

# OVERSEAL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall, Overseal on Thursday 7 September 2006

**Present:** Mrs G Edwards - Chairman  
Mr I W Chester, Mr K Clark, Mrs E Evans, Mr M Hart, Mrs C M Knight,  
Mr G S Knight, Mr I A Neal and Mr M S Patrick.

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

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Allotments.** Several allotment holders attended the meeting and referred to trespass by people with dogs, which were allowed to run around the allotments and cause damage. Additionally, several locks and chains on the gates had been cut or rendered inoperable, and the allotment holders requested that more secure gates be provided to prevent unauthorised access.

Members were sympathetic about the problems, but were aware that the track along the edge of the allotments had been used for many years as an unofficial path. Various approaches were considered, including enhanced security, creating a separate path, and notices explaining the position. It was agreed to hold a site visit on Monday 11 September to inspect the site and assess the feasibility of the various options, which could then be costed.

**Footpath 29, Shortheath.** Residents of Shortheath attended the meeting to ask about a proposed diversion of part of this footpath. The Council had received a formal consultation from South Derbyshire District Council, which showed that a short length of the path was proposed to be diverted.

It was pointed out that the new route would require a path to be created immediately adjacent to a pond, where the ground was both sloping and unstable. Consequently it did not provide a 'convenient and commodious' route, as required by relevant legislation. Additionally, to make the new route even passable would require importation of considerable quantities of soil and changes in ground levels which, it was understood, was prevented by an earlier planning consent. Conflict between walkers and traffic was cited as one of the reasons for the proposed diversion, but the only vehicles using the drive were those of the property owner and his visitors.

It was agreed that the Parish Council object to the proposed diversion on the grounds summarised above.

## 50 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2006, copies of which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record.

## 51 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**51.1 Car park fence.** The District Council had repaired the wooden fence, leaving a gap for cyclists. Funding for a metal fence would be sought later in the year. Members pointed out that the new panels had been damaged within a very short time of installation and Mrs Hall agreed to investigate the possibility of installing a metal fence.

- 51.2 Bus services.** Arriva were unable to provide a service to Swadlincote straight away, but would evaluate the need for such a service as part of a review due to take place early in 2007. They would continue to provide the hourly service to Burton on Trent and Ashby de la Zouch. The Clerk was asked to find out whether Derbyshire County Council subsidised service 23 and to make contact with Morrisons Supermarkets regarding possible support for a service between Overseal and Swadlincote. Arriva would also be asked to take note of the fact that many present customers were disappointed at their decision.
- 51.3 Road surfacing, Woodville Road.** The County Council would not be returning to surface the small area where parked cars prevented surfacing a short time ago as the programme included 280 different sites and around 68 miles of road.
- 51.4 CCTV at the car park.** The Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting was to be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 24 October 2006 at Linton Village Hall and the Co-ordinator suggested that representatives should attend to make the case for cameras. Mr K Clarke was appointed to attend.
- 51.5 Play Strategy.** The District Council had invited attendance at a Play Strategy meeting; the Chairman and Mrs C M Knight would attend.

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

**District Council.** While Woodville Road had been swept to remove the chippings after the resurfacing of the carriageway, further work had been done on the new speed bumps and a re-sweep was required. Several gutters, particularly in Coronation Street, were overgrown with weeds, and needed spraying. Mrs Hall would report these matters to the District Council.

The new plastics recycling bank was successful and was welcomed.

A lengthy discussion followed the report that the District Council had approved of the proposed third bridge over the Trent. Members expressed disappointment at the District Council's stance as it was inevitable that the resultant traffic would largely discharge onto the A.444 and impact on Overseal.

## **53 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **Applications for decision**

0984 Extensions and alterations, 145 Moira Road. Supported.

## **54 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 54.1 Freedom of Information – Publication Scheme.** The approved Scheme had been due to expire on 31 December 2006, but the Data Protection Registrar had extended its life to 2008.
- 54.2 DALC AGM.** The AGM was to take place on Saturday 9 September from 11 am at County Hall, Matlock.
- 54.3 Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Development framework consultations.** The draft proposals included a waste recovery, recycling and composting facility at Swains Park and to continue clay stocking at Donington Island.
- 54.4 Allotments.** The allotment holders had collectively complained about damage to the chains securing gates, which were installed because of trespass, damage to crops and allowing dogs among crops. They asked for more

secure gates and a notice saying 'Allotments holders only'. This matter had been dealt with during the public Question and Answer session at the beginning of the meeting.

**54.5 Safer Neighbourhood meetings.** Scheduled meetings would be held at:

Linton Village Hall, Tuesday 24 October, 7.00 pm

Netherseal Village Hall, Tuesday 5 December, 7.0 pm

**54.6 Bowls Club.** The Bowls Club had said that they were having problems with young people who had made a hole in the hedge near to the Youth Shelter and used this as an access to the bowling green where they played football and disrupted bowling. They requested that the inside of the hedge be fenced. They would be applying for grants for replacing the watering system and remedial work to the green, which they considered should be paid for by the Parish Council. Members noted that the Club had used some of the redundant fencing from Hallcroft Avenue to block the damaged hedge and noted the remaining issues.

**54.7 Quiet Lanes and Home Zones.** Procedures for designating certain roads in this way had recently been brought into force. Highway Authorities may designate roads as Quiet Lanes, where they were minor rural roads suitable for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vehicles. Home Zones were residential areas designed with streets as a quality area for people and not just thoroughfares for vehicles. The facility would be borne in mind for the future.

**54.8 Audit of Accounts for 2005/2006.** The Clerk reported that the District Auditor had approved the accounts for 2005/2006. The level of Fidelity Guarantee insurance was considered to be too low, following the increase in balances when the land at Main Street had been sold. The Clerk would find out whether there would be any increased premium to provide the suggested level of cover.

RESOLVED: That any payments or transfers from the deposit at South Derbyshire District Council be signed by two of the Members who are cheque signatories.

**55 ACCOUNTS**

**55.1 Accounts for payment**

Payment of the following accounts was authorised:

No	Supplier	Description	Net	VAT	Total
*1115	DALC	Training course for Councillors	10.00		10.00
1116	Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre	Donation	25.00		25.00
1117	J E White	Reimburse anti-virus software	84.50	14.79	99.29
1118	L Baxter	Caretaker	399.49		399.49
1119	M Latham	Litter	100.00		100.00
1120	J M Summerfield	Litter	75.75		75.75

1121	DSK Engineering Services (Midlands) Ltd	Replace fence at Hallcroft Avenue and War Memorial	4850.00	848.75	5698.75
1122	G Edwards	Reimburse cost of buffet re. play area opening	36.68		36.68
D/D	Eclipse Networking Ltd	Internet service	24.99	4.37	29.36
D/D	SDDC	Rates	191.00		191.00

\* This account was paid between meetings as it was urgent.

## 55.2 Receipts

The following amounts had been received since the last meeting:

L Baxter	Village Hall Lettings	193.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	253.11

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

## 56 ITEMS FOR FREE FOR ALL

Play area opening, with photograph.

## 57 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

**57.1 Allotments hedge.** The Clerk was asked to arrange for the hedge to be cut back.

**57.2 Litter collection.** It was reported that one of the Lengthsmen was collecting large amounts of litter and that this was very heavy. A suitable trolley would be offered to her.

**57.3 Gala.** Mr Patrick reported that the Gala had been very successful and thanked the Parish Council for use of the facilities.

**57.4 Shooting.** It was reported that there had been shooting on land at Lullington Road and that this was near to both a bridle path and to an area which horse riders used. The Police would be asked to check the necessary documents.

**57.5 Rights of Way.** While remedial work had been carried out to the damaged tree in the field to the rear of the school, the tree trunk was blocking the right of way. The owner would be asked to remove it.

**57.6 Play equipment.** Several residents had asked that consideration be given to providing equipment suitable for older children in the 10-15 age group.

## 58 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.

## 59 LAND AT LULLINGTON ROAD.

The Parish Council considered correspondence relating to this matter (copy attached to the official copy of the Minutes). A decision was deferred pending clarification of certain matters.