

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 5 September 2013.

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman

Mr R Cox, Mr A R Hart, Mr D M Holloway, 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 Mrs M E Hall and Cllr S Frost (South Derbyshire District Council), and Mr D McMillan, PCSO, together with Ms Hannah Barradell-Smith (SDDC) and Mr Lee English (Village Games Co-ordinator).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council).

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr J E White declared an interest in minute no. 51 (National salary award).

43 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Village Games. Mr L English (Village Games Co-ordinator) and Ms H Barradell-Smith (SDDC) referred to the discussions held previously with a former colleague about starting a series of monthly village games. These would be based on participation by whole families and it was hoped to start these in late October or early November. The Council confirmed its support for the proposal, while pointing to the limited physical capabilities to deliver assistance, and confirmed the previous decision to underwrite the cost of coaches for up to six months.

Village Hall booking. A resident attended the meeting to request consideration by the Council of a proposed booking for an 18th birthday party, which had been declined by the Caretaker in accordance with Council policy. She explained the special circumstances in this case and assured the Council that there would be sufficient responsible adult supervision. The Council agreed to take into consideration the special circumstances outlined and approved the booking for a date to be determined in March 2014 at an increased deposit of £200, no sale of alcohol and sufficient supervision by responsible adults.

44 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

45 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

45.1 District Council. Cllr Mrs Hall reported that the recycling bins were being distributed to households over the next few weeks and that collections should commence in October; she would appreciate information as to how the system operates. Cllr S Frost agreed to ask the Chief Executive to respond to correspondence dealing with the changing rooms and to press for action on the overgrown hedge in Woodlands Road.

Members reported that the other end of footpath 1 was also badly affected by overgrown hedges in Alexandra Road and that some residents were tipping garden refuse over the hedge onto the footpath. The Clerk was asked to write to all residents in the area affected and to seek their co-operation in rectifying these problems.

- 45.2 Police.** Mr MacMillan reported recent crime statistics, which had increased during August and included burglaries.
- 45.3 County Council.** Cllr Mrs Lauro had reported on certain matters by email. Members referred to the periods of low water pressure in the village, which occurred at frequent intervals. The County Council had written to the owners of the hedge at Valley Road but as yet no action had been taken to cut it back. An enquiry had revealed that there was some doubt as to the procedure to be followed if this situation persisted. A youth employment scheme was being advertised locally, involving the supply of young people to carry out public tasks, which could include cutting back hedges, and enquiries would be made about this.
- 46 PEDESTRIAN REFUGE, BURTON ROAD.**
Derbyshire County Council were consulting on their proposal to install a pedestrian refuge opposite the supermarket at Burton Road. The proposal was warmly welcomed.
- 47 CLERK'S REPORT**
- 47.1 Progress report.** A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).
- 47.2 Land at Daisy Lane.** The District Council had supplied a sketch plan showing the preferred layout of the land with two groups of fruit trees and a single oak, together with surfacing of the two public footpaths crossing the site and a new central path linking the plantings. This was broadly accepted and enquiries had identified possible suppliers of heritage fruit trees. Authority was given for the purchase of appropriate trees to enable planting to take place this year.
- 47.3 Land at Manor School View.** As no progress had been made, the Clerk would press the District Council to contact the developers again and to expedite the transfer of the land to them.
- 47.4 Dog Control Orders.** The Council wished to consider whether such an Order should be applied to the Recreation Ground, or part of it. South Derbyshire District Council reviewed their Dog Control Orders in 2011; at that time, Orders were in place to ensure pets were kept on leads in areas, while dogs were currently not allowed in 12 locations used by children or for sports. The powers could include a requirement to remove dog mess, a requirement to keep a dog on a lead, a limitation on the number of dogs per dog walker and a complete ban on allowing dogs access to certain areas. There were now 39 sites controlled by such Orders, some of which prohibited dogs from being on the areas but most required that dogs were kept on a lead; an Order took effect from 27 March 2013. Fixed penalty notices could be served on offenders with a fine of £75, though maximum fines could reach £1000. Members considered that the situation did not warrant action at present but it would be monitored.
- 47.5 Trees.** An assessment was being made for the provision of trees to be supplied by the Woodland Trust, including possible locations and numbers. This would be pursued as the time to take up the offer was limited.
- 47.6 Lullington Road allotments.** The Association had requested assistance in providing stone for the car park area and scalping from road works were to be sought. However, none was available and the Association would clarify what they required for consideration at the next meeting.

- 47.7 Telephone box, Shortheath.** The Council wished to consider adopting the telephone box, but before doing so, the cost of making it secure was to be assessed. A possible future use for the display of maps showing local rights of way was also suggested. It had been established that the telephone box was secure, even though it was leaning slightly, and a quotation for its refurbishment had been obtained in the sum of £449.99. It was agreed to accept the quotation, and to set in motion the procedure for adoption of the kiosk.
- 47.8 Changing rooms.** A visual inspection indicated that there had been no change since the original damage was discovered. The Chief Executive of South Derbyshire District Council had been asked for assistance.
- 47.79 Public toilets.** Three quotations had been obtained for the internal painting of the public toilets. The lowest was from S Fern in the sum of £355 and had been accepted and the work satisfactorily completed.
- 47.10 Lullington Road allotments.** The Farm Tenancy Agreement had now been finalised and was signed at the meeting.
- 47.11 Sports pavilion.** The Clerk drew attention to the fact that there was no recent electrical safety certificate and he was requested to have the system inspected.
- 47.12 WWI commemoration.** The District Council was assembling information about plans to celebrate the centenary of the beginning of World War I in 2014; they would be informed of plans to hold an official opening of the proposed orchards at Daisy Lane.
- 47.13 Junior football pitch.** A request had been received from Overseal Thunder to use the bottom pitch during the 2014/5 season. Currently, it was used by one local team and one of the Gresley teams, but Members wished to give preference to local teams. Accordingly, the request was approved, and further consideration would be given to pitch sharing when the other teams' wishes were known.
- 47.14 Burton Road Allotments.** The Clerk reported that he had received two complaints from plot-holders at these allotments that several of the plots were badly overgrown, and an inspection had confirmed this. He was asked to identify the plots concerned and give three weeks' notice to the relevant plot-holders to clear their plots, failing which the tenancies would be determined and the plots allocated to people on the waiting list.

48 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications had been approved:

0391 Erection of 3 dwellings including provision of access and turning area, 149, Woodville Road.

0450 Extension, 24 Woodlands Crescent

0499 Extensions and garage, 256 Burton Road

0511 Double garage, 159 Moira Road

The following application had been refused:

0218 Extension of caravan site, The Conifers, Park Road. This application was refused on the grounds that insufficient information had been given about drainage to enable the application to be determined. The Council queried whether this decision did in fact relate to this site and it had been established that it did. A new application with the necessary information was expected in due course, but other possible reasons for refusal would apparently not be put forward.

Application for decision:

0618 Extension of existing gypsy caravan site including a change of use of land and increase in number of caravans to 10 at The Conifers, Park Road.

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.

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.

48 ACCOUNTS**48.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1955	L Baxter	Caretaker	412.24		412.24
1956	J M Summerfield	Litter	74.25		74.25

1957	T Stewart	Litter	148.56		148.56
1958	Moira Replan	Printing	74.36		74.36
1959	A&B Roofing Services	Re-felt roof to old changing rooms	1550.00		1550.00
1960	S Fern	Internal painting of public toilets	355.00		355.00
1961	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	95.89	19.17	115.06
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	24.50	4.90	29.40
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	36.00		36.00

48.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

Name	Description	Amount
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	430.00

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

49 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

49.1 Bollards, Burton Road/Coronation Street junction. It was reported that five concrete bollards had now been installed.

49.2 Overgrown footpath. The footpath at Shortheath was overgrown with nettles and the occupier of the adjoining land was dumping horse manure on the line of the path. To be referred to the County Council for action.

49.3 Football. A Linesman had been heard using foul language in the presence of children during a recent match. The team organisers would be informed and requested to take action.

49.4 Footpath Group. This Group had recently been formed and had held its initial meeting. While dealing with paths generally, the intention was to concentrate on those paths forming part of the National Forest network.

49.5 Listed buildings. Mr Knight reported that he had contacted the relevant officer at South Derbyshire District Council and had been informed of the process for listing. The responsibility for future maintenance of the building or object would remain that of the owners.

49.6 Metal detection. A report on the group's recent activities was submitted.

49.7 Planters. It was agreed to order the winter planting of the planters and beds as these were beginning to look unkempt.

49.8 Christmas lights. It was agreed to order the Christmas lights display on the same basis as last year, but to ask for its installation earlier than previously.

50 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

51 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

The Clerk reported that revised salary scales had been agreed nationally, increasing the scales by approximately 1% with effect from 1 April 2013.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Clerk's salary scale be increased in accordance with the national agreement;
- (b) That the basic salary of the Caretaker be increased by a similar percentage with effect from 1 April 2013.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

Chairman