

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 4 October 2012.

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

**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 Mr D Baldaro, Mr R Cox and Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

## 62 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 63 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

## 64 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 65 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**65.1 District Council.** The Clerk reported on a recent liaison meeting between the District Council and Parish Councils. Among items discussed was confirmation that new arrangements for calculating the Tax Base (on which Council Tax rates were based) meant that Parish Council precepts would have the same result on amounts to be paid as in previous years. Initial arrangements could have adversely affected the level of payments for the same precept as that levied in previous years.

(Cllr Frost arrived at 7.16 pm).

**65.2 Police.** Mr McMillan reported recent crime statistics, which were very low. Members referred to the continuing problem of cars being parked opposite the school when pupils were being dropped off or collected, which reduced the carriageway to a single lane, causing potential danger. Persistent offenders could be prosecuted. Parked cars associated with the Bowls Club had also been causing problems and introduction of 'no parking' bollards near to Hallcroft Avenue had moved the problem towards Forest View. However, the bowls season had now finished and the situation would be revisited next year.

**65.3 County Council.** Cllr Jones had not yet received any feedback on the recent traffic survey on A.444 throughout South Derbyshire, though there was a probability that a pedestrian refuge would be installed opposite the supermarket. This was welcomed as it would overcome many of the difficulties associated with parking at this location.

In answer to questions concerning the review of County Divisional boundaries, Cllr Jones indicated that there would now be 8 councillors serving South Derbyshire, and that Church Gresley would be removed from the newly named Linton and Seales Division.

A street light in Lullington Road which was out following a collision was likely to be replaced with a new one. If the absence of a light was hazardous, residents should contact Call Derbyshire and a degree of urgency would result.

(Cllr Jones left the meeting at 7.30 pm).

## 66 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 Snow Warden Scheme.** The County Council had invited participation in this scheme. Wardens were expected to:

- Co-ordinate volunteers to clear snow and distribute grit;
- Report empty bins;
- Make sure there is a suitable location to store grit;
- Report situations which affect vulnerable residents;
- Help respond to potential heavy snow and ice between October and April;
- Report latest conditions using the County Council's website.

Not all of these were able to be implemented last year, though there was some success and a reasonable response from the public. Pavement gritting routes were A.444 (both sides), Woodville Road, Stanleigh Road and Bailey Avenue. Mr R Forsyth indicated that he had previously been trained and was willing to undertake the duties this year. The County Council would be informed accordingly.

**66.3 Public footpath maintenance.** A number of complaints about overgrown rights of way were referred to the County Council following the last meeting. They had replied that the County Council was responsible for preventing the path becoming obstructed with vegetation growing up from the surface of the footpaths (nettles and brambles etc). Overseal Footpath 20 (Woodville Rd to Gorseley Lees) was already on the twice yearly undergrowth clearance contract and was due to be cut/strimmed for a second time this year (before the end of September). Overseal Primary School was responsible for preventing their boundary hedges from obstructing the width of the surrounding public footpaths and a meeting with them was due to take place.

The Parish Council arranged for footpaths 18 and 19 (Daisy Lane area) to be cut back earlier in the year and part of the path through the meadow was done again recently. The contractor was asked to repeat this and also to clear the path from Moira Road to Daisy Lane again.

The County Council was asked to increase funding as the current allocation was inadequate, but they had said that they were unable to provide the Parish Council with further funding under the Minor Maintenance Scheme to cut back overgrowing vegetation such as hedgerows, as this was the responsibility of the adjacent landowner and not the County Council. The owner of the hedges bounding footpath 19 at the rear of Overseal Manor would be asked to attend to them as they were overgrown.

**66.4 Speed signs, A.444.** The County Council were considering the Council's request for flashing speed warning signs in the context of their review of the A.444 through South Derbyshire, and would advise further in due course.

**66.5 Young Achievers Awards.** The County Council invited nominations for these Awards, which recognised:

- Bravery in fighting illness or living with a disability;
- Kindness in helping others;
- Commitment to improving their school, community or local environment;
- Sporting, musical, artistic or academic success.

Noted.

**66.6 County electoral review.** The Boundary Commission had published its final recommendations for County Divisions and those for South Derbyshire included an increase from 7 to 8. The Commission's report stated:

*South Derbyshire currently comprises seven single-member divisions, four of which would have electoral variances of more than 10% from the county average by 2017. Under a council size of 64 members the borough is allocated eight members, one more than at present.*

*In formulating our draft recommendation for the district, we broadly adopted the County Council's proposals, subject to a minor modification in Swadlincote and Repton. The draft recommendations proposed that South Derbyshire be represented by eight single-member divisions with no divisions having an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the county average by 2017.*

*Following the publication of the draft recommendations, one submission was received for South Derbyshire in addition to the county-wide comments discussed in paragraph 34.*

*The County Council and the Labour Group proposed a minor modification to transfer Stanton by Bridge parish from the proposed Melbourne division to Aston division. The Labour Group stated this modification would reflect public transport links and shared community identities. The Labour Group proposed a further modification to transfer Ingleby and Foremark parishes from the proposed Aston division to the Etwall & Repton division. Both modifications were supported by a local resident.*

*We consider these proposals to better reflect the apparent community focus of settlements in this area as well as reflecting communication links. They would also have a negligible impact on electoral equality. We have therefore adopted these modifications as part of our final recommendations.*

*Consequently, the proposed Aston, Etwall & Repton and Melbourne divisions would have 5% more, 4% more and 4% fewer electors per councillor than the county average by 2017, respectively.*

If the necessary Order was approved by Parliament, the changes would take effect for the county elections in 2013.

**66.7 Electricity supply contract.** The Clerk reported on revised terms offered by British Gas, which included a fixed unit price for two years from the date of renewal in January 2013. He had obtained a comparative quotation from another supplier, but this was not advantageous. Subject to a further check with another supplier, it was

RESOLVED: That the revised terms offered by British Gas be accepted.

**66.8 Half term event.** South Derbyshire District Council were offering to bring the Wheelmobile to the Village Hall grounds on 1 November between 1 and 3 pm at no charge to either the Council or participants. This was accepted.

**66.9 Garden Tree give away.** It was agreed to take advantage of this offer from South Derbyshire District Council and to ask for 10 crab apple trees.

**66.10 Request for donation.** St Giles Hospice had asked for a donation towards their work and it had been established that their services were available to Overseal residents.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £25.00 be made.

**66.11 Planning consultation.** The District Council were to hold a series of drop-in sessions concerning possible allocations for housing and employment developments up to 2028. The nearest were to be on 19 and 20 October at Swadlincote market from 10 am to 2 pm.

**66.12 Planning enforcement briefing.** The Chairman agreed to attend this event.

## 67 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### The following applications had been approved:

0645 Creation of a vehicular access, formation of a driveway and erection of a wall, 31 Moira Road.

CW9/0512/14 (Derbyshire County Council), Retrospective application for development at Overseal Sewage Treatment Works

### Applications for decision:

0759 Agricultural access road between Shortheath Road and 159 Moira Road. After consultation with Members, the following response was sent:

*Overseal Parish Council objects to the application for the following reasons:*

1. *The proposed track is very wide and such a track is not needed to manage such a small woodland.*
2. *There is a tree preservation order on the area to be occupied by the track*
3. *The application says that the track will be from Moira Rd to Shortheath Rd but actually it is from the back of Mr T Hartley senior's property and joins with his son's property at Barratt Mill*
4. *Badger sets will be disturbed*
5. *The track will form a pathway to the back of the property, exactly where there was a proposed re-routing of the footpath some time ago, which was not permitted.*

*The Parish Council has also received objections from concerned residents in Shortheath saying:-*

*(a) The entrance at Shortheath is not wide enough being situated between a private garage and the sewage pumping station. Heavy vehicles would put the pumping station at risk*

*(b) Why are the paths being created for forestry access for tractors etc so wide and constructed more like a road than an access track?*

*(c) Will the site be frequently monitored by the Forestry Commission. This is most important as it is understood that the applicant has been criticised for his lack of care for wildlife in the past*

## 68 ACCOUNTS

### 68.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1857	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Toilet & cleaning supplies	115.66	23.13	138.79
1858	L Baxter	Caretaker	374.11		374.11
1859	J M Summerfield	Litter	58.36		58.36
1860	T Stewart	Litter	198.08		198.08
1861	J E White	Salary & expenses	1297.39		1297.39
1862	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	346.80		346.80
1863	PHS Group plc	Waste Transfer Notice	4.49	0.90	5.39
1864	South Derbyshire District Council	Summer sports programme	1245.00	249.00	1494.00
1865	J Kirby	Deputising for Caretaker	121.60		121.60
1866	Broker Network	Insurance premium	2024.73		2024.73
1867	St Giles Hospice	Donation	25.00		25.00
D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	124.17	24.84	149.01
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	35.00		35.00
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	13.15		13.15
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	196.19		196.19

\* This account was paid between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay.

### 68.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	575.00
Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness	Use of Village Hall	135.00

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

## 69 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**69.1 Football pitches.** It was reported that a team consisting either of adults or teenagers had played on the top pitch on a Sunday and that this was different from the agreed arrangements. The Clerk would enquire of the teams, and also remind them of the Bonfire Night celebrations on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**69.2 Surplus chairs.** Old and damaged chairs had been stored in the old changing rooms for some years and the space was needed for storage. It was agreed that around 50 chairs would be disposed of, starting with damaged ones.

**69.3 Local advertising.** The cessation of the Free for All meant that few opportunities existed for local advertising of events such as Bonfire Night, and one of the Lengthsmen had suggested attaching a notice to the cart. This seemed a good idea and would be tried out.

- 69.4 Christmas decorations.** It was agreed to order similar lights to last year.
- 69.5 Overgrown hedge, Burton Road.** The County Council would be asked to deal with this hedge, which was obstructing the footpath.
- 69.6 Planters.** The winter planting was now due and the suppliers would be asked to improve the bed at the junction of Main Street and Moira Road.
- 69.7 Water pressure.** Members reported that domestic water pressure had been very low on occasions recently and South Staffordshire Water would be asked for information.
- 69.8 Exit from the Multi-Use Games Area.** The secondary exit gate had been locked and it was agreed to re-open it as it served as an emergency exit.
- 69.9 Heritage items.** The Heart of the Forest Heritage Link Group was compiling a list of heritage items throughout the area and items identified locally should be reported to Mr Knight, who would forward them to the Group.
- 69.10 Clearance of the Village Hall.** The Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Jones, Mrs O'Brien and Mr Patrick who had joined her in disposing of surplus items from the Village Hall and generally tidying and cleaning storage areas during the school holidays.
- 69.11 National Forest.** The Chairman reported on a recent meeting concerning the National Forest, which she and Mr Patrick had attended. The meeting had been held at a private residence, where a woodland and a Japanese garden had been established. The possibility of planting trees to form a parkland on the land at Daisy Lane was suggested.
- Cllr Frost was asked to enquire progress on the transfer of the land at Daisy Lane.
- 69.12 Hallmark scheme for Village Halls.** An invitation had been received to express an interest in training events and advice on operating a Village Hall. While this was aimed primarily at charitable bodies, initial interest would be expressed in case the Council was eligible.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

**Chairman**