

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 1 October 2015.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mr R Cox, 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 P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M S Patrick, Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

52 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner declared an interest in minute no. 57.2 (request for grant) as family members were members of the Bowls Club.

53 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr S Bigg of Overseal Bowls Club attended the meeting to amplify the request for a grant towards fencing around the bowling green. The bulk of the cost would be met by a grant, but some match funding was required and the grant would not cover the full cost. Additional requests for grant from other funding bodies would continue to be pursued. The problem arose from people going onto the green via holes in the hedge, often to collect stray footballs, leaving stud marks in the green. An internal fence recessed into the hedge would deter access in this way. The club had obtained quotations and the cost would be approaching £10,000 plus VAT; the request was that the Council provide the balance (£2000-£2500) from next year's budget. Mention was made of using cheaper fencing such as heavy duty chain link fencing and of the need to cut back the laurel hedge. The Council would discuss the matter later in the meeting and advise the Club of its decision.

A resident of Valley Road, representing the Overseal Action Group, attended the meeting to discuss the traffic implications if planning permission for the 64 dwellings on land in Valley Road were to be granted on appeal. There was already a speeding and safety problem and this would be exacerbated by the development. It was explained that highway improvements could be funded from S.106 contributions, but that these would have to be negotiated if permission were to be granted. A site meeting was to be held on 8 October to consider the speeding problems in Lullington Road and the parking at the junction with Valley Road, and local residents could attend.

He also referred to the inconvenient parking of vehicles at the garage site at Bailey Avenue; the problem had caused delays, but had now ceased; however, other vehicles and a caravan were often parked so as to prevent access to the garages. The Chairman agreed to contact the PCSO and ask him to discuss the problems with residents, and Cllr Murray agreed to refer the repair of the asbestos garage roofs to the District Council.

54 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

55 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

- 55.1 District Council.** The promised work at the car park had not been started. The lease from the County Council had expired, but the District Council had accepted ownership of the repairs needed and Cllr Murray would again pursue an urgent start on the work. Cleaning of dog faeces from Coronation Street had been requested from the District Council but had not been done; Cllr Murray kindly agreed to press for this to be undertaken.
- 55.2 Police.** September crime statistics showed two common assaults during the month.
- 55.3 County Council.** A drain in Valley Road had sunk and caused a hazard as well as allowing flooding. A further drain in Lullington Road, which had sunk and was a trip hazard, had been reported to the County Council; these would both be referred again. The hedge in Valley Road was overgrown and had already contributed to an accident; the County Council would be asked to secure its cutting back. It was agreed to include the poor road surface in Moira Road in the ongoing matters section of the Clerk's report and the attention of the County Council would again be drawn to this matter. Two road gullies in Main Street at the traffic lights were blocked by vegetation growing in them; Cllr Murray would enquire whether this was covered by the District Council's agreement to carry out some work on behalf of the County Council.

56 FORWARD PLANNING

The Council wished to consider the following matters:

- 56.1** *Designation as a 'key service village' without prior consultation;* Members were of the opinion that this designation had been imposed without meaningful consultation and that this had resulted in the planning applications for large-scale development in the village. If approval were to be given for these developments, the problems of the school being full, the Doctor's surgery being unable to take additional patients, traffic problems, lack of local employment, absence of dental services or a railway station, should all combine to support a request that the designation be removed.
- 56.2** *Amber Valley District Council are declining to accommodate such a large proportion of Derby's housing needs; should South Derbyshire District Council be requested to adopt a similar attitude?* The Clerk reported the resumption of the Joint Local Plan Inquiry which would consider the development and pointed out that the only persons to attend the sessions would be those who had attended the previous sessions, unless special requests were to be received. The Council agreed to request attendance to discuss the housing needs of Derby as they affected South Derbyshire.

57 CLERK'S REPORT

- 57.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).
- 57.2 Request for grant.** The Bowls Club would be applying for grants to enable them to construct fences to match the iron railings on the remaining two edges of the green surrounds and had asked for assistance from the council from next year's budget. The total cost was being ascertained but was expected to be around £10 - £12000; the request was that the council provide 25% i.e. £2500 - £3000.

It was agreed to make provision of up to £2500 for this purpose in next year's budget and to arrange that the laurel hedge be cut back shortly. The Clerk would also investigate the possibility of the Council carrying out the project with grant assistance from external sources identified by the Club.

(Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon as family members were members of the Bowls Club.)

- 57.3 Education letter.** A copy of the letter from Cllr J Coyle replying to the Parish Council's criticisms of the education service in Derbyshire had been circulated to Members.

It was considered that the letter was vague and too general in nature. The local primary school provided a high standard of education despite the poor quality of the buildings and it was frustrating that the pupils were then required to attend secondary schools which were not providing a similarly high standard, and noteworthy that Derbyshire standards were lower than other nearby counties. Members considered that it appeared that the County Council had run out of ideas for improving the situation, and that the request for providing the County Council with views as to how local people could help them raise aspiration and widening opportunity was not something which a village could do except by continuing to deliver excellent primary education.

- 57.4 Litter bin at the church corner.** The District Council were monitoring use of the bin over the next few weeks and would inform the Parish Council of their findings.

- 57.5 Litter picker.** Mrs T Stewart had resigned with effect from the end of September and an advertisement for her replacement had been issued locally. Mrs Summerfield had requested 2 additional hours per week, which could be achieved by modifying the two routes. An increase in the total hours would cost £273 this year and £780 in 2016/7.

The Clerk reported two applications for the vacancy.

RESOLVED: (a) That the hours be not increased in total but that they be shared equally between the two posts;

(b) That the appointment be offered to Mrs E Evans on the same terms as the previous appointment (except for the reduction in hours to 5 per week);

(c) That Mr M Wharton be invited to act as a reserve, to cover periods of holiday, sickness or dealing with special needs for clearance of areas, including the absence of Mrs Summerfield during October.

- 57.6 Pitch improvement project.** The contract documents had been signed by both parties. The legal searches required to enable the Council's Solicitors to certify freehold ownership had been completed and the necessary certificate issued to Sport England. A project progress meeting was to be held on 23 October and the Chairman and Mrs Cunningham-Gardner would attend.

It was agreed that the annual Bonfire Night would be held on the lower part of the recreation ground but that the higher area at the top of the embankment would be required for access and there was concern that this might be very boggy after all the contract works. The date on which the fence would be re-sited and

the seeding of the relevant area would be checked. However, on balance, it might be preferable to leave re-siting the fence until November.

57.7 Safer Neighbourhoods Forum. The next meeting was to be held at Walton Village Hall on Wednesday 18 November, starting at 6.15 pm.

57.8 Rights of Way consultation. The County Council were proposing to change the current scheme for maintenance of public rights of way. The Council would be reimbursed up to £430 this year under the present scheme and the range of work permitted was largely related to clearance of vegetation. The Clerk reported that the County Council would continue to contact landowners where hedges overhung rights of way and would deal with clearance of the ground when resources permitted. The Footpaths Group was already saving the County Council a great deal of money and they reported that all paths in the Parish were walkable; some had been provided with styles or kissing gates, boggy areas had been stoned etc. Landowners, including residents of houses, were responsible for maintaining hedges bordering or crossing their land.

The Council agreed to participate in the new scheme and to ask for the maximum amount of allocation available. The contribution in kind from volunteer hours would be ascertained and the County Council informed, together with the fact that the Parish Council usually exceeded its allocation, meeting the balance from local resources.

58 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been withdrawn:

0602 Detached dwelling, land r/o 149 Woodville Road

Applications for decision: None.

59 ACCOUNTS

59.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2207	L Baxter	Caretaker	429.08		429.08
2208	J M Summerfield	Litter	62.40		62.40
2209	J Kirby	Cleaner	284.50		284.50
2210	J E White	Salary & expenses	1020.10		1020.10
2211	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	692.60		692.60
2212	Burton Hospitals League of Friends	Grant	50.00		50.00
2213	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd	Height restriction barriers	2425.00	485.00	2910.00
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.50	3.70	22.20

59.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	270.00
Overseal Junior FC	Pitch rental	550.00
K Ellis	Village Hall deposit	10.00

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

60 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

60.1 Half term entertainment. The District Council would be putting on an event related to Halloween on 30 October on the recreation ground, or inside the Village Hall if the weather was wet.

60.2 Training. Legal and Domestic Services of the District Council would be holding a training day to help people deal with perceived sexual exploitation of children.

60.3 Darby & Joan Club. An invitation had been received from the Club to attend entertainment to mark their 60th year. Mrs Elton and Cllr P Murray would attend.

60.4 Telephone kiosks. The necessary repairs had not yet been carried out to the kiosk in Main Street and the Clerk would press BT to do so. The kiosk in Shortheath needed a permanent sign showing that it is the Council's property and could be provided with book shelves.

60.5 Trip hazard, Coronation Street. A water cover near to the exit from Coronation Street to Burton Road was broken and constituted a trip hazard. This would be reported to the water company and the County Council for action.

60.6 Dog fouling. A resident of Lullington Road had been witnessed allowing her dogs to foul the path leading to the sewage works and only removed the faeces when challenged. The District Council would be asked to offer appropriate advice.

60.7 Tractors, Woodville Road. Many tractors transporting potatoes used Woodville Road; the company involved would be contacted and asked to re-route them.

60.8 School buses, Hallcroft Avenue. The buses going towards Shortheath turned into Hallcroft Avenue from Woodville Road rather than going via Main Street and Moira Road. Hallcroft Avenue was unsuitable and the County Council would be asked to change the route.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman