dwellings adjacent to The Oaks, Green Lane. Deferred for inspection by Members.

0153 Extension, 64 Lullington Road. Deferred for inspection by Members.

### 134 ACCOUNTS

#### 134.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

| Cheque | Supplier                                | Description                             | Net    | VAT   | Total  |
|--------|---|---|--------|-------|--------|
| 1901   | Breedon Aggregates                      | Roadstone for Gorsey Lees               | 182.97 | 36.59 | 219.56 |
| 1902   | L Baxter                                | Caretaker                               | 319.39 |       | 319.39 |
| 1903   | J M Summerfield                         | Litter                                  | 59.48  |       | 59.48  |
| 1904   | T Stewart                               | Litter                                  | 148.56 |       | 148.56 |
| 1905   | J Kirby                                 | Caretaker                               | 312.60 |       | 312.60 |
| 1906   | DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd | Repair gates to MUGA                    | 100.00 | 20.00 | 120.00 |
| 1907   | J E White                               | Reimburse domain registration setup fee | 50.38  | 10.08 | 60.46  |
| 1908   | MACE                                    | Intruder alarm contracts                | 164.36 | 32.88 | 197.24 |
| 1909   | Moira Replan                            | Printing                                | 218.90 |       |        |
| 1910   | South Derbyshire District Council       | Refill grit boxes                       | 240.00 | 48.00 | 288.00 |
| D/D    | British Gas                             | Electricity to Village Hall             | 265.65 | 53.13 | 318.78 |

**134.2 Receipts**

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Description</b>                     | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|
| L Baxter                   | Village Hall lettings                  | 100.00        |
| Various                    | Allotment rents                        | 120.00        |
| Derbyshire County Council  | Rights of Way refund                   | 385.00        |
| Overseal Brownies & Guides | Wreaths refunds                        | 50.00         |
| Overseal Pre-school        | Use of Village Hall                    | 1725.00       |
| British Gas                | Refund due to incorrect meter readings | 858.51        |

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

(Mr S C Sharpe left the meeting at 8.15 pm)

**135 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**135.1 Gorsey Lees – provision of roadstone.** Mr Patrick reported that residents had thanked the Council for meeting the cost of roadstone for repairs.

**135.2 Litter.** The Clean Team's efforts in collecting rubbish from road verges and hedges in the District were excellent, but it was noticeable that no similar provision was made in Leicestershire. The Clerk was asked to contact Leicestershire to point this out and to seek clearance. Also Veolia would be contacted again regarding litter in Park Road from lorries leaving the tip.

**135.3 Village Games project.** There had generally been a good response to the suggested provision of a Village Games day. It was agreed to suggest May Day as suitable and to meet the cost of £60 for coaching.

**135.4 Damage to grit bin.** The hinges of a grit bin in Forest View had been damaged and it was agreed to arrange a repair.

**135.5 Website.** Mr Cox reported that preparation of the website was under way and that he hoped to complete it shortly. The Council's email address – clerk@overseal.org – was now operational.

**136 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**137 PROVISIONAL TERMS OF TENANCY**

RESOLVED: That the terms of the tenancy set out in the Clerk's report be agreed and Fisher German be requested to conclude the Agreement.

**138 ALLOTMENT TENANCY**

The Clerk reported that the tenant of a plot at the Burton Road allotments had not paid the rent, due on 1 February, despite a written reminder.

RESOLVED: That the tenant be given 14 days Notice to Quit.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

**Chairman**