

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 14 May 2015.

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman

Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, Mrs M Elton, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council).

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D MacMillan (PCSO).

## 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

## 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Proposed solar farms.** Mr J Hartley and a colleague attended the meeting and described their proposals for two solar farms in the Parish. No final decisions had yet been made but the recent public consultation event had proved generally positive. Each site would produce about 5 megawatts of power, sufficient to power about 1000/1200 homes. They had previously developed 22 similar sites elsewhere.

Questioned about traffic to and from the sites, it was indicated that after the construction period, which would last around 3 months, only one or two visits per month would be needed. Connections to the National Grid would require cables to be laid, in one case terminating in Woodville Road near to the car park and in the other at Castle Gresley. The County Council would determine the working hours and the extent of work on the highways to keep disruption of traffic to a minimum. Screening would be appropriate to the rural surroundings, probably post and wire fences which could be supplemented by hedges. Wildlife habitats would be encouraged beneath the panels and, as there were no concrete foundations, the site could quickly be restored to agriculture after the initial approved period.

## 3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mrs C M Knight was elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

## 4 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr M S Patrick was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

## 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 4 ELECTION RESULTS

The Clerk reported that nine members had been elected to the Parish Council, leaving one vacancy, as Mr R Hart, Mr D Holloway and Mr I Sheppard did not seek re-election. Two new members were Mrs M Elton and Mr A W Cook.

It was agreed to advertise for people interested in being co-opted to fill the vacancy and to consider any expressions of interest at the June meeting.

## 5 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That the following Committees be appointed with the membership shown:

**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 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

## 8 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

The Council were represented on a number of other bodies, and this may be reviewed from time to time.

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

Heart of the Forest Forum	Mr M A Knight
Overseal Primary School Governor	No nomination pending the reconstitution of the Governing Body
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 (appointed until October 2017)
New Albion Liaison Committee	Mr I Sheppard

## 9 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

- 9.1 **District Council.** Cllr Mrs Hall pointed out that the Parish Council meetings frequently clashed with those of the District Council's full Council or major Committees and asked whether there was any flexibility to avoid this. The Chairman indicated that the Village Hall was used every evening except Thursdays and that there was therefore virtually no scope to assist.

Construction of the new affordable homes in Lullington Road was now due to start in June.

Cllr P Murray said that he was pleased to have been elected to serve the local area, having been a District Councillor for eight years previously and four years in a senior position at the County Council. He was already dealing with several local issues which had been referred to him and would try to help with the continuing traffic problems affecting A.444.

Members drew attention to the persistent use of Woodville Road by HGVs, contrary to the Weight Restriction Order and the District Council's refuse collectors not returning the empty bins to the right place and leaving dropped litter. The bins at the recycling centre had recently been changed without consultation and there was now insufficient capacity for paper, which would lead to problems. Cllr Murray indicated that this was due to reduced prices paid by contractors for the product. However, Members were not satisfied with this, especially as Overseal was a key service village; school children had

been collecting paper for recycling and would now have nowhere to dispose of it.

The car park at the Co-op needed an 'In' and 'Out' system; however, the owners had been approached several times without success. The standard of mowing recently had been very poor; the grass had been left too long before its first cut. The area in Daisy Lane had only been mown that day and the vehicles used had damaged the newly installed paths.

- 9.2 Police.** The crime figures for April were presented, showing a limited number of more serious crimes. The Clerk was asked to find out when the cameras were last in operation.

- 9.3 County Council.** Highway drains in Stanleigh Road had been creating an unpleasant smell for a long time and Severn Trent Water seemed unable to locate the source of the problem. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council, with a copy to the District Council, to ask them to deal with this problem.

It was also reported that, despite previous attention, the gullies in Moira Road had flooded and backed up during recent rainfall. This was so severe that a manhole cover had been lifted by the water and this would be reported to the County Council.

## **10 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

- 10.2 Water supply, Edward Street Allotments.** The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with the developers of Edward Street in order to secure an agreement to connect to the water mains. While verbal agreement had been obtained, written confirmation had not been forthcoming. However, a newspaper report seemed to indicate that the group had gone into administration and no further progress was possible in the foreseeable future.

- 10.3 Derbyshire & Derby Minerals Local Plan.** A consultation had been launched in order to invite comments on elements of the Plan through a series of strategy papers.

The various papers dealt with the present extraction permissions, future demand, and the likely impact on communities. They covered aggregate crushed rock, building stone, cement, industrial limestone and particularly the limitation of extraction in the Peak District. Most of the deposits were in the northern half of the county together with sand and gravel in the Trent Valley. None of these impinged directly on Overseal, but there was always the transportation element to consider.

- 10.4 Footpaths Group.** The Group wished to erect its own notice board in the grounds of the Village Hall. The Group would be advised to seek a more suitable site.

- 10.5 Co-operation on planning applications.** Netherseal Parish Council and Ashby Woulds Town Council had agreed in principle to combine resources in opposing planning applications where appropriate - those involving traffic implications for A.444. Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council had asked for further information on how this co-operation would work, and this had been explained to them.

- 10.6 Rights of Way Maintenance Scheme.** The County Council had asked whether the Council wished to participate in the scheme for the coming year. If so, the allocation available would be £430. It was agreed to participate as in previous years.
- 10.7 Auto-enrolment - pension schemes.** DALC were offering a training course at Hulland Ward on 23 June at a cost of £25.00. In view of the complexities, it was agreed that the Clerk should attend.
- 10.8 Use of computer suite.** The Old Post Centre at Newhall had enquired whether the Village Hall had wi-fi facilities, which it did. They were seeking financial aid for a project to offer CV writing and employment advice, free of charge, to local unemployed people. If this was successful, they would visit on a monthly basis to allow a tutor to advise on the preparation of a CV and give other relevant advice. It was agreed that, to encourage this project, the first 3 sessions be offered free of charge subject to funding application being successful.
- 10.9 Civic Council meeting.** An invitation had been received for all Members to attend the Civic Council meeting on 28 May 2015 at The Delph, Swadlincote. Noted.
- 10.10 Football Pitch Improvement.** The Clerk reported that the bid for grant aid for this project to Sport England had been successful and an award of £65000 had been offered. The Council considered the report of the Clerk on this matter (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes), together with a verbal report on the probable fees of Mr J Wainwright, the Consultant who had prepared the Feasibility Study for this project. This indicated that the Council would need to find approximately £10000 from reserves in order to carry out the project.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Clerk enquire of Woodville Parish Council whether they had been able to reclaim all the VAT paid in respect of a similar project a short time ago;
- (b) That the advice of the District Council on the VAT aspect be sought;
- (c) That it be noted that the timescale would be restricted if the work were to be completed by October 2015, when weather conditions could be expected to become unfavourable for further work;
- (d) That, subject to these enquiries not disclosing undue difficulties, the Council agree in principle to accept the award and delegate a final decision to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
- (e) That Mr J Wainwright of Wainwright Landscape Architecture be engaged to deal with the selection of contractors, preparation of the specification and contract, supervision of the contract and all ancillary matters on the Council's behalf.
- (f) That Derbyshire County Council be engaged by Mr Wainwright to deal with the Health & Safety aspects of the contract at a fee of around £1600.

**11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**The following application had been refused:**

0050 Change of use to office use of former telephone exchange, Burton Road.

**The following applications had been approved:**

0158 Certificate of lawful use, erection of a single storey side extension, 28 Woodville Road.

**Applications for decision:**

0262 Two storey side extension, 59 Woodville Road. A response of 'No objection' had been submitted after consultation with Members.

0374 Single storey rear extension, 27 Moira Road. No objection.

**12 ACCOUNTS****12.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
2159	L Baxter	Caretaker	415.08		415.08
2160	J M Summerfield	Litter	78.10		78.10
2161	T Stewart	Litter	156.00		156.00
2162	J Kirby	Cleaner	170.80		170.80
2163	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Towels & toilet rolls	44.93	8.99	53.92
2164	S K Plumbing Ltd	Central heating & cold water supply repairs	105.00		105.00
2165	DDS Sleep Eazee Electrical	Repairs and replacement of strip lights	390.00		390.00
D/D	Southern Electric	Electricity to Village Hall	200.84	40.16	241.00
D/D	British Gas	Final electricity bill	403.26	80.65	483.91
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates (April & May)	71.22		71.22
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.50	3.70	22.20

**12.2 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	470.00
S Warner Diet & Fitness	Use of Village Hall	140.00
Overseal Allotments Association	Rent of land at Lullington Road	225.00
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	1335.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept and Local Support Grant	16301.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	278.27

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

**12.4 Accounts for 2014/2015.** A report on the accounts for the year and a copy of the Receipts & Payments Account as at 31 March 2015 (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Noted.

**12.5 Internal Auditor's report.** The Council considered the report of the Internal Auditor, together with sections of the Annual Return (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

**RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Internal Auditor be received, that it be noted that no actions were required as a result of the report and that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return for submission to the external Auditors.

### **13 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**13.1 Overload Music Festival.** Mr Patrick reported that this event was to place on 23 May.

**13.2 Litter bin at the MUGA.** This bin was often overflowing and additional provision or more frequent emptying was needed.

**13.3 Cllr S Frost.** The Council's thanks for the hard work on behalf of the Parish would be forwarded to Mr Frost.

**13.4 Footpath clearances.** The path from Daisy Lane to Main Street needed attention. Also, the path between Lullington Road and Bramble Walk was overgrown. The Clerk would arrange for these to be dealt with.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

**Chairman**