

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 6 October 2016.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr A W Cook, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner, Mrs M Elton, 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 R Cox, Cllr Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council) and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

73 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

74 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Representatives of the Gala Committee asked whether they might use the areas near to the top pitch for the fireworks display as in previous years. They explained that the display would be located near to the southern end of the pitch and that spectators would be at the far end of the pitch, so that no damage to the playing surface could occur. Additionally, restricting use to the bottom pitch last year had meant that the entrance had become a bottleneck, presenting possible emergency exit problems. It was agreed to allow the request.

75 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

76 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported that he had received one expression of interest in being co-opted to membership of the Council, from Mrs T A Rogers and that no request for an election had been submitted to the District Council in respect of the second vacancy.

Mrs Rogers addressed the meeting, explaining her reasons for seeking co-option.

RESOLVED: That Mrs T A Rogers be co-opted to membership of the Council.

(Mrs Rogers signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.)

77 VICE-CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Clerk confirmed that appointment of a Vice-Chairman was not legally required, though it was common practice to do so. After some discussion, it was agreed not to make such an appointment at present, but that the Chairman be invited to discuss with any of the Councillors matters where she would welcome a second opinion or support. Where delegation of a decision to members was required, it would suffice to nominate the second member at the relevant meeting.

78 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

- 78.1 District Council.** Cllr Murray reported that a Stop Notice had been served on the owner of 149 Woodville Road requiring him to clear the site within 90 days. A start on removing the rubble had already been made.

The traffic problems associated with the new construction site in Valley Road had largely been overcome. Contractors were reported as blocking the road at Sealwood Lane and had been given appropriate advice.

Approval of Phase 2 of the Local Plan was likely to occur in January.

Members reported that a child had been hit by a large vehicle, probably a car transporter, but had escaped serious injury. The road was being used by many HGVs and it had narrow footpaths, creating dangerous conditions. The County Council would be asked to inspect the area and to identify what safety improvements could be made.

The car park required urgent action - several additional spaces could be made available by cutting back vegetation and removing self-set trees on the front boundary. In addition, 2 vehicles had been parked on the car park for about 6 months and action to secure their removal was needed. Cllr Murray reported that the car park was owned by the County Council, which had previously let it to the District Council and provided funding. However, this had expired about 2 years ago and had not been renewed, meaning that the District Council could not intervene. The Clerk would write to the County Council to ask that they improve the situation.

The Star Foundation did not require the surplus chairs stored in the old changing rooms and it was agreed to dispose of them by whatever method.

- 78.2 Police.** The Clerk reported the crime statistics for September, which were very low. He also reported that the airgun injury mentioned at the last meeting had been classified as an assault and had therefore been included in the statistics. Cars parked opposite the development site in Moira Road continued to cause obstruction to the footpath and the PCSO would be asked to deal with this.
- 78.3 County Council.** The trees in Hallcroft Avenue required suckers to be removed. The County Council would be asked to do so urgently.

79 CLERK'S REPORT

- 79.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). The land at Manor School View was now under the control of the District Council and the item could be omitted from future reports. The possible new access from Hallcroft Avenue to the recreation ground was now included in the Forward Planning report.
- 79.2 Forward Planning.** The Council received the report on Forward Planning issues (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). It appeared that the farmer gaining access to his land from Hallcroft Avenue may be using more of the strip belonging to the Council and this would be checked.
- 79.3 Bowls Club - grant application.** The application to Awards for All for a grant towards the cost of a security fence had been refused. The Council had set aside up to £2500 towards the cost involved.

- 79.4 Request for reduced charge for use of the Village Hall.** The netball club had asked for a reduced charge for using the Village Hall for a celebratory evening at the end of their successful season. Under the circumstances, a 50% reduction was agreed.
- 79.5 Request for mirror, Moira Road.** The request had been refused as it would require the consent of the Secretary of State, who would only grant consent in exceptional circumstances involving a junction of 2 roads.
- 79.6 Snow Warden scheme.** The County Council had invited participation in this year's scheme. It involved organising help to clear snow and ice from pavements and distribute grit and agree the areas to be gritted. A number of Members agreed to co-ordinate action near to their homes and therefore participation in the scheme for this winter was confirmed.
- 79.7 Football pitch maintenance.** Two quotations, both based on the same criteria, were eventually received from Ian Stone and from Plantscape. The quotation from Ian Stone was the lower and had been accepted under delegated powers arranged at the last meeting. The pitch was to be handed over from 1 October and the new arrangements would therefore run for a year from that date. However, Pugh-Lewis would continue to maintain the surface until the end of the growing season.
- 79.8 Football pitch letting.** As agreed at the last meeting, the new pitch had been let to Woodville Rangers who would use it for an under 18 team for one game per week plus training sessions. A set of nets for the exiting goal posts had been purchased.

Looking to the future, they would also like to use it for under-15 teams, which would require junior goal posts (portable) and these would need to be stored, preferably in a container. The likely cost of this would be £1700 and, while purchasing one now would enable the pitch to be used occasionally by junior teams, there did not appear to be any great urgency and provision could be made in next year's budget. However, the Club had asked that a container be purchased now so that they could store additional equipment such as line marker, 'respect' barriers, corner flags etc. It would also accommodate the existing goal posts which currently had to be stored in the changing rooms. As there was no great urgency and provision of a container could cause problems such as children climbing on it, the matter was deferred for the time being.

As there would be fairly light use this year, the pitch could be made available as a neutral venue for semi-final league matches, which would attract an additional fee.

- 79.9 Council Tax Referenda.** The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had published the Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation which included proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils.

The term referendum principles referred to the requirement to hold a local referendum if the proposed council tax increase exceeded a set threshold; the consultation was considering setting the threshold at which the referendum principles would take effect for a rise in precept of 2% or £5 per year, whichever was higher, as currently applied to principal councils.

There were two important parts of the consultation affecting local councils:

- firstly the government was minded to extend referendum principles to a number of larger, higher spending local councils;
- secondly the paper stated the government was aware that increases in precepts continue to concern local taxpayers and was therefore prepared to consider extending referendums to ALL parishes.

The Clerk pointed out that 2% of the council's precept was a minimal amount and that this year in particular, a restriction would cause serious difficulties because of the probable increase required to maintain the new pitch. Suitable representations would be made to DALC.

79.10 Land Registration. The Clerk reported that the land at Lullington Road currently let as a Farm Business Tenancy, together with the Burton Road/Edward Street allotments, had now been registered with the Land Registry.

80 COUNCILLORS' INSPECTION REPORTS

Minor items required rectification.

81 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0692 Installation of 20m monopole to support 6 antennas and 3 cabinets etc.
Land at Acresford Road

0701 Pruning 2 trees covered by TPO 239, 6 Moira Road

0781 Reserved matters - appearance, landscaping etc., land adj 62 Moira Road

Application for decision:

0679 Installation of CCTV system on 7 steel 4m high poles around the perimeter of the Solar Farm, land at Shortheath. No objection.

82 VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

None.

83 WEBSITE

The vacancy remaining on the council would be included in the website and consideration given to any responses at the next meeting.

84 ACCOUNTS

84.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2343	J M Summerfield	Litter	64.80		64.80
2344	E Evans	Litter	133.60		133.60
2345	J E White	Salary & expenses	1060.98		1060.98
2346	H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	689.00		689.00
2347	Electract	Repairs to emergency lighting system	201.93	40.39	242.32

2348	Crane & Walton LLP	Registration of land at Lullington Road & Burton Road allotments	379.58	60.72	440.30
2349	DSK Engineering (Midlands) Ltd	Cut up & remove old goal posts from rec'n ground	65.00	13.00	78.00
2350	K H Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	76.74	15.35	92.09
2351	S Ruddle	Caretaker	574.88		574.88
2352	A Mansfield	Reimburse cost of goal nets	105.00	21.00	126.00
2353	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Refill planters, strim footpaths etc	1244.84		1244.84
2354	Ian Stone Gardening Services	Cut hedge at Burton Road allotments	90.00		90.00
2355	A W Cook	Reimburse cost of carriage of play equipment for repair	28.51		28.51
2356	Tayplay	Repair of play equipment	195.00	39.00	234.00
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	19.45	3.89	23.34
D/D	NEST	Pension contributions	25.42		25.42
D/D	South Staffordshire Water	Supplies to Village Hall & old changing rooms	465.89		465.89

84.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
S Ruddle	Village Hall lettings	302.50
Overseal Pre-school	Use of Village Hall	2240.00
Woodville Rangers FC	Pitch rental	250.00

84.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents were inspected. Two queries were raised and the Clerk would reply to Mrs R O'Brien.

85 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

85.1 Church bells. A member had been asked to request the assistance of the council as the bells were being rung later than they should be, causing nuisance to people on shift work. The complainants would be advised to contact the church authorities direct.

85.2 Apple Day. Mr Knight reported on arrangements for this event, which would involve several volunteers carrying out work. A list of the volunteers involved would be given to the Clerk. The memorial stone should be installed a week before the event.

85.3 Display of banner. Permission was granted for a banner advertising the fireworks display to be erected on the Village Hall fence.

85.4 Conifers adjacent to the Residential Home. The Clerk reported on an accident to a child which had occurred; he was satisfied that the conifers belonged to the residential home and not to the council. As they were overgrown, the home's manager would be asked to arrange for them to be cut back.

85.5 Planning briefing. Mr Cook and Mrs Elton had attended the Planning Briefing given by the District Council, and had found it interesting and informative.

86 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items in pursuance of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

87 CLERK'S REPORT

87.1 Financial matter. Consideration was deferred pending receipt of further information.

87.2 Tenders for swings. Four tenders had been received; however, there was a possibility of obtaining a grant from S.106 money and a decision was deferred pending clarification.

87.3 Holiday cover for the Caretaker. The Council agreed to employ Mr D Yates as holiday cover.

87.4 Tender for electrical repairs. A quotation for provision of a hand-dryer in the ladies toilets at the Village Hall and repairs to the MUGA lights had been received. Members felt that a comparative quotation should be obtained and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman