

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 5 March 2009

Present: Mrs C M Knight - Chairman
Mr J Astle, Mr J Cunningham-Gardner, Mr R J Forsyth, Mr P Green, Mr A R Hart, Mr M A Knight, Mrs R O'Brien, Mr M S Patrick.

In attendance: Mrs K Lauro (Derbyshire County Council), Cllr H Timms (South Derbyshire District Council), Mr D MacMillan (PCSO) and PC Trudy Bullick.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S C Sharpe and Cllr J Grant (South Derbyshire District Council)

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr P Green declared a personal interest in Minute no 117.8 (Football Team).

114 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.

115 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2009, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

116 CARBON FOOTPRINT

Mr Simon Ross of Marches Environment Agency attended the meeting to discuss the re-starting of the carbon footprint project. His remit was to engage with people about energy efficiency and climate change. Practical measures which people could take would result in energy savings and therefore reduced energy supply costs.

He offered to undertake a programme involving energy efficiency workshops, monitoring, work with the school and other community groups, surveys of community buildings, business surveys and volunteer training. Sources of external funding could be identified.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council support the approach and participate in the project;
- (b) That Mr Ross be offered the free use of the Village Hall on one evening per week for energy workshops etc.;
- (c) That he be asked to arrange an energy survey of the Village Hall;
- (d) That the Council take part in one of the workshops;
- (e) That leaflets be delivered to the school, other community groups and each household in the village.

Mr Ross agreed to produce draft leaflets in due course when the programme of workshops had been established.

117 CLERK'S REPORT

117.1 Progress report. A progress report on various matters previously raised was considered (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes).

117.2 Police speed checks. The Police were re-starting the checks by volunteers who are trained in the use of speed guns. A minimum of 6 volunteers were needed and the scheme would operate from March to the end of September.

117.3 DALC Executive Committee. A vacancy had arisen on the Executive Committee and Member Councils were invited to submit a nomination by 1 April. The period of office would end in May 2011. Noted.

117.4 Request for Donation. The Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre had requested a donation towards their work. It was agreed to make a donation of £25.00.

117.5 Youth Club. The County Council had agreed that the Youth Service equipment at the Village Hall may be used for a voluntary Club.

Members were very concerned about the abrupt manner in which the Youth Club had ceased operation, especially when a new Club was being established elsewhere in the District; this involved socialising, sport such as table tennis etc, as well as the 'Youth Work' which had been the sole content of the Overseal Youth Club's activities. The promised regular attendance of the mobile facility did not appear to be taking place.

Mrs Lauro agreed to facilitate a meeting with the Youth Service to discuss this matter and this offer was accepted.

117.6 Parking enforcement. From 19 February 2009, the County Council and the District Council had taken over civil parking enforcement powers from the Police. Noted.

117.7 Gala Programme. As in previous years, the Council had been invited to include a free half page advertisement in the Programme. Previous practice of including Members' contact details had been followed.

117.8 Football Team. A local resident was proposing to set up an adult team, comprising mainly Overseal people, and enquired the availability of use of a pitch and changing rooms for Sunday matches. The pitches were fully let for this season, but the Council felt that local teams should be given preference in allocating pitches for the next season. If this meant that a team from a neighbouring village could not be accommodated, the pitch at Spring Cottage could be drawn to their attention and they could be offered use of the Council's changing facilities at an appropriate charge. The attention of all teams should be drawn to the Bonfire Night celebrations on 2 November, when no use of the pitches could be allowed.

(Mr P Green declared a personal interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion thereon.)

118 UNION FLAG.

At the request of a Member the Council considered whether or not to adopt a policy of flying the Union Flag permanently. Most local authorities and other public bodies arranged for the flag to be flown on 19 specified days of the year but the Prime Minister had decided to fly the flag over No. 10 permanently. A number of County and District councils had followed suit.

When the Gala Committee had renovated the War Memorial, a flag had been provided to enable it to be raised and lowered on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that the St George's flag be flown all year, the Gala Flag flown on Gala Day and the Union Flag flown on the 19 designated days.

Mr J Astle agreed to provide the St George's flag and Mr M A Knight agreed to provide a new Union Flag.

119 SOUTH DERBYSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The District Council had issued a consultation document on the Core Strategy issues up to 2026. The Core Strategy provided an overall vision showing how the area would develop, identified a number of key objectives, defined a delivery strategy and clear arrangements for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy. A questionnaire provided a means of responding to the consultation, though comments could also be submitted via the District Council's website.

As this matter required detailed consideration, it was agreed to obtain further copies of the consultation document and to discuss the response at the next meeting.

120 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Permission had been granted for:

1163 Extension at 1 Daisy Lane

1170 Pruning of trees covered by TPO 192, 4 Alexandra Court (conditions limit felling to 3 ash trees and one blackthorn and crown lifting of a silver birch and a horse chestnut, leaving 9 trees in total on the site).

Permission had been refused for:

1126 Conversion of former telephone exchange to dwelling without vehicular access, adjacent to 70 Burton Road

121 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

121.1 District Council.

Cllr Timms reported that South Derbyshire District Council had entered a concordat with East Staffordshire Borough Council relating to the probable development of the former Drakelow Power Station site with housing and industry. A new river crossing was likely in the Branston area and a new road between Branston and Drakelow was likely. Members asked that the District Council take steps to protect Overseal from the traffic which such a proposal would attract and Mr Timms pointed out that the District Council was already concerned about this and would do what it could to reduce the impact on the village.

The increase in Council Tax would be 2.5% for 2009-2010.

Members referred to the large amounts of paper and polythene which were deposited regularly on A.444 in both directions leaving the village, which appeared to be coming from lorries returning from the tip. Park Road was also in the same state. The operators of the tip asked that lorries be netted to stop this happening but had not power to insist. The Clean Team had attended Acresford and Cllr Timms agreed to ask that they attend both areas again.

Members asked that grit bins be provided at Forest View and Green Lane. While the District Council would provide these, the grit would be recharged to the Parish Council.

Cllr Timms was asked to encourage the Footpaths Officer to respond to messages and telephone calls so that up to date information could be obtained.

121.2 Police.

Mr MacMillan reported details of recent crimes and incidents. Several involved misbehaviour by young people and Members considered that in part this could be linked to the closure of the Youth Club. Some had been seen on the roofs of the Village Hall, toilets and changing rooms and the Police asked for copies of the CCTV coverage.

121.3 County Council.

Mrs Lauro reported that free child car seat checks were to be held in Swadlincote shortly. The County Council's 'Quids in Campaign' was aimed at enabling people to identify what benefits they might be entitled to and she would supply questionnaires to the Post Office, school and pre-school.

The Council's application for a Community Grant would be considered at the next meeting of the relevant sub-committee and she was hopeful of the outcome. Installation of the milepost could qualify for a grant from her local fund, and she was asked to arrange a supply of stone for surfacing Gorseley Lees, with residents spreading the stone as necessary.

122 ACCOUNTS**122.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1419	L Baxter	Caretaker	316.23		316.23
1420	J M Summerfield	Litter	68.76		68.76
1421	T Stewart	Litter	137.52		137.52
1423	M Aylett	Gutters & downpipes to Village Hall & changing rooms	75.00		75.00
1424	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd	Repair gate catch to Village Hall car park	50.00	7.50	57.50
1425	J Kirby	Caretaker	461.79		461.79
1426	South Derbyshire District Council	Emptying dog bins & refuse collection from Village Hall	759.15	113.87	873.02
1427	Moira Replan	Printing & photocopying	166.71		166.71
1428	Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre	Donation	25.00		25.00
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet Service	24.99	3.75	28.74

122.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	60.00
Various	Allotment rents	240.00
Derbyshire County Council	Rights of Way refund	210.00
Overseal Bowls Club	Donation	100.00

Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Club	Use of Village Hall	240.00
Derbyshire County Council	Youth Club	120.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Lengthsman refund	126.47

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

123 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

Efforts to re-start the Youth Club;

The previous items which had not been included in the last edition;

Civic Award.

124 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

124.1 Dog Bin. A request was made that a dog bin be provided at the bottom of Spring Cottage.

124.2 Trees, Shortheath. It was reported that a large area of trees had been cut down at Shortheath and that a large bungalow had been positioned on site. This was assumed to be a temporary residence while building work was carried out but its subsequent removal was questioned. The matter would be reported to the District Council for investigation and appropriate action.

124.3 2010 Gala. The 50th Gala would be held in 2010 and the Gala Committee were considering some form of permanent structure to mark the event, such as a sculpture and a possible site was the church corner. The Council agreed to support the principle.

124.4 Play equipment. A request had been received that some form of equipment for teenagers and possibly adults be provided. It was suggested that possibly a trim trail could be established on the lower Recreation Ground away from the football pitch.

124.5 Public toilets. It was reported that the public toilets were being used for drug taking and the Police would be given details and asked to investigate.

124.6 Moira Road footpath. The footpath had been resurfaced.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Chairman