

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 1 May 2014.

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

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

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr D M Holloway and Mrs S Jones.

## 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs R O'Brien declared an interest in Minute no. (land at Manor School View) as a neighbour and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

## 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident drew attention to the fact that the road surface at the traffic lights was badly potholed and potentially dangerous. The Chairman explained that the County Council had been asked to effect proper repairs but had not yet done so. Mention was also made that the surface of Moira Road, which had already been reported, was worsening. Cllr Mrs Lauro agreed to press for action on both matters.

## 3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

RESOLVED: That Mrs C M Knight be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

## 4 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

RESOLVED: That Mr M S Patrick be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

## 5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record subject to correction of Minute no 100 (Public Questions and Answers) to record that 23 residents had attended the meeting and expressed their reasons for opposing the proposed development at Valley Road, rather than 'several residents'.

## 6 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That the following Committees be established with the following membership.

**Disciplinary Committee.** (To deal with dismissal of an employee, should the case arise) - Vice-Chairman, Mrs R O'Brien and Mr M A Knight.

**Appeals Panel** (to hear any appeals on disciplinary matters) – Chairman, Mr I Sheppard and Mr S C Sharpe.

Two members to act as local contacts in the event of a major emergency – Mrs G Edwards (subject to her being willing to continue) and Mrs C M Knight

**7 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

RESOLVED: That the following appointments to outside bodies be made:

Heart of the Forest Forum	Mr M A Knight
Overseal Primary School Governor	Mr D Holloway
Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership	Chairman of the Council, with Mr M S Patrick or Mr S Sharpe acting as deputies
Netherseal, Overseal and Lullington Charity	Mrs C M Knight
New Albion Liaison Committee	Mr I Sheppard
Linton Area Committee	Chairman and Vice-Chairman

**8 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS**

**8.1 District Council.** Cllr Frost read a letter from the District Council concerning the floor at the changing rooms; a newly appointed Officer would shortly inspect the premises to determine the action needed and the District Council could then advise on possible grants to assist with repairs, and possibly the use of S.106 money from proposed developments. However, the District Council also denied any responsibility arising from inspections by their previous Building Control Officer. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting, when it was hoped that the Press would attend.

**8.2 Police.** Mr McMillan reported local crime statistics. Cllr Frost referred to an incident involving a large explosion and Mr McMillan confirmed that, to the best of his knowledge, no report on this aspect had been made to the Police. He also reported on the fast-food van which was now regularly stationed on private land at the junction of Woodville Road with Main Street and would be monitoring associated vehicles which were parking on double yellow lines nearby.

**8.3 County Council.** Cllr Mrs Lauro reported that top dressing of roads was about to start. She was thanked for her assistance in getting the pedestrian refuge outside the supermarket on Burton Road, which was under construction.

**9 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

**9.2 Land at Manor School View.** The Clerk reported on the suggestion of the developers that the footpath to be constructed across the site should be entered from the mid-point of the boundary facing Daisy Lane. Members objected to this as it was inconvenient and would direct users towards the busy A.444 rather than towards Hallcroft Avenue, which had always been the intention. A suitable site for the access had already been identified near to the junction of the two public rights of way and a few yards towards Moira Road; the developers would be asked to site the access at that point. They would also be asked to remove the metal fencing from the site, where it had been dumped for several years.

(Mrs R O'Brien declared an interest in this matter as a neighbour and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.)

**9.3 Daisy Lane meadow.** The land needed mowing and the District Council would be asked to attend to this.

**9.4 Lighting quotations.** An alternative quotation had now been obtained for replacement of the fluorescent tubes in the main hall with LED 'tubes', and installation of new LED lighting in the foyer.

- Replacement of fluorescent tubes with 10 LED 'tubes' - £1500; however, the contractor recommended that 6 be installed initially as he considered that the light output may be sufficient.
- Install 3 new LED lights in the foyer - £350.00
- Remove extractor fans from ceiling and make good – £300.00

These quotations were lower than that obtained previously from another contractor. It was agreed to accept all quotations, and to ask the contractor to install 6 LED 'tubes' in the main hall to assess their efficacy.

**9.5 Village Hall cleaning.** The possibility of providing cleaning assistance for the Caretaker had been discussed with him and early morning cleaning for about one hour appeared to be the most helpful, concentrating on the toilets, foyer and kitchen. It was agreed to advertise locally for one hour per day, 7 days per week at an annual cost of £2296.84 p.a. initially, rising to £2366.00 p.a. from October. The adequacy of the time allowed would be subject to review and any necessary adjustments made

**9.6 Use of volunteers.** The Council's Insurers had confirmed that if the Council accepted responsibility for the activities of volunteers acting on their behalf, such as Dreamscheme, snow clearance, or the Footpaths Group, then they would be covered for personal accident and public liability. They recommended a risk assessment be carried out and for the Council to ensure that the volunteers were competent to carry out the work. Councillors undertaking the same work would also be covered. It was understood that the Footpaths Group undertook their own risk assessments and the capability of their volunteers to undertake the work.

**9.7 Boggy area at the rear of the Village Hall.** Following an investigation, contractors had determined that the basic cause was that below a thin level of topsoil was impermeable clay. Their proposed remedy would be to lay land drains leading to the soakaway at the top of the embankment, which would then drain via the existing drain to the bottom of the field. However, the likely cost was very high for the probable benefits and it was suggested that a single trench leading to a large soakaway on the land would suffice and be much less expensive. Suitable contractors would be invited to tender for this work.

**9.8 New Albion landfill site.** Tapton Estates, the company operating the site, were applying for an extension of tipping to 2024 instead of December 2014. The principal reasons were that there had been a delay in commencing operations of some 6 ½ years due to legal challenges and because of reduced amounts being tipped because of recycling and landfill tax. A consultation event was to be held on 15 May 2014 and Members would endeavour to attend. The matter would then be discussed further at the next meeting.

## 10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### The following application had been refused:

0079 Four dwellings, Land adjacent to 19 Gorse Lees (outline). Contrary to policy, outside the village confines, not infilling or necessary for the operation of an established rural based activity.

### The following application had been approved:

0090 Erection of four 2-storey dwellings and two single storey dwellings, land at Overseal Manor, Hallcroft Avenue.

0186 Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new showroom, 159 Moira Road.

### Applications for decision:

0330 Crown reduction of trees, 3 Alexandra Court. Following consultation of Members, the Council had raised no objection to this proposal.

0356 Use of Units 1, 2 and 3 for alternative B1, B2 and B8 uses, Swains Park Employment Site, Park Road. No objection.

However, the previous planning approval (or S.106 agreement) with Coopers required that the diverted public footpath which previously ran through the site should be provided with a hard surface. This was never done and the requirement should be repeated and drawn to the new owners' attention.

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

## 11 ACCOUNTS

### 11.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2031	L Baxter	Caretaker	422.71		422.71
2032	J M Summerfield	Litter	60.72		60.72
2033	T Stewart	Litter	189.30		189.30
2034	I Fraser	Internal audit report, 2013/4 accounts	150.00		150.00
2035	RSA	Investigation of boggy area r/o the Village Hall	500.00		500.00
2036	DDS Electrical	Electrical safety checks at Village Hall and Pavilion	600.00		600.00
2037	A M Norris Ltd	Service gas boilers and safety checks, Village Hall and changing rooms	245.00	49.00	294.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	35.00		35.00

## 11.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	460.00
Overseal Bowls Club	Use of Pavilion & green	300.00
S Warner	Use of Village Hall	135.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	763.18

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

**11.4 Year end accounts.** The Council considered the report of the Clerk on the year-end accounts for 2013/2014 (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). Noted.

**11.5 Annual Return.**

RESOLVED: That the accounts for 2013/2014 and that the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Return.

**11.6 Internal Auditor's report.** The report was received and no actions were required.

## 12 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**12.1 Property at Woodlands Road.** It was reported that a hosepipe at this property had been left running for several days; this would be reported to the District Council which owned the property. Also, the District Council were to have taken action to reduce or remove the hedge at this property to ensure that it did not obstruct the adjoining footpath and they would be asked to press this matter.

**12.2 Plastic bin, Park Road.** Mr Knight agreed to seek information as to the ownership of this bin, which was unsightly and was being used as a dog bin.

**12.3 Planters.** The planter at the junction of Moira Road and Main Street was not well maintained and the contractors would be asked to improve it.

**12.4 Footpath, Lullington Road.** Some residents had complained that the path was becoming overgrown. However, it was the responsibility of the owners to maintain the hedges, but if the surface needed clearing, the Parish Council could assist.

**12.5 Overgrown bush, Hallcroft Avenue.** The Caretaker would be asked to cut back this bush, which was becoming an obstruction.

**12.6 Allotments, Edward Street.** The tenant of plot 19 had not cultivated the plot at all this year and the Clerk would advise him that unless he did so promptly, he would be evicted.

**12.7 Proposed developments at Valley Road.** It was understood that a meeting of interested persons was to be held shortly to discuss a range of possible actions.

**12.8 Land at Daisy Lane (Croft Orchard).** Mr Knight reported that an archaeological dig was to take place in June.

- 12.9 National Forest Walking Festival.** This event was to take place on 17 May and would include the official opening of a long National Forest Way which extended to 75 miles.
- 12.10 Sign, Spring Cottage.** Ashby Woulds Town Council would be asked whether any action had been taken concerning an unauthorised sign.
- 12.11 Proposed Council houses, Lullington Road.** The site had been examined with a metal detector, and many artefacts had been recovered, though these dated from the 1950's when the site had been occupied by prefabs.
- 12.12 Dog fouling.** Fouling continued to be a serious problem. Although additional bins had been suggested, evidence showed that these were likely to be ignored by some offenders.
- 12.13 Almshouses.** A vacant dwelling at the almshouses was to be refurbished and relet.
- 12.14 Dreamscheme.** The organisers had requested help with some aspects of their proposed improvements at the Village Hall and Youth Shelter. It was agreed that the Council would:
- Meet the cost of paint and tools for the internal painting of the computer suite at the Village Hall;
  - Distribute leaflets and posters if provided by Dreamscheme;
  - Measure the worktops in the computer suite and ascertain whether the Computer Club wanted any office equipment;
  - Allow free use of the Village Hall for a proposed drop-in session;
  - Offer advice on planting proposals.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

**Chairman**