

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 4 August 2005

Present: Mrs G Edwards - Chairman
Mr I W Chester, Mrs C M Knight, Mr G S Knight and Mr I A Neal.

In attendance: Mrs M E Hall (South Derbyshire District Council).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs E Evans and Mr M S Patrick.

35 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2005, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

36 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

36.1 Public footpaths. The paths from Moira Road at the rear of the Manor, the path near to the school and Lullington Road to Bramble Walk had been trimmed and cleared. The Clerk had written to DMC Midlands Ltd, the occupiers of the land over which the blocked path from Park Road to the Towpath Site was situated, asking them to clear the path and surface it with an all-weather material as provided for in the Diversion Order. No response had been received and no action taken and the Clerk was asked to chase this.

36.2 Litter clearance. Mrs J Summerfield had agreed to collect litter from Burton Road (Supermarket to the Church), Coronation Street, Woodlands Road and Woodlands Crescent on a weekly basis during the summer months and less frequently during the winter months.

36.3 Cultivation licence. The County Council had confirmed that a licence had been granted to the occupier of 161 Shortheath to cultivate the area of verge on the opposite side of the road.

36.4 Play Area. The District Council had confirmed that the Parish Council's interest in improving the Play Area had placed the scheme at the head of the list. While finance should be available for the renewal of the safety surface and extension of the play area and equipment, more research was needed to identify finance for the youth provision. The total cost of the project would be around £25 - £30,000, of which the Parish Council would be expected to meet one third.

36.5 Water on A.444. The County Council confirmed that inspections had been made in times of heavy rainfall but that no problems had been identified. They suggested that the drainage could be inadequate in extreme conditions.

37 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

37 Valley Road. It was reported that a large extension to this dwelling was being constructed and, as no planning application had been received, it could constitute unauthorised development. The Clerk would contact the Enforcement Officer for this to be checked.

Tourist caravan site, Park Road. It was reported that 'homes for sale' notices were being displayed, implying that residential units were available whereas the planning restrictions on the site were for use as a tourist caravan site only. Additionally, large residential mobile homes were being moved onto the site and these were clearly not tourist caravans. Mrs Hall agreed to ask the Planning Officer to investigate as a matter of urgency.

Railway maintenance access. The access to the railway near to the bridge at Park Road was being blocked. This would be referred to Network Rail.

Recycling. Members reported that the new recycling arrangements were working well, though the bins were being very well used and were usually full.

38 CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that Mr J Grice had not attended a meeting for six months and had therefore ceased to be a Councillor.

RESOLVED: That the casual vacancy be declared and the appropriate procedure for filling it be set in motion.

39 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

39.1 Applications for decision

Amended Planning application No 9 2005 0516

5 dwellings, land adjacent to 29 Coronation Street, Overseal

At the last meeting, the Council agreed to object to the amended application provided that it was in the form anticipated. This was the case and the following objection has been made:

"The Parish Council objected to the original application in the following terms: *The development proposed would be too dense for this small plot and existing traffic problems would be exacerbated. The Parish Council also anticipate that there will be objections from immediate neighbours on the grounds of overlooking.*

"The Council has received objections from neighbours, not only on the grounds of overlooking, but also on the intensity of development and the type of properties in the row at the rear of the site. It is noted that the position of the row of houses has been changed. However, these are three storey town houses, which are totally inappropriate and out of character with the surrounding properties.

"The Parish Council consider that, if the principle of development of this plot is conceded, then a smaller number of detached two-storey houses could be built, having less impact on the neighbours and would be more in keeping with the scale and appearance of the surrounding properties. The original objections stated above are also relevant to the amended application.

"For these reasons, the Parish Council objects to the amended plans."

Notice had now been received that the application had been withdrawn.

0853 Installation of a double postal pouch on land adjacent to 24 Woodville Road. Object. There was always considerable traffic and parking at this site and the pouch would be better sited on the opposite side of the road adjacent to the electricity sub-station.

0854 Installation of a double postal pouch on land adjacent to 2 Coronation Street. Supported.

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness, Barratt Mill Farm, Shortheath. Members agreed that the track at this site had been used as a means of access to the garage at the rear for a considerable time. However, it was pointed out that the track was a public right of way and, as the application repeatedly referred to a 'private way', this should be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority with a request that nothing such as gates etc. should be permitted which could compromise the rights of the public to use the right of way.

39.2 The following applications had been approved:

0588 Removal of existing render and replacement with lime-based render, The Elms, 16 Acresford Road.

0548 Erection of 4 flats, land r/o 21 Woodville Road. Conditions included construction of a new vehicular access to Woodlands Road and provision of the whole of the forecourt as a parking area.

40 DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

The Council considered this statement, produced by South Derbyshire District Council, and attention was drawn to several matters.

Page 9, Public meetings and surgeries. The suggested use of Area Committees could result in the same people being consulted twice as most people attending did so in another capacity e.g. as Parish Councillors. Unless there was a controversial issue, members of the public tended not to attend. As an alternative, use of other groups such as schools (which had their own newsletters and could organise meetings with parents) would be an improvement. Leaflets and many newsletters were often ignored.

Parish Councils should be used more to direct consultations towards the right people and organisations as they would have detailed local knowledge.

Page 26, Neighbour consultation policy. The proposed exclusion of properties more than 4 metres away from the site in question was considered too restrictive. Also, the statement that 'Any road less than 20 metres width will be discounted' was ambiguous and should be clarified. If it meant that most roads would be ignored when calculating the 4 metres, that would be satisfactory.

These comments would be forwarded to the District Council.

41 GOVERNANCE.

The Council had agreed to consider one aspect of governance each month. As the first such event, a short report by the Clerk was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

The report was welcomed and the contents agreed. Attention was drawn to the need for a financial risk assessment to complete this aspect of governance review and this should include insurances, level of reserves, bank signatories and contingency arrangements for paying bills etc. if the Clerk should become unavailable at short notice.

A report on these matters would be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

42 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING WITH PARISH COUNCILS

Mr Chester reported on the meeting which had taken place on the previous day. The District Council were conducting a review of Parish Council financing mainly in the context of the S.136 grants which they made to Parish Councils relating to concurrent functions. This had grown on an historic basis and no longer provided a fair distribution of the money available. The District Council were to engage Consultants to examine the current funding and service arrangements and to recommend the best alternative for the future.

There had also been a presentation on the work of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership relating to crime prevention. An offer had been made that a similar presentation could be made to Parish Councils and it was thought that this should be done but that several Parish Councils should be invited to attend so as to maximise the audience.

43 CORRESPONDENCE

43.1 Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan. Derby & Derbyshire were preparing a statutory Plan concerning extraction of aggregates and said that no sites for crushed rock were required as there was already an extensive range of approved sites which should last for about 130 years. However, sand and gravel sites would be needed and views were invited on any sites or extensions which should be considered for working. No suggestions would be made.

43.2 Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) membership. SDCVS had invited the Council to seek affiliated membership and details of their services and costs were reported. No action.

43.3 Common land. The Countryside Agency had published a map showing registered common land. Public access rights would not come into force until a commencement order for West England had been made, probably in October. It was emphasised that the maps were not to be used as definitive evidence about where people could walk. Further information would be sought on the local site to establish its status in this context.

43.4 Register of Interests. Members were required to review their entries in the Register of Interests and to make any necessary amendments on an annual basis. Copies of the Register were held by the District Council. Noted.

43.5 Disability Discrimination Act – Notices. The District Council were in the process of erecting notices on their land pointing out that parents were expected to exercise control over their children and to take care when using the facilities.

43.6 Publications

Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service – draft integrated risk management action plan 2006-7

South Derbyshire District Council Standards Committee agenda and reports for the meeting on 28 July 2005.

Standards Board Bulletin

44 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT.

The Council considered the report of the Clerk and the statements of receipts and payments compared to the budget (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes). Noted.

45 ACCOUNTS

45.1 Accounts for Payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

**978	K H Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Supplies for toilets & Village Hall	£51.76
**979	J Aylett	Repairs to gutters	£41.12
**980	Powergen	Electricity to old changing rooms	£16.71
**981	Powergen	Gas to Village Hall	£377.33
**982	Powergen	Electricity to Village Hall	£468.13
983	L Baxter	Caretaker	£394.76
984	M Latham	Litter	£80.00
985	Overseal CP School	Nature Reserve contribution	£250.00
986	P R Sharpe	Village Hall sundries	£29.04
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet charges	£23.95
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	£176.00

*Payment had been made between meetings to avoid excessive delay

45.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	£498.00
HM Customs & Excise	VAT refund	£236.91
South Derbyshire District Council	Precept	£8900.00

45.3 Audit

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

46 ITEMS FOR *FREE FOR ALL*

None was raised.

47 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting in pursuance of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

47 REFUSE COLLECTION FROM THE VILLAGE HALL.

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

RESOLVED:

- a) That the quotation of the District Council for the supply of a 660 litre refuse bin and collection of refuse be accepted;
- b) That the bin be sited in a secure manner near to the entrance to the Village Hall car park but that no fence be provided at present.

48 LITTER COLLECTION.

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the minutes).

It was agreed to employ an additional part time litter collector on terms to be agreed and to utilise the District Council's green sack scheme for disposal of litter.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chairman