

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th May 2014 **AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON**

Present:

Cllr R Strand (Chairman), Cllr P Bickerton (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R Russell, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr Lee, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr C Hurt and J Irons (clerk).

In Attendance:

Cllr R Davison, DCllr P Watson and DCllr Ann Watson.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.05.14 Election of Chairman

Cllr Lee proposed vice-chairman Bickerton which was seconded by Cllr Russell. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Bickerton was elected and duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

02.05.14. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Lee was proposed by Cllr Strand which was seconded by Cllr Hurt. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Lee was elected and duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

03.05.14. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Spenser (work commitments).

04.05.14: Variation of Order of Business

None.

05.05.14: Declaration of Members Interests

To enable Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they have in subsequent agenda items, in accordance with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings may be declared at that time. None declared.

06.05.14: Declaration of Councillors' agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct; signing of both Register of Pecuniary Interests and Request for Dispensation forms.

Members informed the clerk they had all signed these; clerk to check records. Members duly signed the Request for Dispensation forms and returned them to the clerk.

07.05.14: District and County Councillor's Report (matters only relevant to this parish to be discussed).

District Council Report.

1. DCllr Peter Watson congratulated the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman to their roles and thought Cllr Strand had been most helpful during his tenure and had much to contend with.
 2. He apologised for the lack of a SDDC report at the last meeting; DCllr Ann Watson had been ill and DCllr Atkin suffered a car accident on that day.
 3. Objections had been raised to a recent planning application at 5 Mere Beck in Ambaston, however, these have since been withdrawn.
 4. A few years ago several trees on the main road near Elvaston Castle died; however the landowner replaced these with 3 copper beach varieties which are now growing well. DCllr Watson suggested the Council place a TPO on all three.
 5. Around 3 years ago SDDC investigated surface water drainage at Borrowash Bridge. Residents were concerned about their properties although there was no record of houses having been flooded. EA generally only become involved at that point, not on occasions when fields and roads are affected; therefore no further action is envisaged.
 6. A Safer Neighbourhood Meeting and Area Forum will be held at Barrow on Trent on 10th June.
- County Council Report.

1. Cllr Rob Davison reiterated DCllr Watson's remarks congratulating the recently appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman and wished them both well. He also agreed with the comments regarding Cllr Strand and thought he was good at getting things done.
2. Cllr Davison will endeavour to arrange a meeting between Digital Derbyshire and the 4 affected parishes for 27th May.
3. DCC leader Cllr Anne Western is actively promoting a 3-tier system of local government.

08.05.14: Guest Speakers - Nick Sellwood (Projects & Grants Manager, National Trust) and Charles Heaney (Project Manager, Corporate Property).

Council invited the guests to present an update on the Draft Vision and Plan for Elvaston Castle. To refresh their memories members read through the comments submitted to Nick Sellwood in March. Nick informed members that most people agree with the 6 guiding principles (which includes a single management body being created) set out in the Vision. Cllr Strand was concerned about poor buildings being renovated and additional properties being built. Nick said the Enabling Development is controlled and existing buildings will be brought back into use. However, many repairs are required which obviously has cost implications. DCC seeks external funding with core buildings being a priority, but only as a last resort if no other funding is obtained. That said, the Heritage Lottery Fund, for example, is oversubscribed. Revenue may be sought from land on the estate; only small parcels of land away from visitor attractions would be sold. Services need updating and infrastructure improved. Cllr Strand thought a management body should first be created after which residences may be built. On this point, Nick said various options are possible, such as a charitable trust or other umbrella organisation. Cllr Lee asked how long this would take; Nick thought a (precursor) management body should be formed by the year-end.

Some members had concerns over traffic flow/congestion, especially considering the forthcoming development at Boulton Moor; Nick and Charles agree that traffic should be diverted away from the village with access from the A6, as well as the Derby Spur, being beneficial. However, sticking with the existing access cannot be ruled out. Guiding visitors through the estate must be considered (directions) and the car park is poorly designed for an increased number of cars. Also, some roads are muddy and in poor repair so should be preserved or traffic re-routed.

Much feedback from the public has been gleaned and this is to be assessed. The final version of the draft will be presented to County Council in June after which a public announcement is due. No plans are set in stone as yet. Cllr Davison said SDDC need to grant planning permission for any residences to be built; DCllr Ann Watson replied that these will comply with planning law if passed. Cllr Davison referred to the 10 year strategy and is keen to see immediate events (such as wedding days) held to raise revenue. Nick pointed out that floor finishes in the main hall are poor and may be damaged further; and only 60 guests are allowed due to fire regulations. The pump house may be renovated but staffing is short at present. The south roof has been repaired and funding exists to repair other roofs. It is planned the clock tower will be repaired but its structural integrity is suspect and scaffold must be erected. Also, dry rot is evident which will take 18 months to dry out.

The Chairman thanked the two guests for their input and informative presentation.

09.05.14: Public Speaking – (matters only relevant to this parish to be discussed) A period of not more than 5 minutes will be made available for members of the public and members of the Council to comment on any matter None.

10.05.14: To approve the minutes of the (2) meetings held on the 14th April 2014. The minutes of both the Annual Parish Council & Ordinary meetings held on 14th April were approved as a true record and signed (after a minor amendment to the latter) by the Chairman.

11.05.14: Appointment of members to Committees or Sub Committees and their respective delegated authority.

The Officers for 2014-2015 were all unanimously elected as follows:-

- Elvaston Castle and Village Hall Committees – Cllr Russell.
- Finance Committee – Cllrs Mansfield, Strand, Hurt and Bickerton.
- Parish Plan Steering Group – Cllrs Beadle and Bickerton.
- Allotment Committee – Cllr Strand.
- Charities Trusts – Cllrs Mansfield and Russell.
- Boulton Moor development - Cllrs Lee, Hurt, Strand and Bickerton.

12.05.14: Police Report. Two minor incidents were reported on the police website in March. Both in Boulton Moor (one burglary on or near Brading Close; and one vehicle crime at Castle Croft).

<http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DE03/crime/>

13.05.14: Flooding and Gravel. Nothing to report.

14.05.14: Chairman's report. Cllr Strand was on holiday at the time of the APM in April and so delivered his report here (a copy of which can be viewed on the website).

15.05.14: Matters for Decision or Discussion

15.1 Council's service commitments to the Village Hall and meeting with Village Hall Committee. **RESOLVED:** members of the VHC to be invited to the next Council meeting on 9th June for a discussion (at 7.00pm).

15.2 Report on meeting with Persimmon Homes. The representative from PH could not attend. **RESOLVED:** the Chairman to invite the PH representative to meet members on 29th May at Nunsfield House, Alvaston.

15.3 To announce applicants for the post of councillor to the Rural Ward. No applications have been received therefore clerk to advertise the post again; and flyers to be delivered to houses by members.

15.4 Neighbourhood Development Planning working party was formed earlier (see minute 11.05.14 above, BM development);

15.5 Website advertisements to be renewed. Clerk renewed the Helping Hands advert and invoiced them.

15.6 Cleaning of War memorial. A resident currently tends to the surrounding foliage. **RESOLVED:** clerk to arrange cleaning of the structure at a cost of c£80-90.

15.7 signing of bank mandate by Cllr Hurt; duly signed. A resolution was **passed** in accordance with Section 3 of the NatWest bank mandate stating a change in the authorised signatories.

15.8 Staining of the wooden notice boards. **RESOLVED:** clerk to arrange this at a cost of c£165.

15.9 Siting of defibrillator. Clerk awaits a reply from Western Power for either a donation towards the defibrillator or a reduced cost for its installation. Martin from CHT will give a training session at the village hall on 18th May and members will ask his opinion over the siting of the device.

15.10 To sign the internal audit for 2013/14; duly signed by Chairman and clerk.

16.05.14: Cycle scheme investment – nothing to report.

17.05.14: Councillor's Reports

Cllr Russell suggested that the Council contact list be updated; the On-stream magazine certainly needs changing.

Cllr Strand thought this should also include changes to Chairman and Vice-Chairman as agreed at the start of the meeting.

18.05.14: Clerk's Report

1. Meeting with Digital Derbyshire still to be arranged.

2. Grant to the Parish Plan Group – 'Please pass on my thanks to the Parish Council on behalf of the Steering Group. We hope to have the pergola installed shortly'. – Terry Gorman.

3. DCC wrote: Concerning: Carriageway deterioration (Elvaston roundabout A6) 'the current status of your enquiry is: passed to responsible agency'.

4. Upcoming meetings: Food & Drink Fair, 18th May Elvaston Castle,; Safer Neighbourhood Meeting (6.15pm) and Melbourne Area Forum (7.30pm) at Barrow on Trent village hall on 10th June; and Flood Liaison Meeting – Thursday 26th June in Swadincote at 10 am; and Elvaston Village Fete on Bank Holiday Monday (26th May).

5. Clerk did not receive a reply from Derby City Council regarding traffic inspection on Colwell Drive but minutes of the Area Forum states that the police advised volunteers could be trained to use the community speed-watch scheme. The Chairman will raise the issue at the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting.

19.05.14: Derbyshire Association of Local Councils newsletters. Clerk offered Circular 09/14 which had been emailed to all Cllrs previously.

20.05.14: Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment – cheques to be approved and signed

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001029	J Irons – Clerk’s salary	331.31	-	331.31
001029	J Irons - clerk home allowance £18 pm	18.00	-	18.00
001029	J Irons – expense, 2 books postage stamps	12.72		12.72
001029	J Irons – expense, internal auditor & return x 2	52.00	-	52.00
001030	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay	152.25	-	152.25
001031	HMRC – clerk’s tax	82.60	-	82.60
001032	Community Lincs Insurance Services	459.64	-	459.64
001033	Diane Malley – payroll services 2014/15	95.00	-	95.00
001034	Helen Daniels – internal audit	120.00	-	120.00
001035	Parish Plan Group	700.00	-	700.00
	TOTAL	2023.52	-	2032.52

Clerk remuneration in total = £414.03

(b) **Income**

None.

(c) **Direct Debits**

None

Bank balance as at 30th April 2014 £28,914.84

21.05.14: To consider planning applications:-

None received.

22.05.14: Items for information only

23.05.14: Cllr Hurt left the meeting at 9.25pm.

24.05.14: Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Playground at Boulton Moor;
- Report on meetings with Persimmon Homes, Village Hall Committee and Digital Derbyshire (if held) ;
- Digital Derbyshire to remain as an agenda item, a committee relating to it to be formed and Tony Whaling to become a member;
- Councillors evening meal to be held at the Harrington Arms around the 20th June.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

25.05.14.

a) - The following resolution was moved – ‘That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (in respect of the personal situation of an employee which could result in legal proceedings) it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw’.

b) - Clerk’s contract of employment – having perused it Cllr Strand produced this for submission to Council after the deletion of one clause. **RESOLVED: agreed.**

26.05.14: Date of next meeting – Monday 9th June 2014 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Signed
Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)