

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 2 November 2006

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I W Chester and Mrs E Evans, Mr M Hart and Mr G S Knight.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A.444 Burton Road. A resident of Burton Road spoke on behalf of several others in drawing attention to the increased danger from speeding traffic and the problems of lorries being parked near to the Supermarket and chip shop. He asked for support for some form of safety measures to be provided, either a pedestrian crossing, or a central refuge. Either would have the effect of preventing parking close to the Supermarket, where many people crossed the busy main road and would also cause traffic to slow down.

Members advised that the Parish Council had pressed for similar improvements when the traffic calming measures were being formulated and at other times, but that the County Council had declined. However, in view of the increases in traffic volume and parking problems, it was agreed to press the County Council to provide a central refuge and to seek the support of the Police.

Proposed diversion of footpath 29, Shortheath. Residents pointed out that the reply from the District Council was inaccurate in some respects and that the route of the path in Leicestershire was not in accordance with the Definitive Map. It was agreed that the Parish Council would:

- (a) Seek the support of Ashby Woulds Town Council in objecting to the diversion;
- (b) Formally object to the District Council in respect of the Diversion Order;
- (c) Copy the objection to the County Council as Highway Authority;
- (d) Ask North West Leicestershire District Council to check the line of the path in Leicestershire against the Definitive Map.

71 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

72 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

72.1 Toilet block, Park Road. The District Council had replied to the Parish Council's objection to the planning application, explaining the definition in planning terms of a 'caravan', which could include a dwelling delivered to the site in not more than two parts. Should there be any contravention of the planning conditions, they would investigate further.

73 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

District Council. It was understood that the weed-killing in the gutters of Coronation Street, due to be completed in October, had not yet been carried out. Mrs Hall would enquire when it was to be done.

County Council. It was reported that severe flooding had taken place at the bottom of Valley Road and it was thought that this could be a repetition of flooding caused by a blocked drain which crossed a nearby field. The County Council would be asked to investigate and to remedy the problem.

Police. It was noted that the Beat Officer had been ill and off work for 4 weeks. Members expressed serious concern that the level of Policing in the village had been very low for such a long time.

74 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Applications for decision

1120 Detached bungalow and garage, land rear of 106 Woodville Road. Following consultation between meetings, the District Council had been informed that, given that outline planning permission for a bungalow had been granted in 2004, the Parish Council had no objection to the design. A petition from neighbours objecting to the proposal had been forwarded to the District Council.

1191 Vehicular access, Overseal House, 12 Acresford Road. Supported.

1197 Covered drinking area and disabled toilet on the ground floor and en suite bathroom and external seating area on the first floor plus partial refurbishment of existing areas, Robin Hood Inn, 1 Burton Road. Supported. However, it was suggested that as the covered drinking area was outside, noise could arise, causing potential nuisance to neighbours. Consideration should be given to limiting the hours of use of this element of the design to licensing hours only.

75 CORRESPONDENCE

75.1 Leicestershire Waste Disposal Plan. The District Council had objected to two proposals in the Plan:

Recycling facility at Swains Park – uncertainties as to traffic volume, impact on property and the type of disposal facility;

Continuing aggregates recycling at Hemmington Quarry – adverse impact on the water table and quality.

75.2 Draft East Midlands Spatial Strategy. Public events to discuss the draft Plan were to be held, with the nearest being at the Assembly Rooms, Derby on 15 November from 2-4 pm.

The previous arrangements for strategic planning were contained in the County Structure Plan and the South Derbyshire Local Plan, both of which have been superseded. Some of the contents of the County Structure Plan had been incorporated into the new East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the remainder 'downwards' into the Local Development Framework, which would replace the Local Plan.

The RSS outlined the principles for development in the East Midlands over the next 20 years. As previously reported, Overseal would fall within the Three Cities Sub-area (the cities being Derby, Nottingham and Leicester). Housing

proposals included increased development based on Swadlincote totalling 350 dwellings per year, with a further 255 near Derby. This would mean that approximately 9000 new dwellings would be built in South Derbyshire over the RSS period.

The National Forest was strongly supported and the existing green belts between Swadlincote-Burton and Nottingham-Derby were to be retained. Consideration should be given to extending the green belt to the south and southwest of Long Eaton.

Employment opportunities were to include regeneration of city centres, concentration of new development following the location of housing and provision of local employment opportunities to reduce commuting.

A page summarising the Sub-Regional Core Strategy had been circulated and a copy is attached to the official copy of the Minutes. Comments should be submitted by 20 December 2006. This was likely to be followed by an Examination in Public early in 2007, an Independent Examination in Public in May/June 2007, consultation on any proposed changes late in 2007 and adoption by the Secretary of State early in 2008. Further consultation on the Local Development Framework had been postponed until then.

Members noted the main provisions of the Strategy and pointed out that the proposed levels of development would inevitably increase traffic problems and that strenuous efforts should be made to overcome these.

- 75.3 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO).** Mr Mark Todd MP had made enquiries about co-funding PCSO's by partnership arrangements with other Parish Councils. The Police made a contribution towards employment costs, reducing the amount payable to £25,000 p.a. Noted.
- 75.4 Request for Donation.** Victim Support Derbyshire had asked for a donation towards the cost of its work. 22 Overseal residents had been helped since April 2006. It was agreed to donate £50 to this organisation.
- 75.5 Play equipment.** The District Council had approved a grant of two thirds towards the cost of providing additional equipment aimed at older children. The District Council had suggested a site meeting with Wicksteeds to identify the equipment to be provided and its location. The Chairman, together with Mrs Knight and Mr Neal would attend.
- 75.6 Planning application procedures.** The District Council had suggested that minor planning applications could be dealt with more quickly if they were posted on their website and the Clerk notified by e-mail. It was pointed out that decisions on what representations should be made were made by the Parish Council and that not all Members had access to the Internet. The District Council would be advised that the suggestion was not acceptable.
- 75.7 Post Office.** A public meeting to discuss possible changes to the Post Office network was to be held at the Village Hall on 14 November at 4.30 pm. A letter had been received from the Countryside Alliance asking that the Minister responsible for Post Offices be informed what the Post Office meant to the village and what its loss would mean for local people.

Members were very concerned at the prospect that many rural Post Offices could be lost, and considered that this was the direct result of the erosion of services which were formerly provided. These included TV licences, pensions and other benefits. If the Post Office were to close, it would cause great

hardship to local people, particularly elderly or those without a car, and would impact seriously on the business running alongside the Post Office services. Appropriate comments would be sent to the Minister.

76 ACCOUNTS

76.1 Accounts for payment

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No1	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1135	L Baxter	Caretaker	415.89		415.89
1136	M Latham	Litter	80.00		80.00
1137	J M Summerfield	Litter	64.20		64.20
1138	Audit Commission	Audit fee, 2005/6 accounts	350.00	61.25	411.25
*1139	Powergen	Electricity to Village Hall	406.89	71.21	478.10
*1140	Powergen	Electricity to old changing rooms	41.31	2.07	43.38
1141	Dee Gee Products	'No right of way' signs for allotments	70.75	12.38	83.13
*1142	KH Packaging & Disposables Ltd	Supplies for Village Hall & public toilets	59.43	10.41	69.84
1143	Powergen	Gas to Village Hall	111.40	12.51	123.91
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.36
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	191.00		191.00

* These accounts were paid between meetings as they were urgent.

76.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	354.00
South Derbyshire District Council	Interest on deposit	722.26
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	913.64
St Matthew's Football Club	Use of pitch	50.00

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

76.4 Quarterly accounts. The Clerk submitted the accounts as at 30 September 2006 (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). He drew attention to a number of differences between the budget and the actual amounts and explained each in turn. It had previously been requested that the contribution towards the Village Hall lettings from the auctions be separately identified, but as payments were made directly to the Caretaker and were made up partly of deposits and partly of full payments, this had proved difficult. It was estimated that the total income from that source was around £1500 for a full year.

77 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

A Safer Neighbourhoods meeting, which the public could attend, would be held at Netherseal Village Hall on 5 December at 7.00 pm.

Additional children's play equipment for young teenagers would be provided.

78 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

78.1 Youth Shelter. The area around the Youth Shelter was very muddy and some improvement was needed. Considerable damage had been done to the Shelter, including graffiti and both Perspex panels had been destroyed. Advice on drainage to remedy the muddy area would be sought.

78.2 Footpath maintenance. The path from Moira Road to Daisy Lane needed strimming. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

79 DATES OF MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next two meetings would be held on 30 November 2006 and 4 January 2007.

80 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under 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 transacted.

81 LAND

The Council considered future uses of a parcel of land and agreed to continue to explore the possibilities.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Chairman