

OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 4 October 2007

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)

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Astle and Cllr J Grant (South Derbyshire District Council).

62 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2007, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

63 MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk reported that the necessary notice had been published concerning the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs E Evans and that no election had been requisitioned. It was agreed that a notice inviting expressions of interest in being co-opted to the Council should be displayed and the matter considered at the next meeting.

64 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

64.1 Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). At the last meeting the Council passed on to the organisations promoting this project that there was a demand for floodlighting. They had applied to Sport England for the necessary finance and one of the conditions was that the Council certified that they owned and managed the land and that "there is no possibility that access is denied or there is a change in use or operation of any of the sites for the next 21 years".

The Council were also requested to undertake that they would meet the future running costs, which were being estimated at present. Budgetary provision would need to be made for these in due course.

A consultation meeting had been held prior to the Council meeting at which residents of Hallcroft Avenue had expressed general support for the project, subject to operating hours in the evenings being reviewed if nuisance should occur, and young people had made suggestions as to the exact siting of the MUGA. Members were also given detailed explanations of the proposals and the Clerk obtained details of the likely contractual procedures.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Council certify that there is no possibility that access is denied or there is any change in use of operation of the site in the next 21 years, and

(b) That consideration be given to the Council bearing the running costs when they have been estimated.

64.2 District Council matters. Cllr Grant had advised that he had reported the car repairs at Woodville Road and the strimming problems at Bailey Avenue but had as yet received no feedback. No action was considered feasible by the District Council to remedy the untidy premises in Woodville Road and he had referred the question of car sales from the highway verge at Acresford Road to the County Council for action.

65 COUNTY, DISTRICT AND POLICE MATTERS

County Council. Mrs Lauro reported that there was no further information about the proposed bridge across the Trent. She referred to Post Office closures which were planned in the area and it was pointed out that there had been no meaningful consultation; furthermore, documents which were to be displayed during the current public consultation period had not arrived and there was a postal strike which would prevent their arrival for a further week at least.

Police. A Member reported that several car windows had been smashed in Woodville Road and one vehicle in Burton Road had been similarly damaged on the previous Saturday night.

District Council. There were 3 additional caravans at the site at Park Road and it was understood that the planning application for this site was to be discussed on 9 October. Large vehicles belonging to Rainbow Waste had been seen travelling along Woodville Road and were held up at the crossroads at Burton Road because of their size, causing traffic on the main road to stop before they could emerge. This would be reported to the Traffic Commissioners in connection with their decision on the application to site these vehicles at Spring Cottage.

Several military vehicles were parked at 179 Burton Road and caused a noise nuisance. This would be reported to the District Council for investigation.

66 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application for decision

1120 Demolition of garage and erection of granny annexe, 32 Lullington Road. Supported subject to a condition being imposed restricting the use of the annexe to being ancillary to the use of the main dwelling.

67 BOWLS CLUB

Discussions with the Club had resulted in a revised site for the portacabin being suggested, which was between the Pavilion and the road. Either a single unit or two smaller units on either side of the entrance would be acceptable to the Club.

The Club had also asked whether the rent for the current year could be waived in view of the costs of maintaining the green and the low level of their reserves.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revised siting between the Pavilion and the road be approved;
- (b) That the Council agree in principle to grant a lease to the Club on similar terms to those of the present licence and that the Clerk arrange for a draft lease to be prepared by the Council's Solicitors when this is required;

(c) That the term of the lease be determined in the light of the Club's requirements while not giving rise to a right to purchase the freehold.

(d) That the rent for the current year be not waived.

68 CORRESPONDENCE

68.1 Footpath diversion. Leicestershire County Council were considering an application to divert part of footpath 29 to the rear of Barratt Mill, Shortheath, together with part of the continuation into Leicestershire. The applicant stated that the present legal line was partly on the tarmac drive and partly on the grass verge adjacent to the pond; this precluded the erection of a safety feature in front of the house from the pond. Also, the new route would pass through woodland for part of its length and partly across a grassed area, through which a level dry surface could be provided.

Residents had sent objections on the grounds that the alternative route would be less convenient, the path would be unsuitable for disabled or elderly people, that the wood was covered by a Tree Preservation Order and trees would have to be removed to accommodate the new route, that part of the route was subject to regular flooding, that any new 'safety feature' could be erected without diverting the path, and that the applicant chose to build the house in the full knowledge of the path's existence. Members felt strongly that these arguments were valid and agreed to object to the diversion on similar grounds.

68.2 Cultivation Licence. The County Council had received an application to cultivate the verge outside 18 Lullington Road. No objection subject to the plantings being decorative rather than vegetables.

68.3 Waste disposal sites. The County Council had published its preferred options for sites for waste disposal. There were 10 in South Derbyshire, including the former Nadin coal disposal point in Swadlincote and the former Drakelow Power Station. Noted.

68.4 Public rights of way. Several Members had inspected various rights of way and, while some of the paths were fully accessible, others needed attention. The Footpaths Officer would be invited to a meeting with relevant Members at which he would be given details of their findings.

69 INTERNAL AUDIT AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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

RESOLVED:

(a) That no change is considered necessary to the present arrangements for Internal Audit;

(b) That the Clerk redraft the Financial Regulations on the lines of the new model, taking local circumstances into account, and submit them to a future meeting for consideration.

70 EXTERNAL AUDIT.

The District Auditor had completed the audit of the Council's accounts for 2006/7 and had stated that the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. Attention was drawn to the need to review the effectiveness of internal audit, which was dealt with at minute no. 69 above. The Council noted the information.

71 ACCOUNTS**71.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1251	L Baxter	Caretaker	420.94		420.94
1252	J M Summerfield	Litter	64.20		64.20
1253	T Stewart	Litter	128.40		128.40
1254	J E White	Salary & expenses	1159.44		1159.44
1255	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	302.16		302.16
1256	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to Village Hall	200.09		200.09
1257	South Staffordshire Water	Supply to old changing rooms	11.59		11.59
1258	Moira Replan	Printing	131.95		131.95
1259	M Guest	Cut hedge at allotments & spray entrance track	100.00		100.00
1260	D Edwards	Steps at Recreation Ground	1400.00	245.00	1645.00
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.96
D/D	South Derbyshire District Council	Rates	198.00		198.00
D/D	British Telecom	Quarterly line rental	39.65	6.93	46.58

71.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	273.00
Pre-school Playgroup	Use of Village Hall	1128.00
Overseal Junior Football Team	Balance of pitch rental	114.91
South Derbyshire District Council	Interest on deposit (part)	201.81

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

72 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

None was identified.

73 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- 73.1 Use of football pitch.** A request had been received for an additional team to use the top pitch on Sunday mornings. The Clerk said that he had received advice that the present level of use was the most which should be accommodated so as to avoid damage to the playing surface. The request was therefore refused.
- 73.2 Traffic on A.444 Burton Road.** It was reported that traffic was speeding on the road, mainly from the 40 mph limit to the boundary at Rickmans Corner. To be referred to the Police for speed checks.
- 73.3 Car park signs.** The In and Out signs at the car park at Woodville Road needed replacing; to be referred to the District Council.
- 73.4 Footpath, Woodville Road.** The path near to the car park was narrow and it was reported that it was necessary for users to walk on the adjoining grass to pass each other. The District Council would be asked to consider widening this section.
- 73.5 Public toilets.** A Member reported that the toilets had been opened for only a small proportion of recent days, and that lights were seen on when the toilets were closed. The Caretaker would be asked for information and the situation rectified.
- 73.6 Overgrown hedge.** The hedge to the side of 43 Woodville Road was blocking the adjoining footpath and the District Council would be asked to secure its cutting back.
- 73.7 Village Hall – painting.** The Playgroup had agreed to paint the rear room and the choice of colours was settled.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

Chairman