

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman

Mr A R Hart, Mr D M Holloway, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick, and Mr S C Sharp.

In attendance: Mr R Ledger (Director of Housing and Environmental Health, South Derbyshire District Council).

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

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

64 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

65 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

66 LAND AT LULLINGTON ROAD

Mr R Ledger, Director of Housing and Environmental Health at South Derbyshire District Council, attended the meeting to inform the Council of possible development of some of their land at Lullington Road.

There were about 2000 households on the waiting list and only about 225 vacancies per year. To help meet some of this need, the District Council was proposing to build Council houses in three parts of the District on land in their ownership, of which the site at Lullington Road was one. The intention was to build 12 houses, varying between 1 and 4 bedrooms each, on the southern side of the road at the end of the existing houses. Outline plans were shown to the Council, but no planning application had yet been made and therefore they were subject to change. The quality of the development would be high, so as to look more like private houses, and two parking spaces per dwelling would be provided. Priority would be given to residents of Overseal, Netherseal and Lullington, and to those in greatest need.

Members commented that the exclusion of the allotment site on the other side of the road was welcome. However, concerns were centred around the fact that the school was already full, traffic would increase putting further pressure on the junction with A.444 and the main routes to M.42 and Burton on Trent, and the right to buy. Mr Ledger confirmed that the houses would be constructed for the Council and not let via any third party. The Right to Buy was a statutory provision, but discounts would be subject to the cost floor provisions, which meant that prospective purchasers would have to pay at least the cost to the Council of building them, and this could be a deterrent.

Permission was given for the site to be surveyed with a metal detector prior to building, subject to the Council being notified of any finds.

67 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

- 67.1 District Council.** The frequency of emptying the litter bins, particularly those at Acresford Road and Woodville Road, was queried as they were often full and other litter deposited nearby. The District Council would be asked to increase the frequency of emptying. Dog fouling signs were available from the National Forest and a small quantity would be obtained.
- 67.2 Police.** The crime statistics for October were presented, showing low levels of crime in the Parish. However, further crimes were recorded at Acresford.
- 67.3 County Council.** The County Council would be asked to continue to monitor the traffic lights, as the timing was still giving problems. They would also be asked to remove the weight exemption sign from the junction of Woodville Road and Burton Road, as previously agreed. The lime trees in Hallcroft Avenue needed suckers removing from around the bases.

68 CLERK'S REPORT

- 68.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).
- 68.2 Governance.** In completing the Annual Return each year as the main part of the audit process, the Council certified that it had reviewed various controls during the year. These were:
- *Appropriate books of account have been kept properly throughout the year;*
 - *The council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for;*
 - *The council assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these;*
 - *The annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate;*
 - *Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for;*
 - *Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied;*
 - *Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained;*
 - *Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out;*
 - *Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts & payments...), agreed to the cash book, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.*
 - *Two other matters (petty cash and trust funds) are not applicable.*

In order to ensure that these responsibilities were properly carried out, reports on each were to be submitted to the next few meetings to give the opportunity to review and, if necessary, change the Council's procedures. The first two of these were considered at the meeting, dealing with books of account and financial regulations (copies attached to the official copy of the Minutes). The Council was satisfied with the present arrangements.

- 68.3 Draft Local Plan.** The District Council were consulting on Part 1 of the Draft Local Plan, dealing with housing, employment and strategic and development management policies, together with supporting documents. Details had been available at the drop-in events listed in the October report.

An extract from the section of the Plan affecting the southern villages was considered and covered the essential issues likely to affect Overseal (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

Proposed developments at Drakelow and Castle Gresley would have an effect on traffic on A.444 through the village and the need for replacement refuse disposal facilities for the existing Newhall one could also impact on Overseal. The River Mease Developer Contribution Scheme was allowing development to take place which would otherwise have been delayed because of the pollution of the watercourse. Because there was significant traffic congestion in the area, a requirement to proceed with the Swadlincote-Woodville regeneration route, with a possible link to the Ashby bypass, was also identified and Members commented that the route to the M 42 which would be used would inevitably be along A.444 through the village. The fact that Overseal primary school was full had not been identified specifically in the Plan.

68.4 Lullington Road Allotments

- 68.4.1 Sub-lease.** The sub-lease had now been signed on behalf of the Association and the Council. The Association had appointed its own Solicitors to deal with registration.

- 68.4.2 Car park.** Consideration of this matter was again deferred for the Association to determine its requirements.

- 68.5 Burton Road Allotments.** The plots which were overgrown had now been cultivated, except for 3, which were to be surrendered when the crops on them had been harvested. In one further case, the weeds had been cut down but the land required cultivation. Noted.

- 68.6 Land at Lullington Road.** The Farm Business Tenancy Agreement had now been signed by the tenant and had been received by Fisher German.

- 68.7 Land at Daisy Lane.** The trees had been ordered and preliminary arrangements for planting begun. Mr Knight outlined plans for planting events and publicity, involving children where possible in these events. The initial planting would be done in early December and it was thought that provision of a stone with appropriate lettering should be explored. Construction of the footpaths was scheduled for the Spring. Possible purchasing of an apple press in the future was also mentioned.

- 68.8 CCTV for the Pavilion.** The Bowls Club had advised that the CCTV equipment had now been installed and that the Council's contribution should not exceed £200. It was agreed that the appropriate cheque should be issued

between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay subject to the cost not exceeding that amount.

68.9 Request for donation. Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre had requested a donation towards the cost of their work. It was agreed to donate £25.00.

68.10 Tables for Village Hall. As two tables had gone missing, it was agreed to replace them. Authority to purchase 4 small tables was given.

69 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been approved:

0694 Conservatory, 7 Jackson Close.

70 ACCOUNTS

70.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1972	L Baxter	Caretaker	398.30		398.30
1973	J M Summerfield	Litter	75.65		75.65
1974	T Stewart	Litter	151.44		151.44
1975	J Kirby	Caretaker	157.75		157.75
1976	Grant Thornton UK LLP	Audit fee, 2012/3 accounts	400.00	80.00	480.00
1977	Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre	Donation	25.00		25.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	36.00		36.00
D/D	British Gas	Gas supplied to Village Hall	77.67	3.88	81.55

70.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	320.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	762.24
Timms, Solicitors	Refund of registration fee, Lullington Road allotments	50.00
Various	Wreath refunds	55.00
St Matthews FC	Pitch rental	50.00

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

70.4 Quarterly accounts. The Council considered the report of the Clerk on the accounts as at 30 September 2013. The report was approved.

71 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

71.1 Overhanging trees. Overhanging trees or hedges were reported at Coronation Street, Woodlands Road, Lullington Road and Moira Road. The owners would be contacted and asked to trim them so that they did not obstruct the footpaths.

71.2 Land at the rear of the Village Hall. It was pointed out that an area of land at the rear of the Village Hall was permanently boggy, despite having been drained some time ago. Babb Construction, who had installed the previous drains, would be asked to investigate and recommend a solution.

- 71.3 Grit bins.** It was agreed to remove the locks as an experiment this year.
- 71.4 Village Games.** This event had been very successful; however, the Organiser had complained that he was unable to use the Village Hall as it was being used by another organisation. The Clerk reported that he had been given permission subject to his checking that the hall would be free, and he had apparently not done this.
- 71.5 Telephone box, Shortheath.** Possible uses for this would be considered at the next meeting.
- 71.6 Footpaths Group.** Mr Knight reported on recent work by the Group, on clearing paths etc. The Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's thanks for the work which they were carrying out. Stone was needed for a boggy area on footpath no 1, Forest View and the Council accepted quotations for the stone from Breedon Aggregates and transport from Schoolgrounds in the total sum of £51.00.
- 71.7 Wall at Moira Road.** The owner's attention would be drawn to the fact that the boundary wall appeared to be affected by tree roots.
- 71.8 Neighbourhood Watch.** This organisation, which covered most of the village, was now in being and would be operating shortly.
- 71.9 Property at Stanleigh Road.** The owner would be contacted and asked to prevent a water pipe from discharging on to the public footpath.
- 71.10 Floor of Village Hall.** One or two places in the floor appeared to be weak, and the Clerk would arrange for its inspection to ascertain the problem.
- 71.11 Bonfire celebrations.** Mr Patrick expressed the Gala Committee's thanks for the use of the facilities for Bonfire Night. The event had been particularly well attended, accommodating some 1500 people.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman