

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 7 February 2008

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman

Mr J Astle, Mr J Cunningham-Gardner, 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 H Timms (South Derbyshire District Council) and Miss C. Howes.

110 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

111 POLICE

The Police had advised that they would not be represented at this meeting to discuss the events which had occurred in connection with the operators of the auctions on 30 December as further investigations were still taking place.

112 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

112.1 Clerk's report. The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

112.2 Arriva buses. It was probable that a representative of Arriva would attend the next meeting to discuss service failures.

112.3 Corporate Equality Scheme. The Chairman had formulated a response and sent it to the District Council.

113 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

113.1 District Council. Cllr Timms had passed on the Council's thanks to the Clean Team. He reported on the proposal by Grovewood to create an 'Eco-Town' in the area; a meeting had been held with the District Council and the Company had been advised that their present aspirations were not acceptable and they would reconsider siting such a development on the edge of an existing town.

Cllr Timms was asked whether any decision had yet been made on the planning application for extension of the gypsy caravan site at Park Road; he was not aware of any further action. Members indicated that, should the application be approved, it would demonstrate an inconsistency in that a recent proposal much nearer to the centre of the village had been refused on the grounds that occupants would not be able to access local facilities easily.

Cllr Timms agreed to request attention to a blocked drain in the highway near to the school, and to seek widening of the footpath outside the school. This was very narrow, though there was a wide grass verge, and parents with children or pushchairs were having to walk on the muddy grass.

A further problem was proliferation of dog faeces in several parts of the village, including Coronation Street, Woodville Road and Forest View. The Dog Wardens' assistance would be sought and notices would be renewed.

113.2 Police. Members reported several incidents of teenagers causing a nuisance, especially at the car park in Woodville Road, and vandalism at the school. A car's headlights had been broken and a Reliant Robin had been overturned. Motorcyclists were also causing a regular nuisance at the Village Hall. The Police would be requested to deal with these matters and the PCSO's attention would also be drawn to the increasing nuisance.

114 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Permission had been granted for:

1173 Dormer bungalow and garage, land r/o 106 Woodville Road

1258 Retention and extension of a brick building, land north west of Park Road

1273 Extension to create a first floor, 159 Moira Road

1274 Multi-user games area, Recreation Ground, Woodville Road

1297 Residential development (outline), land r/o 123 Woodville Road

CD9/2007/0170 Temporary teaching accommodation, Overseal Primary School

115 CORRESPONDENCE

115.1 Data protection. The Council's registration under the Data Protection Act 1998 had been updated to include the CCTV installation and had also been renewed until January 2009.

115.2 Cultivation Licence. A licence had been granted by the County Council to the occupier of 18 Lullington Road to cultivate part of the verge outside the property.

115.3 Electricity supply. A new tariff had been agreed with e-on, which should reduce the cost by about £300 per year.

115.4 Highways Forum. The District Council were hoping to establish a Highways Forum, meeting twice a year, to discuss with the County Council problems of a general nature or which were common to much of South Derbyshire. Parish Councils would have the opportunity to be represented.

115.5 Civic Dinner. An invitation had been received to the Chairman of South Derbyshire District Council's Civic Dinner on 8 March at Branston Golf & Country Club. Noted.

115.6 Gala Programme. The Gala Committee had invited the Council to put an item in the programme for 2008 and it was agreed to include Members' contact details. As it appeared that there was a general misapprehension that Members were paid, it would be made clear that they undertook these responsibilities on an entirely voluntary basis, not even claiming expenses in connection with their Council work.

115.7 Recycling scheme. The District Council were to introduce the 'brown bin' scheme in Overseal in May and suggested that they should attend a Council meeting to acquaint Members with the details. They would be invited to the April meeting.

116 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – NEW MODEL SCHEME

The Council considered the report of the Clerk (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). The new scheme included 'proactive publication' of a large amount of information, and a new Publication Scheme, Definition Document and a guide to proactively published information. While agreeing with the objective of making information readily available to the public, there was concern about the volume of documentation which might have to be published. Other than inspection of the Council's minutes on the website, the only requests for information which had been made during recent years were occasional details of planning applications. Appropriate representations on these lines would be made.

117 CODE OF CONDUCT

The District Council's training evening concerning the Code of Conduct laid particular stress on non-disclosure of confidential information and declarations of interest. The Clerk explained much of the content of the training, which had also included the fact that Councillors were required to maintain high standards of behaviour in their private lives as well as when acting in their official capacity, so as not to bring the Council into disrepute.

The Monitoring Officer had recommended that the form of the Agenda be changed so as to include the Public Question and Answer Session in the body of the meeting, declaration of interests at the beginning of the meeting and adoption of paragraph 12(2) into the Code of Conduct. This had been omitted because advice at the time had indicated that the public would have the right to take an active part in all sections of meetings, whereas it was now settled that the paragraph was intended to permit Members with an interest in something to speak in the public section of the meeting, prior to leaving the room when others spoke or when a decision was to be taken on the relevant item.

It was agreed to do so.

118 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Audit Commission had advised that the Council's external auditor for the next five years would be Jackie Bellard, a member of their assurance specialist unit. The annual fee had been increased to £400. Noted.

119 ACCOUNTS**119.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1290	Fire Control UK	Service/replace fire extinguishers	105.00	18.38	123.38
1291	L Baxter	Caretaker	422.92		422.92
1292	J M Summerfield	Litter	82.80		82.80
1293	T Stewart	Litter	165.60		165.60
1294	South Derbyshire District Council	Supply & install dog bin	251.23	43.97	295.20

1295	e-on	Electricity to Village Hall	510.15	186.81	696.96
1296	J Aylett	Repairs to old changing rooms	300.00	52.50	352.50
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.96

119.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	288.00
St Matthew's Football Club	Use of pitch & changing rooms (part)	50.00
Pre-school Playgroup	Use of Village Hall	1212.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	344.10
Derbyshire County Council	Use of Village Hall by Youth Club	420.00
Derbyshire County Council	Use of IT room for youth project	128.00

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

120 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

Availability of finance to start a Parent & Toddler Group;

The ongoing cost of vandalism and the resultant loss of services which the money could have been spent on;

Calendar of meetings;

Possibly information about the Grovewood 'Eco-Town' proposals

121 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

121.1 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). A pre-contract meeting had been held recently and the work was to start on 25 February and take about a month to complete. The location of the connecting path would be checked and, while the Contractors' intention to paint the Youth Shelter was laudable, it was understood that the Youth Service were proposing to involve young people in this, so as to engender a sense of ownership. This course was preferred.

121.2 Housing needs survey – site inspections. Mr Knight and Mr Astle reported that they had met representatives of Midlands Rural Housing and the Housing Association and shown them several potential sites for provision of affordable housing. They would now consider these sites and decide what action to take.

121.3 Shooting –Lullington Road. It was reported that cartridges had been found on land at Lullington Road and that it appeared that shooting could be taking place in a parcel of land owned by the Council. Information would be sought from the tenant.

121.4 Untidy land, Lullington Road. The District Council would again be asked for progress on this matter.

121.5 Dead tree. A tree near to the junction of footpath 18 and Moira Road appeared to be dead and as these were paths used by the public, the possibility of any danger would be checked.

- 121.6 Proposed extension to gypsy caravan site, Park Road.** It was understood that Officers may be recommending approval of the planning application, notwithstanding that there were sewage problems and that an application for a dwelling much closer to the centre of the village had been refused on the grounds that it required a car to access facilities. If approval were given, it was considered that the District Council should be asked to explain such an inconsistency. It was also pointed out that the Parish Council should have had the right to speak at the relevant Committee prior to a decision being taken.
- 121.7 Land at Spring Cottage.** Information had been received that a planning application had been submitted to NWLDC for 19 tourist chalets on land near to the boundary of the village; permission had previously been granted for 8.
- 121.8 Village Hall – Playgroup notice board.** The Playgroup requested permission to place an enclosed notice board in the foyer of the Village Hall. This was approved.
- 121.9 Police problems.** The Clerk was asked to seek information from the PCSO on his investigations into parking problems at Hallcroft Avenue/Woodville Road and broken glass at the car park.
- 121.10 Village Hall – tables.** Mr Patrick reported that the Gala Committee wished to purchase some tables for the Village Hall. The Clerk pointed out that the current year's budget included provision for some tables and it was agreed that he would discuss the matter with Mr Patrick.
- 121.11 Use of Recreation Ground.** The Parent/Teachers Association of the primary school wished to use the Recreation Ground on Sunday 18 May 2008 for a circus (not involving animals) and possibly the use of either the Village Hall or the changing rooms.

RESOLVED: That the use be approved in principle subject to there being no prior booking by the football teams, an indemnity for damage to the pitch(es) and payment of a fee of £50.

122 DATES OF MEETINGS

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for Thursday 6 June 2008 be brought forward to Monday 2 June to accommodate the Clerk's holiday arrangements.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman