

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 5 November 2015.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mrs M Elton, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, and Mr S C Sharpe.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Cox, M S Patrick, Cllr P Murray and Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

61 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs M Elton and Mr A Cook declared interests in Minute no. (Netball) and minute no. (Staff) as relatives of one of the people involved.

62 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Representatives of Overseal Netball Club attended the meeting to explain a proposal to increase the size of the MUGA to accommodate a full-sized netball court, allowing league fixtures to be played. The Club had been operating for some years and members ranged from 17 - 50 years of age. Additionally, several younger members were active in the Club, but could not be registered. The Club would seek grants and hold fund-raising events to meet the cost of construction and they were seeking the permission of the Council to progress towards this. At present, they used the MUGA for training but had to hire courts elsewhere to play matches.

The Chairman commented that the original purpose of the MUGA was to provide a facility which could be used on a casual basis for several sports and that dedication to a single sport would contradict this. However, there was much consideration to be given to the matter before a decision could be reached and the Clerk would include a suitable item in the agenda for the next meeting.

(Mrs M Elton and Mr A Cook declared interests in this matter as relatives of one of the participants).

63 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record, subject to inserting the word 'agreed' in the first line of the second paragraph of minute no. 57.6 (Pitch improvement project). It would now read: *It was agreed that the annual Bonfire Night would be held on the lower part of the recreation ground...*

64 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

64.1 County Council. Cllr Mrs Lauro reported that the County Council were awaiting the national spending review announcements later this month and the results of discussions on the possible combined authority. Budget cuts would be noticed by the public as they would affect services. The site visit at Valley Road/Lullington Road had not been fruitful as decisions on traffic calming etc. depended on injury accidents and none had been reported.

Members commented that there were frequent near misses and collisions, but no injuries.

The site visit to Park Road concerning the restricted visibility at the footway crossing was more successful and the County Council were to arrange for shrubs to be cut back to improve visibility. Cllr Mrs Lauro agreed to press for action on felling the dead cherry tree in Woodville Road and to find out whether the surfacing of Moira Road would be in the programme for next financial year.

64.2 District Council. No repairs to the car park had yet been carried out and the sign warning of the presence of children had been removed; this had resulted in a child very nearly being injured recently. Cllr P Murray would be asked to continue to press for action on this matter. The grass cutting at Daisy Lane had not been carried out and was urgent as there was encroachment onto the paths.

64.3 Police. Mr McMillan reported crime statistics for October, which showed an increase in reported crime locally.

65 FORWARD PLANNING

The possibility of creating an additional entrance to the recreation ground was discussed as it had now been ascertained that the Council owned a strip of land adjoining Hallcroft Avenue. This could be cleared, surfaced and provided with a gate and height restriction barrier in due course.

It was agreed that matters such as this should be listed in a separate section of the Clerk's report so that they were not lost sight of.

(Mrs R O'Brien left the meeting at 7.45 pm).

66.5 CLERK'S REPORT

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

66.2 National Forest 'Grow a tree from seed' offer. The National Forest had invited everyone to collect acorns and grow them for 2-3 years and then to plant them out at a planting event to help develop the National Forest. A leaflet was available and was accompanied by a pledge form which enabled the National Forest to keep track of how many young trees were being grown and to invite the participants to the planting events.

66.3 Request for Mirror, Valley Road junction. The County Council had considered this request but said that the installation of a mirror could only be done with the consent of the Secretary of State and that this would only be in exceptional circumstances. The criteria were;

Traffic mirrors will only be considered by the Secretary of State for Transport at the junction of two highways where the traffic across the head of the "T" is travelling at speed and where the visibility for vehicles emerging from the stem is virtually nil. Even then it is only in extreme cases where there must also be a serious personal injury collision record and no other remedial measure has had any effect.

66.4 Appointment of Lengthsman (Litter Picker). Mrs E Evans had been appointed to this post and Mr M Wharton had acted as reserve during the absence of Mrs Summerfield throughout October. The duties were to be shared equally with the two posts having 5 hours each.

66.5 Local Plan - housing. The District Council said that 'it has become evident that a further strategic housing site is required' in order to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land. A site to the west of Mickleover had been proposed for around 1650 dwellings, plus local amenities such as a school, shops, surgery etc.

An invitation had been received to take part in the resumed hearing into the Local Plan, to be held on 8 and 9 December in Swadlincote. Mr A Cook would represent the Council to deal with the overall housing allocation for the District; Mr S Sharpe would also endeavour to attend.

66.6 Netball. A request to use the MUGA for a netball court had been received from a local resident, who had set up a local team and undertaken the necessary training. This matter had been introduced in the Public Questions and Answers section of the meeting and it had been agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

66.7 Parish Liaison meeting. An invitation had been received from Derbyshire County Council to attend this meeting at County Hall, Matlock on Monday 23 November between 6 and 8pm. The discussions would include recent projects and a question & answer session. Noted.

66.8 Grant to Burton Hospitals. The Trust had thanked the Council for the grant towards Ophthalmology equipment.

66.9 'Key Service Village' designation. The District Council said that the 'Settlement hierarchy' formed part of the local Plan process and, as the Parish Council responded to the consultation about the Local Plan, it was consulted on the Key Service Village designation. They said: *'The purpose of Settlement Hierarchy is to rank the settlements of South Derbyshire into categories based on their facilities and services and therefore its sustainability as a settlement. Sustainability is a measure of three elements however - social, environmental and economic - so the number of facilities a settlement has is not the only factor considered.'* The fact that the facilities existed, therefore, met the definition for a Key Service Village i.e. a bus service, a convenience store and at least seven other facilities. The fact that some services were overloaded did not change this, though the position would be reviewed periodically as some facilities could close and new ones open.

Members were disappointed at this information, and were concerned that the designation had resulted in several applications for planning consent for relatively large developments.

66.10 Notice board near the church. The Clerk reported that the notice board was in need of repair. It appeared that People Express had paid for the map inside the notice board but not the structure itself; this was a Millennium project and may have been grant funded. The church said that they did not own it, though it was on church land. However, it was now understood that the Parish Council would be asked to take on responsibility for the Notice Board and that some limited funds would be donated. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of repairs to enable easier access to the ~~centre panel~~. left hand panel.

66.11 Pitch improvement project. The construction work was now complete and the pitch had been seeded. The four pieces of fitness equipment would be delivered shortly and the contractor would install them. Fences were to remain in place and, where necessary, strengthened to remain in place throughout the maintenance period of 12 months, though the position would be reviewed

next summer. The fences near to the bowling green and Village Hall would be moved earlier to allow access from Hallcroft Avenue, but the former boggy area, which had been drained, would remain protected for the time being.

The first instalment of contract payments was to be authorised at this meeting and the second would follow shortly. A claim for grant had been submitted to Sport England and the grant from the Community Partnership of South Derbyshire District Council had been received. The contractor was responsible for repairing the surface damage at the entrance to the Village Hall car park.

The Solicitor had completed the necessary searches and given evidence of title to Sport England and was now undertaking voluntary registration of the title at the Land Registry, which would include the necessary restrictive covenant in favour of Sport England.

It was reported that there was damage to one of the fence panels and that an unauthorised access had been created onto the new area; the contractor would be asked to deal with these matters.

66.12 Derbyshire Law Centre. The Centre's AGM was to take place in Chesterfield on Wednesday 18 November at 12.30 and the Council was entitled to be represented. Noted.

66.13 South Derbyshire CVS. An invitation had been received to attend the AGM on Tuesday 1 December at 10 am to be held at Oakland Village, Swadlincote. Mr A Cook would attend.

(Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner left the meeting at 8.00 pm).

67 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications for decision:

0618 Extension of existing gypsy caravan site including a change of use of land and increase in number of caravans to 16 at The Conifers, Park Road. Following consultation with Members, representations had been made as set out below:

The Council strongly objects to this application.

- 1 *The original application for part of this site was for a single caravan on compassionate grounds that a small child needed to attend hospital in Birmingham on a regular basis. However, this rapidly turned into a site with 3 caravans to accommodate relatives and subsequently it expanded further to 6 units plus shower block etc. When the 2006 application was submitted, there were 3 additional caravans on the site which were not authorised by planning consent and were therefore contrary to law.*
- 2 *The owners of the site also own a large strip of land and the Parish Council consider that the intention is to expand the site gradually to turn it into a large caravan site occupying most or all of the land. This has proved to be the case as the current application does exactly that.*
- 3 *The proposal is to extend the site further into open countryside forming part of the National Forest and is entirely inappropriate.*
- 4 *There are other sound planning reasons for rejecting the current application, namely:*
 - *There are several sites in South Derbyshire where caravans can be sited;*
 - *There is a caravan site directly opposite this site;*
 - *There are other sites just over the county border with Leicestershire;*
 - *The site is remote from essential amenities such as shops, Post Office, school etc. and car journeys would be necessary to access any of these*

- 5 *There have been many public order problems since the original site was developed and these continue. While these have mainly affected the immediate neighbours, children from the site have caused problems at local shops. Children also ride quad bikes on the land, causing noise and distress to local residents.*
- 6 *There is no proper system of refuse disposal*
- 7 *In 2011, application no 0257 was refused on the grounds that the proposal was contrary to policy restricting development in open countryside, and on pollution and tree protection grounds. These reasons still hold good today and the current application should be refused.*
- 8 *The argument that these caravans will enhance the local environment and will help to meet the problems regarding sustainable development are clearly inappropriate; they will do nothing to enhance the local environment and are not sustainable development.*
- 9 *There have been many problems caused by local gypsies during the summer who had their own houses close by.*

If it is proposed to approve this application, The Parish Council requests that it be considered by Committee.

The Council is also very disappointed that its representations on the previous application (0218) appear not to have been taken into account in that the policy grounds for refusal have not been picked up.

0933 Replacement dwelling, The Oaks, Green Lane. No objection.

Appeals:

0431 64 dwellings, land off Valley Road - this would be dealt with at a hearing (date to be fixed).

0426 Residential development, land at Linton Heath

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

The following applications had been approved:

0631 Change of Use of holiday let to a self-contained dwelling house, Hobbitts Hall, Green Lane.

00563 (NWLDC) Variation of previous permission to allow full residential use of chalets/static caravans at Bridge House, Spring Cottage Road.

The following applications had been refused:

0496 60 dwellings, land at Acresford Road (outside the village, incursion into open countryside, landscape and visual impacts are adverse).

0796 Erection of 4 dwellings, Coppice Farm, Green Lane.

68 ACCOUNTS

68.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2214	L Baxter	Caretaker	432.68		432.68
2215	J M Summerfield	Litter	80.50		80.50
2216	J Kirby	Cleaner	201.00		201.00
2217	E Evans	Litter	90.45		90.45
2218	M Wharton	Litter	107.20		107.20
2219	Pugh-Lewis	1st Payment on pitch improvement contract	11222.16	2244.43	13466.59
2220	Community Sport Trust	Leadership in Running Fitness Course	155.00		155.00

2221	Crane & Walton LLP	Legal work re. Pitch improvement project	1494.36	218.47	1712.83
2222	SK Plumbing	Pipe repair	59.50		59.50
2223	Ian Stone	Maintenance of planters	1183.24		1183.24
2224	South Derbyshire District Council	Summer sports programme	1570.00	314.00	1884.00
D/D	Southern Electric	Supply to Village Hall	401.89	80.37	482.26
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	20.50	4.10	24.60

68.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	350.00
Clubs Complete	Use of Village Hall	400.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	2161.37

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

68.4 Quarterly budget report. The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Noted.

69 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

69.1 Gala Committee events. A Member enquired the probable impact of the football pitch improvements on events to be put on by the Gala Committee and others in the future. The advice from the contractor and Consultant was that vehicles should not go onto the playing surface, though foot traffic would not cause any difficulties. Vehicles could go onto the area between the pitch and the embankment and if access around the MUGA from the car park was necessary, plates or boards could be put in place to protect the surface of the training area. It was reported that the recent Bonfire Night, which had used the lower pitch, had been successful.

69.2 Refuse container at the Village Hall. The large container was now becoming full quickly and additional facilities might be necessary. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

69.3 MUGA lights. The lights were often on throughout the night and it appeared that there was a fault with the timer. Also the control box on one of the lighting columns needed a repair. The Clerk would arrange for these items to be remedied.

69.4 Stone for Croft Orchard, Daisy Lane. Mr Knight reported that the stone had been commissioned and would be produced early in 2016, together with the marker stone to be presented by Mrs Betteridge.

70 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

71 PENSIONS AND AUTO-ENROLMENT

The Clerk reported on the basic position and the likely implications for the staff and for the Council, both financial and administrative.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Council agree to contribute in those cases where employees join the scheme;

(2) That notice to postpone the introduction for 3 months from 1 March 2016 to 1 June 2016 be implemented.

72 STAFF

The Clerk reported on applications for the post of Caretaker and Cleaner.

RESOLVED: That the applicants for the post of Caretaker be interviewed by the Chairman, Mrs S Jones and the Clerk and that they be empowered to make an appointment if considered appropriate.

The meeting ended at pm 8.55 pm

Chairman

CONFIDENTIAL

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Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mrs M Elton, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight and Mr S C Sharpe.

73 PENSIONS AND AUTO-ENROLMENT

The Clerk reported on the basic position and the likely implications for the staff and for the Council, both financial and administrative (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Only 3 of the present staff were likely to be affected and they could decide whether or not to join the scheme. If they did, the Council could choose whether to make contributions or not and these would be relatively small; initially 1% rising to 3% in 2018. It was thought that to do so would be to act as a good employer. In answer to a question, the Clerk confirmed that implementation of the new National Living Wage, which would increase wage and salary levels, would affect the pension contributions.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council agree to contribute in those cases where employees join the scheme;
- (2) That notice to postpone the introduction for 3 months from 1 March 2016 to 1 June 2016 be implemented.

74 STAFF

The Clerk reported on applications for the post of Caretaker and Cleaner.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the two applicants for the post of Caretaker be interviewed by the Chairman, Mrs S Jones and the Clerk and that they be empowered to settle terms and conditions and to make an appointment if considered appropriate;
- (b) That, as there were no applicants for the post of Cleaner, this be amalgamated with the post of Caretaker;
- (c) That the possibility of job-share for the post be discussed with the applicants and implemented if necessary; to include the possibility of each post-holder working 4 days one week and 3 the next, or dividing the hours as necessary.

The meeting ended at pm 8.55 pm

Chairman