

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 6 September 2012.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr D Baldaro, Mr R Cox, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council), Cllr C Jones (Derbyshire County Council) together with Cllr S J Frost for the latter part of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I Sheppard and Mr D McMillan, PCSO.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

55 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident of Shortheath stated that vehicles approaching Overseal at the bend in Shortheath were damaging the edges of the road surface and the grass verge, largely because they were not waiting for traffic in the opposite direction to clear the area. This would be referred to the County Council to see whether preventative action could be taken.

56 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2012, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record subject to the following corrections:

- In minute no 46.3, the question of road safety referred to a section of Acresford Road, rather than the road near to the Crickets Inn; and
- In the fourth paragraph, the exemption for high vehicles should be removed from the sign near to the church, thereby preventing all large vehicles from using Woodville Road.

57 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

57.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Hall reported that the potholes in Ernest Hall Way, Swadlincote had been repaired though members considered that the standard of the repair was inadequate. Manor School View had now been surfaced.

Members reported that the standard of grass cutting was very poor, and that this was not due to the heavy rainfall in previous weeks. No strimming appeared to have been done throughout the village.

Cllr Frost had attended a meeting that evening at which discussions had taken place on the impact of the reductions in Council Tax Benefit about to be implemented. The total money available for this purpose was to be reduced, which would adversely affect those in receipt of the benefit, and could affect some disproportionately if any groups were to be protected.

57.2 Police. The Clerk reported crime statistics, which continued to be low.

57.3 County Council. The Council informed Cllr Jones of the request from the resident of Shortheath, so that he was aware that the matter was to be referred to the County Council. Cllr Jones reported that a review of the A.444 throughout South Derbyshire was shortly to be carried out, and members

requested that a traffic survey include the morning and evening periods, when there was heavy traffic, and when dangerous conditions frequently existed near to the supermarket. Cllr Jones confirmed that the survey was to include the whole day. Several hedgerows, previously reported, had not been dealt with and New Walk in particular was almost blocked. Overgrown hedges along Acresford Road were also in need of urgent attention.

58 CLERK'S REPORT

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

58.2 Flood Liaison Meeting. The District Council had invited participation in this meeting, to be held at the Civic Offices on Thursday 27 September at 10 am. No member was available to attend as this was within the working day.

58.3 Rights of Way – consultation. The County Council had launched a consultation on their Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the next five years. Several documents were available online, including:

- A draft action plan:
- An online questionnaire to facilitate responses:
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2012 (i.e. the existing plan)

The plans included continuing to work in partnership with local councils and, although this involved costs, there did not seem to be any recognition that the present funding for clearance of public footpaths was inadequate. Other changes included improving signs, promotion of the health-related benefits of using rights of way and providing better information about footpaths etc.

The County Council's attention would be drawn to the inadequacy of the money available under the Rights of Way Partnership; the other proposals were welcomed.

58.4 O₂ mobile phone coverage. At the last meeting, residents had complained of poor coverage in the Valley Road/Acresford Road area. Contact with O₂ initially resulted in a very poor response, but eventually, contact was made with the headquarters in Slough, who promised to look into the complaint and report back. Further information had been obtained, but it appeared that, even if residents complained of poor service, remedial works would attract only a low priority because of the small number of customers in a rural area. The original complainant would be informed of the information received.

58.5 Gas meter. British Gas had provided a quotation for the installation of 19 m of pipe plus a new meter with 94 Kwh capacity at a cost of £5207.36 including VAT (£4339.47 net). This was unplanned expenditure, but could be met from a number of budget heads. It was agreed that there was no alternative but to proceed with this work and that part of the work could be funded from the remaining capital money (£1079); the balance would come from savings on planned expenditure of new dog bins (£525), new grit bins (£1000), chairs for the Village Hall (£800) and allotments (£1000) and from the contingency budget (£900).

58.6 Dog control orders. South Derbyshire District Council were part of the way through a consultation exercise to review the content of the Districts Dog Control Order.

The existing Order contained details about the statutory controls that dog owners must take when their dogs are out in public. Largely, the proposals related to including specific parks or other areas in the Order, but other comments could be made about the controls generally. The need for better enforcement relating to dog fouling was highlighted, particularly in Coronation Street and Woodlands Road.

- 58.7 Arriva bus services.** The County Council would be notified if there were any proposals to alter or withdraw bus services and they had received no such notification.
- 58.8 County Council/Parish Liaison Forum.** The County Council had invited participation in this event, to be held at Matlock on Thursday 25 October between 6 and 8 pm. There would be an opportunity to talk to officers about County Council services, hear about recent projects and get involved in the Question and Answer session. The County Council would be asked to hold such events locally to encourage attendance.
- 58.9 External audit.** The Audit Commission had confirmed that the audit of accounts for 2012/2013 and subsequent years would be carried out by Grant Thornton Ltd.
- 58.10 Footpath closure.** The closure of footpath no 9 near to the sewage works had been extended to 31 March 2103 to the conclusion of the works, which ever was the earlier.

59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0589 Widening vehicular access at 56 Lullington Road

0504 Conversion of 2 shops and outbuilding into 3 dwellings, 13/13a Woodville Road.

0598 Erection of extensions and formation of a pitched roof, Woodlands, Green Lane.

The following application had been refused:

0437 Creation of a vehicular access at 27 Moira Road

Applications for decision:

0645 Creation of a vehicular access, formation of a driveway and erection of a wall, 31 Moira Road. Supported after consultation with members.

0751 Extension, 109 Shortheath. Supported.

0759 Agricultural access road between Shortheath Road and 159 Moira Road. No documents had been available on the District Council's website; in order to comply with the restricted time limit, members would express their views to the Chairman by 16 September.

60 ACCOUNTS**60.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1848	L Baxter	Caretaker	410.59		410.59
1849	J M Summerfield	Litter	73.00		73.00
1850	T Stewart	Litter	194.56		194.56
1851	J E White	Reimburse Land Registry fees	80.00		80.00
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	112.56	5.62	118.18
1852	S Fern	External painting of Village Hall, and repainting the milepost	815.00		815.00
1853	S & R Landscapers	Land drains and grading embankment	4820.00	864.00	5684.00
1854	South Derbyshire District Council	Green sacks for litter disposal	230.00		230.00
1855	British Gas Business	Pipework and replacement meter	4339.47	867.89	5207.36
1856	Chartley Groundworks 2003 Ltd	Tarmac at rear of Village Hall	140.00	280.00	1680.00
D/D	British Gas	Electricity to Village Hall	165.81	33.16	198.97
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	23.95	4.79	28.74
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	35.00		35.00

60.2 Receipts

The following amount had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	320.00

60.3 Audit. The Council's financial documents were available for inspection.

61 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

61.1 Parking, Woodville Road. Several complaints had been received from residents of Forest View of the dangers created by parking by users of the bowls club. The club had been requested to use the Village Hall car park on several occasions and again recently, but had not done so. They had also been made aware that the Council would consider a significant rent increase next year, to be reduced if parking problems were resolved. They would be informed of the complaints.

61.2 Metal detection club. Mr Knight reported on discussions with the club, which was a reputable organisation; they had used private land recently and had discovered a small number of interesting artefacts. It was agreed to permit the club to survey the Recreation Ground.

61.3 Overgrown footpath. The path across Daisy Lane meadow (part of path 19) was overgrown. The Clerk would arrange for its clearance.

61.4 Stile, land r/o Burton Road. The stile had now been repaired. The Chairman reported that ownership of the land in question had now been ascertained from the Land Registry and there were five separate parcels of land in different ownerships.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm

Chairman