

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 6 March 2008

**Present:** Mrs C M Knight - Chairman  
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:** Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council), and Miss C. Howes.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Mr J Astle, Cllr H Timms and Cllr J Grant (South Derbyshire District Council)

## 123 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mrs R O'Brien declared a personal interest in Minute 132.2 Pre-school Playgroup.

## 124 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were none.

## 125 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2008, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 126 COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN.

Ms Liz Partington of Derbyshire County Council attended the meeting to give a presentation on the Plan. The County Council had a duty to prepare site-specific plans where potential hazards were identified and had decided to involve Parish Councils more fully in the emergency planning process. If an emergency occurred which either cut off a village or which needed a quick response pending arrival of the emergency services, the template plan which they had prepared would enable resources and people to be identified. It was agreed to proceed and Mr J Cunningham-Gardner agreed to start completion of the plan.

## 127 ARRIVA BUSES.

A representative of Arriva Buses had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss service failures but had said that they would require details of specific service failures to which they could then respond. Members were aware of many failures and felt that the Company would know of these as well. In particular, details of people waiting at bus stops for considerable periods and then often having to use taxis at short notice were given.

It was agreed that an item would be included in the Free for All inviting residents to give details of service failures, which could then be put to Arriva for explanation.

## 128 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

**128.2 Millennium Yew – planting.** Mr Knight offered to arrange for the tree to be planted and for local people to be involved. The Clerk would seek approval of the District Council to the tree being planted on their land at Forest View.

**128.3 Gypsy caravan site, Park Road.** The planning application had now been approved. The District Council would be asked to ensure that the conditions attached to the permission were monitored, with particular reference to the caravans not being replaced with permanent buildings and the disposal of sewage.

**128.4 Village Hall Gates.** Arrangements would be made for the gates to be locked each night.

**128.5 Multi-use Games Area.** The design had been modified to exclude one of the entrances to the MUGA, and the contractors would be asked for information on the reason for including it in the first design and then for its exclusion.

The adjoining area of grassland would be subject to increased use and was known to be boggy. The cost of drainage would be established, from the contractors already on site and from another local contractor. The route of the footpath had been altered by re-positioning the entrance gate and the new route was welcomed.

**128.6 Footpath 29 – diversion.** The Clerk reported that Leicestershire County Council were to conduct a site visit, which the public could attend, on Thursday 13 March at 2pm. Mr Knight would try to attend and state the Council's opposition to the diversion.

## **129 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS**

**129.1 County Council.** A replacement tree had been planted some time ago on the traffic roundabout at Rickman's Corner. The species chosen was a London Plane and it was understood that further such trees were to be planted in highway verges in Swadlincote. It was pointed out that these trees were not native species and that the sites were in the National Forest, where indigenous species were strongly advocated, and that silver birch had the same ability to cope with traffic pollution. Mrs Lauro agreed to enquire into this.

Traffic surveys had been carried out that day outside the supermarket on Burton Road and at the car park in Woodville Road. It was believed that these related to undertakings given last year when traffic problems had been identified.

Mrs Lauro reported that the County Council had supported the Parish Council's requests for measures to reinforce or introduce speed limits at Spring Cottage and Bath Lane.

Members referred to the practice of Derbyshire County Council school holidays being held at different times from those of neighbouring counties, which caused difficulties for parents wishing to take holidays at the same time as their children, without affecting school attendance. Mrs Lauro agreed to enquire whether any change could be made to bring the times into line.

**129.2 District Council.** Large amounts of polythene sheets had been dumped at the layby on Acresford Road. The Clean Team would be asked to deal with this. A tree was overhanging the garden of a resident on Woodlands Crescent and her request for help in cutting it back or felling had been unsuccessful. The Clerk would ask the District Council to check the safety of the tree and to try to secure its pruning or removal. Rubbish was being dumped in the closed entrance at the bottom of Spring Cottage – this would be referred to Leicestershire County Council.

**129.3 Police.** The PCSO would be asked for updates on two items referred to him some time ago, concerning parking at Hallcroft Avenue/Woodville Road and broken glass at the car park.

### **130 CODE OF CONDUCT.**

The Council considered adopting a revised Code of Conduct to include paragraph 12(2); the remainder of the existing Code of Conduct would be unaltered. Paragraph 12(2) stated:

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your authority or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

RESOLVED: That a revised Code of Conduct be adopted, to be identical to the existing Code but with the addition of paragraph 12(2) as set out above.

### **131 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **Applications for decision:**

0151 Extension at Seale Lodge Farm, Burton Road, Acresford. Supported.

00121 (NWLDC) Change of use to a caravan site to accommodate 19 caravans, Bridge House, Spring Cottage Road. Opposed – insufficient detail to determine what was proposed.

### **132 CORRESPONDENCE**

**132.1 Request for donation.** WRVS had requested a donation towards their emergency services in Derbyshire. It was agreed to make a donation of £25.00.

**132.2 Pre-school Playgroup.** The group had previously requested permission to site a container for storage purposes at the rear of the Village Hall and permission was granted. Subsequently, they had suggested that the small play area be surfaced with tarmac because of the problem with embedded glass particles and Members were made aware of this. A recent request had been made to erect a retractable awning which would shade the play area and, following consultation, permission had been granted. No cost was involved for the Parish Council and this action was confirmed.

A request was submitted for permission to install paper towel dispensers in the toilets for children attending the Playgroup as they were not permitted to use heated hand-driers. Agreed.

The Group would be holding a social event on 4 April and requested use of the Village Hall at the same rate as Playgroup sessions. Agreed.

(Mrs R O'Brien declared a personal interest in this matter).

**132.3 Carbon footprint.** The Chairman reported on an approach from the District Council for the Parish to become the second area to take part in this project, which aimed to encourage residents, businesses, public services and schools to reduce the carbon footprint of their premises and, therefore, collectively of the village. This was done through measures such as installing insulation, low energy light-bulbs etc.

The approach was welcomed and certain Members would attend a presentation at Walton on Trent shortly. The Parish would be nominated for inclusion on the project.

### 133 ACCOUNTS

#### 133.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1297	L Baxter	Caretaker	382.47		382.47
1298	J M Summerfield	Litter	66.24		66.24
1299	T Stewart	Litter	132.48		132.48
1301	South Derbyshire District Council	Emptying dog bins, & waste collection from Village Hall	649.69	113.70	763.39
1302	Mace Security & Electrical	Service security alarm systems at Village Hall and Pavilion	97.20	30.57	127.77
1303	Overseal Memorial Bowls Club	Refund service costs of servicing alarms in Pavilion	77.47		77.47
1304	K H Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Toilet supplies	67.95	11.90	79.85
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.96

#### 133.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	213.83
Various	Allotment rents	252.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Balance of Litter refund	333.40

**133.3 Audit.** The Council's financial documents were inspected.

### 134 ITEMS FOR *FREE FOR ALL*

Inviting information about bus service failures.

Inviting information and involvement in emergency planning.

### 135 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**135.1 Civic Award.** A nomination was submitted and agreed (MP).

**135.2 'Bags for Life'.** A Member enquired possible sources of these alternatives to plastic carrier bags and it was suggested that the National Forest might wish to become involved in their provision.

**135.3 Milepost.** Mr Knight reported that he had obtained advice from the Milepost Society about restoration, but that costs were likely to exceed the budget provision. He suggested that some of the cost elements might be reduced if other parishes along the route of the former Burton-Market Bosworth Turnpike were to become involved.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm