

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 10 September 2015.

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
Mr A W Cook, Mrs M Elton, Mrs S Jones, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, and Mr S C Sharpe.

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs M E Hall and Cllr P Murray (South Derbyshire District Council) and Cllr Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr R Cox, Mrs J Cunningham-Gardner and Mr M S Patrick.

## 43 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs C M Knight and Mr M A Knight declared an interest as neighbours in minute no. 49 (planning applications - application no 0518 - residential development (outline), land r/o 69 Woodville Road).

## 44 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Members of the public referred to the traffic problems on Lullington Road near to and at the junction with Valley Road. Vehicles travelling out of the village often drove at high speed, and traffic entering the village often mounted the pavement because of cars parked on the other side of the road. This caused damage to the pavement surface and to services underneath. The County Council had agreed to undertake an assessment of the problems in this area but a date had yet to be fixed. Additionally, vehicles parked at the junction were probably committing an offence. The County Council would be asked to expedite the assessment and the Police would be asked to secure prevention of parking at the junction.

It was also stated that trees were obscuring some street lights in Lullington Road. If so, this would be reported to the County Council to remedy.

## 45 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record, subject to the first sentence in minute no 42.9 (conifers on the recreation ground) being corrected to read 'Some conifers had been cut down elsewhere by travellers and dumped on the recreation ground and required removal or shredding.'

## 46 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**46.1 District Council.** Netherseal Parish Council had enquired about making byelaws to prevent access by caravans to a recreation ground or similar open land and the Clerk reported that the District Council had made byelaws some years ago relating to good rule and government which might be of assistance. He had also identified a flow chart outlining the process.

Members considered that it would be prudent to combine resources with Netherseal in this case and enquiries would be made of the District Council to ascertain whether the existing byelaws could be extended.

The District Council had intended to carry out repairs to the car park during the school holidays but this had not been done. Cllr Murray had made enquiries and would be advised of the start date shortly.

Members thanked the District Council for installing barrier posts on the open land at Daisy Lane and Forest View following the incursion by travellers.

It was reported that the litter bin outside the church was still overflowing and required emptying more frequently.

The flower display trough at Burton Road had been damaged and required replacing. The Clerk would arrange for this to be done and for a better site to be identified.

**46.2 Police.** The Chairman reported crime statistics for August, which continued to be low.

**46.3 County Council.** Members referred to the need to fell a dead cherry tree in Woodville Road, which had not been done. Cllr Mrs Lauro agreed to press for this to be carried out. There were many advertising signs, including a large one at the junction of Moira Road and Main Street. While this had been reported to the District Council as a planning infringement, Cllr Mrs Lauro agreed to see whether the County Council could take action as highway authority.

#### **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 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. Members pointed out that the recent unplanned expenditure following the incursion by travellers meant that additional unplanned costs should be avoided if possible, and questioned whether the internal fence was the best way forward. The matter was deferred to enable a representative of the club to attend.

**47.3 Provision of a defibrillator.** The Council had been asked to reconsider its decision not to provide a defibrillator at the Village Hall. The cost of purchasing and maintenance of such equipment was high and the surgery's defibrillator had not been required in seven years. Under the circumstances, the request was refused.

**47.4 Dropped kerb, Park Road junction.** The County Council said that location gave the optimum point for visibility of traffic travelling on and off the roundabout. Additionally its location also fell in line with the footpath which ran parallel to the A444 High Cross; pedestrians using this footpath were likely to naturally cross at this point whether a dropped crossing point was installed or not. There were no recorded injury collisions at this site in the last three years and subsequently the crossing point at this location would appear to be working well. Consequently, they would not be taking any action. However, it had been ascertained that they may have been referring to the wrong crossing point and had been asked to re-examine the situation and Mr Cook offered to meet them on site to demonstrate the difficulties.

**47.5 Incursion of travellers onto the recreation ground.** Members were aware that there was considerable local effort in cleaning up the recreation ground after the travellers left.

Some additional work was needed and the assistance of the Clean Team was enlisted. Also, some conifers which had been brought onto the land by the travellers and dumped when they left had to be removed and shredded. In order to protect the land against future such incursions as far as possible, two height restriction barriers had been installed at the entrance to the Village Hall car park and the entrance to the lower pitch area. These actions were confirmed.

- 47.6 Pitch improvement.** The contract documents were not available for signature prior to the scheduled date for commencement of the work and, after discussions with the Consultant and the Contractor, a letter of intent was issued so that the contractor could order materials and commence work. As Sport England would impose a restrictive covenant on the title to the land, to protect their interests and investment, Crane & Walton Solicitors had been asked to deal with registration of title urgently. The restriction was designed to ensure that no disposal of the land would take place without the prior approval of Sport England. Much of this had to be carried out during the Clerk's absence on leave and the Chairman undertook the necessary decisions in order to progress the project. Her actions were confirmed and she was thanked for the considerable amount of work which she had undertaken.

The Clerk reported that Crane & Walton had agreed to hold the Council's deeds and to act in any future legal matters on the Council's behalf and members agreed to this arrangement. The Clerk would supply a list of all deeds to members.

- 47.7 Consultation - Community Transport.** The County Council were proposing to reduce expenditure on community transport, which would affect the dial-a-bus services throughout the county. The proposal was to cut all of this funding for Dial a Bus and put this out to tender, changing the services provided dramatically. Before any decisions about reducing or withdrawing services were made, users were being asked to tell DCC about the journeys they make – which routes and community transport services they used, and the impact on them if any of these services were taken away or changed.

Members pointed out that the general users of these services were unlikely to provide the requested information and were most in need of the services. The council was disappointed that such reductions were being contemplated.

- 47.8 Pitch improvement.** Work had started on site on Thursday 27 August with the temporary fences being installed and herbicide spray applied to the grass surface. A trial excavation of the drain which passed near to the lower pitch had not been fully reinstated and the contractors would be asked to ensure that this was safe.

- 47.9 Request for grant.** Burton Hospitals League of Friends had requested a grant towards their work. They wanted to raise £35,000 this year to be used in the Ophthalmic Department for the purchase of additional equipment which is at present borrowed from other departments. A grant of £50 was agreed.

- 47.10 Consultation - public rights of way.** The County Council were consulting on proposed reductions to the rights of way budget to save around £163,000, which represented approximately 33% of the budget. They were proposing staff reductions as a result. This consultation asked for views on this proposal and as to how a potential reduction in the service would affect the village.

The Council were opposed to the proposed reductions in staff as the existing staff were over-stretched already.

Mr M A Knight reported on recent activities of the Footpaths Group, who were considering extending their activities to areas just outside the parish boundary.

**47.11 Education standards.** Following the Parish Council's complaints about the standards of education in the county, a full response has been received from Cllr J Coyle, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. As the copies emailed to members had not arrived, the matter was deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

**47.12 Request for dog bin.** Mr R Cox had received a request for a new dog bin to be sited at the corner in Valley Road. There was considerable fouling both at this point and on the adjoining public right of way and the request was approved.

#### **48 FORWARD PLANNING**

It was agreed to consider the following matters at the next meeting:

- (a) Designation as a 'key service village' without prior consultation; and
- (b) Amber Valley District Council were declining to accommodate such a large proportion of Derby's housing needs; should South Derbyshire District Council be requested to adopt a similar attitude?

#### **49 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**The following application had been refused:**

0510 New dwelling, 3 Acresford Road

**Applications for decision:**

0518 Residential development (outline), land r/o 69 Woodville Road

The Parish Council objects to this application. Provision of 6 dwellings on such a narrow strip of land is over-development and will produce a cramped result. 16 cars, plus those of visitors, would potentially be accommodated within the site and 8 of those would exit onto Woodville Road opposite the public car park entrance and the primary school. Others would exit to Forest View. Additionally, the primary school is full and the addition of further family houses will increase the demand for non-existent facilities.

(Mrs C M Knight and Mr M A Knight declared an interest as neighbours in this application and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon).

0680 Solar farm, inverter/transformer stations, access, ancillary infrastructure, cable route to grid and security measures, Shortheath Farm, Shortheath

Supported. The Council suggested solar panels for the Village Hall roof, a fence at the lower pitch to prevent footballs going into the hedge, and additional fitness equipment as S 106 benefits.

0796 Erection of 4 dwellings, land adj. Coppice Farm, Sealwood Lane

The Parish Council objects to this application.

Access to the site is along a very narrow country lane, which is a no-through road and has limited turning places. It is also a public footpath. Access to the A.444 from Sealwood Lane is very difficult.

The development shows 8 parking spaces on the plan, but the narrative refers to the likelihood of 16 cars, plus visitors.

The lane is single track only and parking a single vehicle would completely block it. Despite the fact that it is a no-through road, traffic continues to try to get through to Linton, and finds great difficulty in turning, unless a private access gate happens to be open.

The plan also shows that the existing hedgerows and trees on the site will be removed; given the presence of barn-owls nesting in the adjoining buildings and the proliferation of wildlife on the site, this is a retrograde step. It amounts to changing the whole landscape.

The site is outside the developable area of the village and is substantially in open countryside. It is inappropriate to develop this site.

0631 Change of use from holiday let to a building for letting/holiday let, Hobbits Hall, .Green Lane

This application was predictable from the original design of the building. The Parish Council objects to the proposal, which would result in the building being occupied throughout the year instead of from time to time. This would generate more traffic and increase demand for medical and school facilities which are both under severe strain

## 50 ACCOUNTS

### 50.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

Cheque	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
2195	L Baxter	Caretaker	415.08		415.08
2196	J M Summerfield	Litter	62.40		62.40
2197	T Stewart	Litter	156.00		156.00
2198	J Kirby	Cleaner	201.30		201.30
2199	South Derbyshire District Council	Waste removal & shredding conifers at recreation ground	339.50	67.90	407.40
2201	R Croxall	Mowing Daisy Lane & clearance at recreation ground	500.00		500.00
2202	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Cleaning materials	128.48	25.70	154.18
2203	Came & Co	Insurance premiums	1802.07		1802.07
2204	Wainwright Landscape Architecture	Consultancy fees	5527.00	1105.40	6632.40
2205	C M Knight	Reimburse aerosol marker paint	69.66	13.93	83.59
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	38.00		38.00
D/D	TalkTalk	Internet charges	18.50	3.70	22.20
D/D	British Gas	Gas to Village Hall	524.44	26.22	550.66

**50.2 Receipts**

The following amount had been received since the last meeting:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
L Baxter	Village Hall lettings	330.00

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

**51 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**51.1 Valley Road/A.444 junction.** A request that a mirror be provided to help drivers exiting Valley Road would be referred to the County Council.

**51.2 Croft Orchard, Daisy Lane.** It had been intended to install a stone on this land and the Gala Committee had agreed to do so. It was understood that they were still intending to do this and a date in October 2016 was suggested to coincide with an apple day.

**51.3 Pipe Wall.** The wall was overgrown with Russian Vine and enquiries would be made to find out whether this was likely to cause damage to the structure.

**51.4 Village Wassail.** A suggestion that such an event be undertaken in January would be referred to the Gala Committee.

**51.5 30 Coronation Street.** The front garden of this property was overgrown and brambles were protruding into the footpath. Cllr P Murray agreed to report this.

**51.6 Mowing, Land at Daisy Lane.** The District Council would be asked to carry out this work as soon as possible.

**51.7 Caravan site, Park Road.** The Chairman reported that neighbours were suffering from the adverse behaviour of the occupiers of the site, and that the Police would be asked to assist.

**51.8 Recreation ground.** The lower pitch was subject to severe dog fouling and Mr Knight agreed to install some signs warning of the financial penalties. A request had been received from the Junior Football Club that they be allowed to store materials in the changing room which was unable to be used for team changing. Subject to there being no obvious danger and infrequent use only, the Clerk would arrange this.

**51.9 Wall, Moira Road.** It was reported that the condition of the wall had deteriorated and the District Council would be asked to re-examine it.

**51.10 Slackey Lane - rubbish.** Some old tyres had been dumped in Slackey Lane; North West Leicestershire District Council would be asked to remove them.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

**Chairman**