

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 27 April 2006

Present: Mrs G Edwards - Chairman
Mr I W Chester, Mr K Clark (present for Minute No 132 only), Mrs C M Knight, Mr G S Knight, Mrs N Lees, Mr I A Neal and Mr M S Patrick.

In attendance: Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council) and Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

Mr JAMES VARNHAM

Members stood in silent respect for Mr James Varnham, who had passed away recently. Mr Varnham had been a member of the Parish Council for many years until 1999 and had represented the Parish as a District Councillor. He had also been Chairman of the Parish Council on several occasions.

It was agreed to make a donation of £100.00 to the Air Ambulance Service in accordance with his family's wishes.

131 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

132 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

132.1 Land at Lullington Road. The District Council had decided not to proceed with selling the land on the northern side of the road in the short term, to give the Parish Council the opportunity to work up proposals for its use. It was agreed that Mr M Patrick and the Clerk would prepare a draft scheme and estimated cost.

132.2 Bowls Club. The Clerk reported details of a letter from the club referring to the proposal to site a portacabin on the far side of the Pavilion for use as a changing room. They had also asked for an access path for disabled bowlers citing legislation as the reason. (Disability Discrimination Act).

The Council noted that there was already a level path from the car park to the Pavilion and that specialist equipment would also be required for disabled bowlers to enable them to access the green. As regards the portacabin, the previous decision to make the new changing rooms available was adhered to.

132.3 National Forest. The bid for Lottery funds had passed the initial stages and would be worked up into a final bid shortly.

133 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

County Council. Mrs Lauro reported that she had asked when the speed bumps on Woodville Road were to be re-done and had been advised that the work would be carried out as soon as it could be scheduled. The suggested crash barrier at the junction of Valley Road and Main Street could not be installed as the path was too narrow.

Members pointed out that the village boundary sign at Acresford Road, which should have been restored in February, had still not been replaced. Mrs Lauro would press for this to be done.

The Clerk reported that there had been a discussion at the meeting between the District Council and Parish Councils on the previous evening at which the District Council had said that their aim in relation to the possible provision of a third bridge across the Trent was that the resultant traffic would not simply be delivered at Drakelow, but that a proper road should be provided linking the bridge with A.511 Ashby bypass.

District Council. Mrs Hall referred to the planning application relating to Barratt Mill and she had been assured that the Planning Department were aware of the background.

The new bus passes could not provide the benefits anticipated as they could not be used before 9.30 am; the bus service started at 9.10 am and the next bus was not until 11.30 am. Mrs Lauro agreed to report details and ask the County Council to make appropriate representations to the operators. A Member reported that a silver birch tree had been felled at 29 Valley Road whereas the planning application concerned had said that no trees would be felled. The matter would be referred to the District Council for investigation.

Police. Members referred to the inadequate service which the village had received since the reorganising of the Beat Officers. The Overseal Officer had been on long-term sick and his work was being carried out as far as possible by another Officer, who no doubt had his own beat to cover as well. Several instances of bad behaviour, damage and unsocial activities were cited and these would be passed on to the Police with a request that adequate resources be provided. Members felt that the position had been allowed to deteriorate since the former Beat Officer had been moved on and that a much more active Police presence was needed urgently.

134 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Permission had been granted for:

1164 Conversion of farm buildings into one dwelling with stables used as ancillary domestic storage and stabling and associated parking, Brooklands Farm, Shortheath

1224 Detached dwelling, land adjacent to 29 Coronation Street

0072 Detached house with associated access, land forming part of the side garden of 12 Edward Street

Applications for decision

0378 Felling & Pruning trees, Barratt Mill, Shortheath. Overseal Parish Council objects to this application. The two ash trees are young and unlikely to be dead; it is in any event too early in the season to ascertain whether they are dead or not as ash are among the last trees to come into leaf. The whole purpose of a TPO is to protect trees and there has been a steady erosion of the woodland at Barratt Mill over the years, which is not justified.

0430 Reserved matters – erection of 20 houses and new access road at Grotto Farm, Main Street. The Parish Council objects to the 3-storey houses and to the overall density of the development. The three storey houses are inappropriate to a village setting in a particularly rural part of the village. The density will give rise to considerable traffic movements into and out of the narrow entrance road onto Moira Road. Moira Road is narrow and there are

many cars parked regularly along the side opposite the site entrance as there are no parking facilities at those houses. It is also the designated access route to Conkers and a bus route and as such is a busy road.

The Council considered that a reduction of two or three houses by replacing the 3-storey houses with 2-storey dwellings with separate garages would make the development much more in keeping with the surroundings.

0431 Erection of 2 houses, land r/o Eaton House, Moira Road. The design of the two houses is supported, but because the proposal adds to the traffic problems referred to in relation to application no 0430, the Council objects to the application

0452 Erection of a detached bungalow and garage, land r/o 106 Woodville Road. Supported.

0461 Swimming pool and enclosure, 22 Gorseley Lees. Supported.

Appeal

2005/0226 Conversion of farm buildings into one dwelling, Brooklands Farm, Shortheath. The appeal regarding the conversion of outbuildings into a dwelling had been withdrawn.

135 CORRESPONDENCE

135.1 Electricity prices. Powergen had notified that electricity charges would be increased with effect from 28 April, affecting the Village Hall, sports changing rooms and the Pavilion, resulting in an annual increase of around £250 - £300. Although no notification had yet been received, gas prices were also likely to increase. The budget for 2006-7 would meet part of these increases, but there would be a small shortfall

135.2 Derbyshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework. This document had now been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

135.3 Sharpes Pottery. The Heritage & Arts Trust had invited renewal of the subscription. It was agreed to do so and to make a donation of £25.00

135.4 Civic Amenity collections. The District Council offered a refuse freighter at a cost of £198.00 for a four hour session. No action.

135.5 Accounts & Audit. Amendments to the 2003 Regulations meant that Councils with a total income or expenditure below £200,000 were required to produce only a Receipts & Payments Account. Noted.

135.6 S.137 limit. The limit for expenditure under S.137 (for expenditure where no other power existed but which was in the interests of the Parish) had been increased to £5.44 per elector. For Overseal, this meant a limit of £10064.

135.7 Police reorganisation. Derbyshire Constabulary sought support for their opposition to the proposed merger with Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire forces. It was understood that Derbyshire was among the better-performing forces, whereas some neighbouring forces had considerable problems. It followed that it was likely that a merger would tend to pull resources from the county into other areas, reducing the service available locally. Members felt that an improved local service with greater local autonomy was required rather than a larger, regional

body and supported the request that the Home Secretary be asked to reconsider the matter and to address other alternatives.

135.8 Publications

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2006-7.

136 ACCOUNTS

136.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1056	L Baxter	Caretaker	385.61		385.61
*1057	M Latham	Litter	100.00		100.00
*1058	J M Summerfield	Litter	75.75		75.75
*1063	South Derbyshire District Council	Temporary loan	40667.00		40667.00
*1064	I E Green	Roof repairs to Village Hall	504.70	88.32	593.02
*1065	BT	Telephone bill	41.15	7.20	48.35
*1066	A&J Bartlett Ltd	Electrical safety check	156.00	27.30	183.30
*1067	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd	Reset gate posts at Village Hall	250.00	43.75	293.75
1068	J E White	Salary & Expenses	1058.10		1058.10
1069	DALC	Subscription	341.14		341.14
1070	SDDC	Clearance of litter etc from allotments	45.00	7.88	52.88
1071	Paul Topliss Ltd	Repair boiler	50.00		50.00
1072	Ian E Green	Apply anti-vandal paint to roof of Village Hall	546.14	95.57	641.71
1073	Powergen	Gas supply to Village Hall	586.90	102.71	689.61
1074	Powergen	Electricity supply to old changing rooms	17.01	0.85	17.86
1075	Hornsby Plant Hire Ltd	Resurface car park	13870.00	2427.25	16297.25
1076	Powergen	Electricity to Village Hall	405.55	70.97	476.52
1077	Paul Topliss Ltd	Safety checks on boilers at Village Hall and new changing rooms	80.00		80.00
1078	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Village Hall sundries	48.35	8.47	56.82
1079	Air Ambulance Service	Donation	100.00		100.00

1080	Sharpes Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Ltd	Subscription	25.00		25.00
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	194.00		194.00
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	20.38	3.57	23.95

*These accounts had been paid between meetings in view of their urgency.

136.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	£286.00
Overseal Bowls Club	Rent	£300.00
NatWest	Interest	£111.89

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

136.4 Year end accounts. The Council considered the statement of the year end accounts, together with background notes (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes.) The accounts were subject to audit.

Members commented that the year-end position was satisfactory.

137 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

A short tribute to Mr J Varnham.

Damage to trees at the Nature Reserve.

138 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

138.1 Litter. The Bus Shelter on Burton Road needed attention and the Lengthsman would be asked to deal with this.

138.2 Land at Lullington Road. It was reported that considerable quantities of rubble etc was being dumped on land at Lullington Road. This would be referred to the District Council for investigation.

138.3 Car park fence. The fence on the Woodville Road frontage to the car park was badly damaged. The District Council would be asked to consider replacing it with metal railings to match those provided by the Parish Council near to the Village Hall, Recreation Ground and War Memorial.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Chairman