

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 7 April 2005

Present: Mrs G Edwards - Chairman
Mr K Clark, Mrs E Evans, Mrs C M Knight, Mr G S Knight, Mr I A Neal and Mr M S Patrick.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I W Chester, Mrs N Lees and Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

136 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 10 March 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

137 BOWLS CLUB

The Club had requested a reduction in the charges for use of the facilities to exclude the £75 charge for use of the changing rooms, as they had been unable to make adequate use of them during the previous year. The Council agreed to this and to reduce the charge to £250 for 2005/6.

138 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

138.1 Speeding, Spring Cottage. Leicestershire Police had carried out a speed check in mid-February and had found that most drivers exceeded the limit. Of these, 18.2% travelled at between 30 and 34 mph and 75.5% above 35 mph. They were therefore planning to use camera safety vans, subject to other duties permitting, to enforce the speed limit.

It was pointed out that both Spring Cottage and Moira Road were entrances to Overseal from Leicestershire and that both roads suffered from the same problem, namely speeding. The result was that Woodville Road and Moira Road Overseal had traffic exceeding speed limits to the detriment of safety. A Member reported that he and his family had been involved in a near miss when a speeding car almost collided with them as they were walking along Moira Road.

It was agreed to request Leicestershire County Council to reduce the speed limit in Moira Road either to 30 mph if supplementary signing could be provided, or if this was not the case, then to 40 mph. The overgrown hedge at Tollgate Cottage at the junction of Moira Road and Slackey Lane needed cutting back further as pedestrians currently had to step into the road.

138.2 Proposed road bridge, Walton upon Trent. Mr Mark Todd MP had objected to the specific proposal on the grounds that the route was extremely close to the conservation area, ended too close to properties at the edge of the village and would not improve the adjacent road system, which had been prone to accidents. Mrs Hall had suggested that the Parish Council should approach Mr J Hammond of Trading Standards and the Highways Agency to find out what was the up to date situation with the proposed third river crossing and its effects on traffic using A.444 and this was agreed.

138.3 Village Hall charges – Darby & Joan Club.

It was noted that the charge was below the standard charge for use of the facilities. However, this was a local organisation which had been using the Village Hall for many years and whose membership was declining. Accordingly it was agreed not to make any change.

138.4 Play area equipment. The District Council said that they had no plans to update the equipment and that the Overseal play area was 'relatively new' compared to other sites in the District. There was a finance allocation to upgrade play equipment, but they would require a one-third contribution from the Parish Council. They suggested leaving things as they were until the summer and then to have a meeting to discuss possibilities. Essential repairs to the equipment would be carried out shortly – it was thought that work had been carried out recently to some of the equipment. Reference was made to the fact that a swing which had been replaced had supporting chains of different lengths, resulting in the swing being lop-sided. The District Council would be asked to rectify this.

It was agreed to hold a meeting later in the year as suggested by the District Council.

Members reported that there had recently been trouble from a large gang of young children who went to various places in the village committing anti-social behaviour. Examples included throwing dog faeces around, and at cars, some damage to cars and climbing into large litter bins. The assistance of the Police would be sought.

138.5 Village Hall car park entrance area. It had become clear that sufficient would remain in the budget for the trees to be removed and the area stoned; instructions had therefore been given to the successful tenderer and the work had now been carried out. Members commented favourably on the standard of the work.

138.6 Youth Shelter. The quotation of DSK Engineering (Midlands) Ltd had been accepted, though there would be some alteration to accommodate provision of the side screens and litter bin. Delivery would be approximately the last week of April. Members were asked to choose the final colour and agreed to Royal blue with red seats and seat backs.

138.7 Donation to 2nd Overseal Brownies. The Unit Guider had thanked the Council for the donation towards the formation of the new brownie unit.

138.8 Overhanging branches, 2 Coronation Street. The County Council had said that no cutting back of the fir tree was required but that they would monitor the situation.

139 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

It was reported that a cable repair had been carried out in the footpath near to 38 Valley Road and that the JCB had left potholes in the surface. The carriageway surface at the junction of Woodlands Road and Woodlands Crescent was breaking up. These would be referred to the County Council for action.

The flooding of the BT inspection chamber in the footpath outside 89/91 Woodville Road had not been remedied and the Clerk was asked to pursue this.

140 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**The following applications had been approved**

0031 Partial demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and erection of garage and outbuilding at Homestead, Main Street

0060 Erection of a single storey extension and conservatory at 5 Lullington Road

0061 Erection of an agricultural storage building and dry covered area at 123 Woodville Road.

The following application had been refused

Outline application for the demolition of existing building and new vehicular access for the erection of 3 detached dwellings at 24/26 Woodville Road. (Loss of retailing facilities; premises not marketed for retail use and not demonstrated that the current use is no longer viable).

Applications for decision

0348 Retrospective application to retain brick building/electrical store at the caravan site on land to the north of Park Road.

The Parish Council point out that this building was not related to the original development for use of the site for touring caravans but is supporting the static 'mobile' home, which is itself not appropriate to the use as a touring caravan site. The retention of the building therefore breaches the original planning application and the intentions for the site and the Parish Council ask that the application be refused.

0350 Retrospective application for a conservatory at 2 Forest View. Supported

0379 Installation of a postal pouch box on land adjoining 330 Burton Road. Supported.

0370 Installation of a postal pouch box on land adjoining 2 Squirrel Walk and Valley Road. Supported.

0382 Erection of an extension at 141 Shortheath. Supported.

0401 Erection of an extension at 4 Ashley Close.

The Parish Council supports this application. However, the Planning Authority are asked to check that there will be sufficient on-site parking when the development is completed as the garage will be lost and Ashley Close is a small road with intensive development where parking on the carriageway is undesirable.

0422 Raising of roof height and installation of dormers to facilitate loft conversion at 6/7 Ashley Close.

The Parish Council have considered this application and neither support nor object to it. It is felt that neighbours who are closely affected, together with the planning regulations should determine the application.

0358 Erection of a detached house in substitution for the dwelling approved under 9/189/964 on land to the south of 336 Burton Road. Supported.

141 CORRESPONDENCE

141.1 Sharpes Pottery. An invitation had been received to continue membership of this organisation. It was agreed to make a donation of £25 as last year.

141.2 Sportsmobile. The cost of a visit this year would be £52.00 plus VAT and a provisional reservation had been made for 19 August. In addition to this, the District Council would be operating a Mobile Skate Park aimed primarily at children 8-19, though under 8's could use the facility provided they were accompanied by an adult. The cost to participants would be £1 per session of two hours. It was agreed to confirm the provisional booking for the Sportsmobile and to book a session for the mobile skate park on a different day in the school holidays.

The District Council would also be asked to provide appropriate publicity material, preferably before the beginning of the school holidays so that children could be informed of the events.

141.3 Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The County Council had a new duty to produce this Plan and wanted to identify key issues, priorities for improving access to rights of way and local improvements which needed to be made. While the first two items were to be dealt with by means of questionnaires, the last required local knowledge or inspection and the information was sought by 12 May. Mr & Mrs Knight agreed to complete the questionnaires and comments were made as follows.

- The footpath from Woodlands Road to the nature reserve had been boggy for many years and needed improvement; ideally, it would be surfaced so that it could link with other rights of way as a cycle path. It was particularly noticeable how bad this path was as the Leicestershire length was properly surfaced.
- The path from Bramble Walk to Lullington Road was overgrown and needed surfacing; this was needed because of the recent transfer of the Post Office to Lullington Road and the path provided a convenient route for more people.
- The path to the rear of Woodville Road required cleaning up; however, this was a private right of way.
- The path to the rear of the school at the top of New Walk had overgrown hedges and it was agreed to ask Mr Baxter to cut these under the County agency arrangements.

141.4 Refuse freighter. The District Council were offering the refuse freighter service at a cost of £193 plus VAT for a period from 7.30 to 11.30 on a Saturday morning. No action.

141.5 Cultivation Licence. Comments were invited on an application for a cultivation licence made to the County Council relating to the highway verge at 161 Shortheath. The applicants intended to plant shrubs and bulbs on the strip of verge on the side of the road opposite to their house. While the application was supported, it was pointed out that, because cars were regularly parked on this verge, it would be necessary for some protection to be installed so that the cultivated area was not damaged.

141.6 Fire service regional arrangements. The East Midlands Regional Management Board of fire authorities of the East Midlands had the role of encouraging the authorities to work closely together and to co-ordinate their plans. The EMRMB had agreed that its aim would be 'to support the provision of sustainable and increasingly effective and efficient prevention, protection and intervention services to reduce fires and deaths and injuries by the

individual, independent and locally accountable fire and rescue authorities in the region by actively seeking and developing the benefits for our constituent authorities of collaboration, driving collaborative projects and common service provision for the direct benefit of the constituent authorities, and effectively and efficiently meeting all the relevant requirements of the National Fire and Rescue Framework'. They offered to send an electronic newsletter to keep the Council up to date about developments in the region. Noted.

141.7 Joint meeting with the District Council. The next meeting was to be held on Wednesday 11 May at 6.30 pm.

141.8 Land at Main Street. An enquiry had been made as to whether the Council would consider selling this land to a neighbour to use as garden land. Members were aware of other proposals which could involve this land and which it was hoped would be resolved in the next few months. Enquiries would be made relating to those proposals and the possibility of a short term license would also be ascertained.

142 ACCOUNTS

142.1 Accounts for Payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

*927	K H Packaging	Supplies for public toilets	£52.77
928	South Staffordshire Water	Charges – old changing rooms	£8.13
929	South Staffordshire Water	Charges – Village Hall/new changing rooms	£138.74
930	Mace Security & Electrical (Midlands) Ltd	Service security systems & 12 months maintenance, Village Hall and bowls pavilion	£192.70
931	Sharpes Pottery	Donation/subscription	£25.00
932	L Baxter	Caretaker	£376.17
933	M Latham	Litter	£100.00
934	J E White	Salary & expenses	£773.67
935	Paul Topliss Ltd	Repair boiler at Changing Rooms	£55.00
936	BT	Telephone line rental	£48.35
937	Inland Revenue	PAYE	£184.09
938	M P Bates	Service boilers & safety checks	£399.85
939	A & J Bartlett Ltd	Electrical safety checks of Village Hall	£164.50
940	P R Sharpe	Village Hall sundries	£25.51
941	D P Edwards	Tree felling & stone entrance to car park at Village Hall	£988.75
942	K Clark	Install flood light & replace 3 strip lights at Pavilion	£463.50
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet charges	£23.95
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Village Hall Rates	£280.40

*Payment had been made between meetings to avoid excessive delay

142.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	£379.00
Overseal Pre-school Playgroup	Use of Village Hall	£816.00
HM Customs & Excise	VAT refund	£450.74
R Leedham	Rent of land at Lullington Road	£600.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept	£8900.00

142.3 Audit

A check was undertaken of accounts paid, receipts and bank statements.

143 ITEMS FOR *FREE FOR ALL*

The Darby & Joan Club wished to attract new members and this would be published.

144 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

As the County Council elections were to take place on 5 May and a General Election had now been called for the same date, the Parish Council's Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting would now take place on 12 May.

145 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

145.1 Disabled access at the Church. The Council agreed to support the Church's proposal to provide full access to the central part of the Church and the related grant application.

145.2 Recycling. The residential home in Woodville Road produced recyclable materials such as cardboard, bottles etc. They would be asked to recycle the paper especially, as this would help increase the contribution made to the school for recycled material.

145.3 Dog fouling. A further persistent offender had been identified in Woodville Road and the assistance of the Dog Warden would be sought. A request for a dog bin to be provided in this area was not proceeded with in view of the cost of providing them at a number of similar places in the village.

145.4 Traffic problems, Woodville Road. There had been several cases of large HGV lorries speeding in Woodville Road and in one case, a lorry had been seen to mount the pavement to avoid stopping. This would be taken up with the companies involved and reported to the Police.

145.5 Village Hall – hot water supplies. The temperature of the water in the wash basin in the disabled toilet was too high and needed adjustment. Provision of a hot water supply to the two sinks in the kitchen was in hand.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Chairman