

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Church Hall, Woodville Road, Overseal on Thursday 2 August 2007

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman

Mr J Astle, Mr J Cunningham-Gardner, Mrs E Evans, Mr P Green, Mr A R Hart, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick and Mr S C Sharpe.

**In attendance:** Cllr J Grant (South Derbyshire District Council), Mr I Stevens, Derbyshire Youth Service and PCSO D MacMillan.

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

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **Proposed extension to the gypsy caravan site at Park Road.**

Several members of the public attended the meeting to express views on planning application no 0804 relating to an extension to the gypsy caravan site at Park Road. All were totally opposed to it for the reasons summarised below. The Parish Council agreed with those views and subsequently objected to the application as follows:

1. The application states that foul sewage will be disposed of to a foul sewer – there is no sewer;
2. Neighbours' gardens are flooded because of the lack of proper drainage, not just during the recent heavy rainfall but at more normal times also. This is largely because the site is at the lowest lying section of the land and therefore problems of draining surface water to a soakaway occur. One neighbour uses a sump pump to deal with this problem and as soon as the pump is stopped, the water level rises.
3. The previous application for the original family was based on medical needs of a child, who required regular treatment at hospital; this does not have appeared to have occurred and there is, in any event, no similar justification for expanding the site.
4. The previous application was for two caravans only. There are normally 5 or 6 caravans on the site, far more than the permitted number.
5. The application says that there are only 2 caravans at the Lullington Crossroads site. It is understood that there are in fact 14.
6. There are already two official travellers' sites in South Derbyshire, whereas many other Districts have none at all. Provision for such need is therefore already met.
7. The occupiers of the site would be dependent on the car for access to daily facilities – an application in a nearby part of the village was refused for this reason.
8. The proposal would increase traffic on Park Road, which is already heavily trafficked and used by HGVs serving the landfill site.

**Proposed Multi-Use Games Area.** Mr I Stevens outlined the project and stated that funding had been secured for 75% of the total cost. The Parish Council were asked to make the application for the remaining £15,000 to the Community Partnership to complete the funding. Mr Stevens confirmed that, when completed, the MUGA would belong to the Parish Council and the Clerk drew attention to the implications of this, including maintenance, insurance and management.

Members felt that there was little provision for teenagers in the village and as this had been the result of consultation with them, it should be supported. The proposed site at the rear of the Village Hall was known to have bad drainage and this would be discussed with the Youth Service and Groundwork in due course. The deadline for applications was the following day but this had been extended for a few days to enable an application to be submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Council make the application and discuss remaining concerns at a later stage before a final commitment is made.

**Churchyard maintenance.** A representative of the church stated that the cost of a single mowing of the churchyard was £280 and, although voluntary work was also carried out, the PCC did not have the resources to do more. She felt that the churchyard was in a prominent position in the village and belonged to the village as a whole. It was agreed to increase the grant to £280.

### 38 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

### 39 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**Footpath maintenance.** The public right of way from Moira Road (footpath 18) towards Daisy Lane did not belong to the adjoining property owners as had been thought. The path was badly overgrown and the hedge was also obstructing the right of way. A local contractor had been asked to clear the path at a cost of £150 and the District Council had been asked to identify the owners of the hedge so that they could be asked to cut it back. The Council confirmed these actions.

### 40 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

**District Council.** Cllr Grant had enquired about the recycling centre in Woodville Road and had been advised that twice weekly collections of litter had been started and that the capacity of the bin had been doubled. Monitoring showed that this had been satisfactory and would continue. The District Council also said that no new recycling centres were proposed in the village as kerbside recycling was to be introduced in April 2008.

**Police.** PCSO D MacMillan referred to the complaint about people using Wadlands Wood. He had contacted the owner, who had visited the wood and asked the people concerned to stop using his property and they had now done so. Members referred to the parking problems at the junction of Woodville Road with Woodlands Road and Hallcroft Avenue, where vehicles parked near to the junction obstructed visibility. In addition to the difficulties which this created, one vehicle collision had also occurred. Mr MacMillan agreed to discuss this with the Beat Officer and the Traffic Division.

A recent distraction burglary had taken place at which the intruders had described themselves as being from the Water Board. He wanted to bring this to the attention of residents.

#### 41 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### Application for decision

0804 Extension of existing gypsy caravan site to accommodate 3 families with 6 caravans including erection of 3 amenity blocks at land at Park Road.

The Council strongly objected to the proposal for the reasons set out above.

##### Appeal.

0171 Vehicular access to 30 Main Street. The Parish Council had supported the original application but it had been refused on the grounds that vehicles would be parked parallel to the road and manoeuvring would be contrary to highway safety. It was agreed to support the appeal and to point out that other neighbouring properties already did this and there had been no difficulties. Main Street was a narrow main road and vehicles parked on the carriageway impeded the free flow of traffic. This would occur if the appeal was not allowed as there was nowhere else for the applicant to park.

#### 42 CORRESPONDENCE

42.1 **Derbyshire 'Excellence in the Community' awards.** The County Council had invited nominations for this annual award which recognised outstanding work and achievement for fundraising, volunteers, environmental protection, safer Derbyshire, improving life in the community or achievement at national level. A local resident was identified and a nomination would be submitted.

42.2 **East Midlands Airport.** The Airport had published its first environment and community report. Noted.

42.3 **Street naming.** The District Council had invited comment on the suggested name of Johns Court for the development at the rear of 29 Coronation Street. The connection was not recognised and, bearing in mind that several neighbouring streets had a 'royal' connotation, such as Coronation Street, Alexandra Road, Edward Street etc, it was agreed to suggest Victoria Court or Victoria Close as more appropriate.

42.4 **Security lights at the Village Hall.** The Clerk submitted details of two quotations for the installation of timer-controlled security lights at the front of the Village Hall, part of the security measures previously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the lower quotation, from Crown Surveillance of Long Eaton, in the sum of £950.50 plus VAT, be accepted.

42.5 **Village Hall floor – sealing.** Provision had been made in the budget for the Village Hall floor to be sealed and a specialist firm had been asked to quote. In order to have the work carried out during the school holidays, when the Hall would be less used, it was necessary for a decision to be made on the quotation before the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That authority to decide whether to accept the quotation when received be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

**43 BOWLS CLUB**

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (previously circulated and a copy of which is attached to the official copy of the minutes).

While the proposals were acceptable in principle, it was agreed to consult those neighbours opposite the site and to defer a final decision to the next meeting when their views would be known.

**44 ACCOUNTS****44.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1232	L Baxter	Caretaker	452.09		452.09
1233	J M Summerfield	Litter	64.20		64.20
1234	T Stewart	Litter	128.40		128.40
1235	J Aylett	Gutters, downpipes & plaster repair	188.00	32.90	220.90
*1236	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Toilet supplies	50.35	8.82	59.17
1237	South Derbyshire District Council	Contribution towards play equipment	14500.00	2537.50	17037.50
1238	Powergen	Electricity to Village Hall	376.32	65.86	442.18
1239	South Derbyshire District Council	Election costs	241.02		241.02
1240	South Derbyshire District Council	Green sacks for litter	195.20	34.16	229.36
1241	Viking Direct	Balance of cost of tables	171.94	65.09	237.03
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.96
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	198.00		198.00

\* This account had been paid between meetings as it was urgent.

**44.2 Receipts**

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	275.83
NatWest Bank	Interest	89.65
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	366.88
South Derbyshire District Council	Transfer from capital deposit	14500.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept (2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment)	12000.00
Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership	Grant towards security measures for Village Hall	2500.00

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

- 44.4 Quarterly accounts.** The Council considered the statement of receipts and payments for the quarter to 30 June 2007, together with Notes to the Accounts (previously circulated and a copy of which is attached to the official copy of the minutes).

The Clerk drew attention to a number of matters in the Statement, including the transfer of capital funds from the District Council to enable the contribution towards the play equipment to be made. A further sum (approximately £2500) would be needed for the security measures at the Village Hall. Two items at the Village Hall totalling £7000 had been carried out at the end of last financial year and the cost recouped from this year's budget. The Council's financial position overall was satisfactory.

Attention was drawn to the steps on the Recreation Ground, which need replacing. The Clerk was asked to pursue this, aiming to remove the two existing sets of steps and to install one new set.

#### **45 INSPECTION OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

It was suggested that the Council should inspect the Village Hall periodically and arrange for any outstanding repairs etc to be identified. It was agreed that all Members would do so at the next meeting and that bi-monthly inspections by two or three Members on a rota basis would subsequently be arranged.

#### **46 THIRD PARTY CLAIM**

The Clerk reported details of a claim from a user of the Village Hall whose car had been damaged. The matter had been referred to the Council's Insurers to deal with and the necessary work to prevent a recurrence had been carried out.

#### **47 ITEMS FOR *FREE FOR ALL***

The problems of distraction burglaries would be highlighted.

#### **48 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

- 48.1 HGVs, Spring Cottage.** It was reported that Rainbow Waste had applied to station four HGVs used for cardboard collections at a site at Spring Cottage. While North West Leicestershire District Council had been consulted, no similar consultation had been received and there was a possibility that vehicles would travel through the village. The Clerk was asked to contact NWLDC to obtain details of the proposals.

- 48.2 Village Hall tables.** An offer to buy the surplus trestle tables had been received; the person concerned would use them and store them but would make them available for functions such as the Gala if necessary. The Clerk would discuss the needs of the Auctions with the organisers and report back.

- 48.3 Daisy Lane meadow.** The District Council would be asked when the meadow was to be cut.

- 48.4 Public Rights of Way.** Members referred to various paths which were in need of work. The part of footpath 18 (diverted route) at the Woodville Road end needed strimming and weed killing – the contractor who had been engaged to work on footpath no 18 would be asked to deal with this.

The path from Woodlands Road towards the adjoining fields (footpath no 1) had a hedge which was severely overgrown and blocked the path. The County Council would be asked to secure its cutting back.

The hedge adjoining the track in the allotments was also in need of attention and the contractor dealing with other similar matters would be asked to cut it back.

Church Walk, a green lane from Acresford Road towards Netherseal (paths 9 and 10) was also overgrown and almost impassable. The County Council would be asked to deal with this.

- 48.5 Overseal Gala.** Mr Patrick expressed the Gala Committee's thanks for use of the facilities during Gala Day, which had been very successful. There was a need to store certain equipment and it was agreed that the Gala Committee could use part of the old changing rooms at their own risk without charge.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

**Chairman**