

# **MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON**

## **Present:**

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr M Beadle, Cllr R Russell, Cllr R Strand, Cllr T Mansfield, 4 members of the public and J Irons (clerk).

## **In Attendance:**

DCllrs Hilary Coyle and Neil Atkin; and CCllr Rob Davison

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

## **PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

### **01.07.15. Apologies**

DCllr Peter Watson, Cllr C Hurt (work commitments) and Cllr S Spenser (holiday).

### **02.07.15. Variation of Order of Business**

None.

### **03.07.15 Declaration of Members Interests**

None

### **04.07.15 Police Report**

The clerk reported that 1 minor incident in Boulton Moor and 4 in the Rural Ward had been logged on the police website for May. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

A burglary incident was reported on the Derbyshire Alert system:

On Main Road, Thulston, on Sunday 5th July between 12.30am and 10.30am. The offender climbed a bird table to force open a rear ground floor window. A search was made within and items taken include two iPad Air tablets and a brown leather wallet. Crime 28237/15.

### **05.07.15 District and County Councillor Reports**

#### **District Councillor Hilary Coyle**

1. DCllr Coyle was pleased to report that South Derbyshire residents will be given back a slice of their council tax through an 'Efficiency Dividend', which is possible thanks to a balanced budget and strong levels of reserves built up during the past four years.

2. A Flood Liaison meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June at Swadlincote and Severn Trent's absence was noted. Melbourne Parish Council persuaded ST to attend some of its particular issues on site. DCllr Coyle will try to have ST attend future meetings. She believed it to be long-winded and will suggest to the relevant bodies that they issue a report before the next meeting to include intended topics of discussion.

3. Chris Payne (Engineer at Community and Planning) will retire in September and Phil Lenton is in a handover period having already started. Phil is aware of the litter at Thulston Brook and will have it cleared once in receipt of the gate key from EA who own the land.

4. Implementing the Local Plan is proving a slow process. DCllr Watson met Brandon Lewis (Minister of State for Housing and Planning at the Department for Communities and Local Government) at Westminster to discuss. It appears Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council are not doing their best as regards housing needs although AV has changed its stance and will now meet its other 2 partners on how to meet such needs.

5. The Joint Meeting with Parish Councils/ Meetings at SDDC on 8<sup>th</sup> July welcomed Liz Partington from County's Emergency Planning Department. A group of volunteers is being formed to assist in emergency situations. Liability is covered by a group insurance provided by DCC. Any resident interested in joining or forming such a group should contact Paula McDonald ([paula.mcdonald@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:paula.mcdonald@derbyshire.gov.uk)).

Liz has asked for details of persons to be contacted with keys to village halls or other buildings that may be utilised in such circumstances.

6. SDDC will conduct training events in the near future relating to health, planning, environment and sport; DCllr Coyle will forward details to the clerk.

7. The Area Forum and Safer Neighbourhood Meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Shardlow village hall (start times are 6.15pm for the latter, 7.30pm the former).

Cllr Strand wondered if more Joint Liaison Meetings are planned as this would help communicate the intentions of the Elvaston Castle Development Board; DCllr Coyle said these were generally held 6-monthly with no plans to alter the frequency but believed separate Board meetings are preferable.

#### **District Councillor Neil Atkin**

A cemetery audit is taking place in the region however 11 areas have not given feedback to SDDC over their respective provisions. New cemeteries are needed because plots are being used quickly due to overspill from Derby City. SDDC has a new open spaces officer to identify new sites and prevent closing others. A financial problem exists because the authority is unsure whether SDDC, parishes or churches should provide funding to implement these measures.

A resident asked if the audit included churchyards to which DCllr Atkin replied it did.

#### **County Councillor Rob Davison:**

1. No progress to report on Digital Derbyshire but in light of Natalie Ward leaving DCC he is pursuing other cabinet members for responses on progress and should have an update by the end of the week.

2. He believed the recent Elvaston Castle Development Board meeting to be unproductive.

3. the Flood Liaison meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June was promising and he praised County's James Biddlestone for encouraging the various bodies to attend (save for ST).

4. Finally, in view of this being the last parish meeting before September, he wished attendees well for the summer break.

A resident asked if the pathway from the Thulston estate to the bus shelter on A6 could be improved. Cllr Davison believed this to be an issue for Highways but will arrange to meet the resident to inspect.

#### **06.07.15 Public participation**

Two resident's enquiries were presented to, and dealt with by, district and county councillors above.

#### **07.07.15 Boulton Moor Housing**

Nothing further to add.

#### **08.07.15 Digital Derbyshire**

Nothing further to add.

#### **09.07.15 Parish Plan Steering Group**

Mike Tong of the Parish Plan Group reported that on July 6<sup>th</sup> a working party tended to the sensory garden (watering plants and repairing items affected by storm damage). The group is presently considering the prospects for next year's summer fete. Because some costs have increased more funding is required for the WW1 exhibition despite the welcome receipt of local donations. Advertising material is now with the printers and designers meaning all promotional aspects are in place. New members to the group are conducting marketing which they appear well-versed in.

#### **10.07.15 Elvaston Castle Development Board**

Cllr Strand attended a meeting last Thursday presented by Nick Sellwood (External Affairs Project Manager of the Nations Trust). The Chairman of the Board is pressing DCC to agree terms of reference of the Board, which should now have been established. Disagreements occurred in discussions over the relationship between DCC and the Board, which needs to be clarified. The Management Group is destined to be operational by 2017 but at the present pace this looks increasingly unlikely.

**11.07.15 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015.** These were approved and accepted as a true record (pp Cllr Strand, seconded Cllr Mansfield) after which they were signed by the Chairman.

### **12.07.15 Flooding and Gravel**

An Ambaston resident attended the Flood Liaison Meeting at SDDC on 24<sup>th</sup> June believing to be long on detail and short on proposed action; little time was allocated to fielding questions. That said he thought such meetings to be a good idea. He is apprehensive that Derby City Council will be running the OCOR scheme. Clerk advised him that DCllr Peter Watson has written to Derby City Council asking for a meeting to discuss flood banks in Shardlow and Ambaston and awaits a reply.

### **13.07.15 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reminded members that council is still 2 members short (one from each ward) and a concerted effort should be made to recruit. The clerk will investigate the rule stating that a prospective new member must have resided in the parish for one year before being accepted on to the council.

### **14.07.15 Matters for Decision or Discussion**

**14.1** Cllr Hurt has still not signed his declaration to accept office due to continued absence so the Chairman received the form from the clerk and will obtain his signature in the near future.

**14.2** appointments of members as officers to the following committees (finance, allotments and Boulton Moor development). **Resolved:** Finance (Cllrs Bickerton, Strand and Mansfield); allotments (Cllr Strand); and BM (Cllrs Bickerton, Strand, Russell and Beadle).

**14.3** website group meeting – not held and no meeting planned for the future. The previous council website which was still live has been removed. Cllr Beadle has updated the site for which she was thanked by the Chairman.

**14.4** Field on Ball Lane. **Resolved:** clerk wrote to the landowner and received a reply; she was aware of some concerns but not all. Meanwhile, Cllr Mansfield met the tenant to discuss which resulted in her addressing those items of concern. Council will monitor the situation and clerk to write to the landowner again explaining this.

**14.5** request from Parish Plan Steering Group for a financial donation towards the WW1 commemorations. **Resolved:** an award of £700 to be granted to the group (proposed Cllr Mansfield, seconded by Cllr Russell).

**14.6** To arrange a meal for members and their partners at the Harrington Arms. **Resolved:** members to contact the Chairman with their availability in September.

### **15.07.15 Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Strand was pleased to report that the damaged road sign on Ambaston Lane has been repaired but rues the non-infilling of potholes in Thulston. He welcomed the expeditious removal of signs from the A6 that advertised events once the event had passed.

Cllr Beadle asked that hedges at the bus shelter on the A6 be cut; clerk to arrange.

Cllr Russell reported that local road surfacing took place on the day of the steam rally, thereby unnecessarily holding up traffic. She received dog fouling notices from SDDC and has erected some around Thulston. She offered members some prohibitive fly-tipping notices asking them if they would display these around the village. Cllr Russell awaits smaller dog fouling notices from SDDC that may be displayed on litter bins informing owners to deposit in these bins. Cllr Mansfield announced that the hedges on Ball Lane/ Main Road still require cutting; clerk to remind Severn Trent who own the land.

### **16.07.15 Clerk Report**

1. Clerk contacted the Estates Section at County Hall for its help in claiming ownership of the village green. While it may be possible to register it under the Commons Act 2006 the Estates Section could not assist further and passed it to its legal department. Clerk awaits a response and sent a reminder on 7th July.

2 Clerk received a reply from Phil Lenton at SDDC on 25th June regarding a key to access Thulston Brook (see DCllr Coyle's comments above).

3. Clerk attempted to post Financial Audit on the website but could not; he has since sent the details to the website designer for him to post them.

4. Clerk sent a reminder/ complaint to Highways regarding the repair of potholes in Elvaston/ Thulston as follows: *'While we appreciate such repairs take time I have received replies from Sue Ingram on 16th April and Robert Hodgson on 14th March assuring me of impending infilling. Mr Hodgson's reply said 'The Highway Inspector has*

commented that work has been issued to repair the potholes, and this road will be monitored during routine highway inspections’.

This Council believe that a delay of nearly 4 months is unacceptable. Some of the holes will cause serious damage to vehicles if not attended to. One in particular, outside the Beechwood Caravan Park on the B5010 (Main Road, Elvaston, Thulston, Derby, DE72 3EQ) is in this category. The one at the turning circle on Brook Road is another. Sue Ingram has details of the others.

In addition, further deep holes have appeared near to the entrance of Elvaston Castle & Park on the same road (almost outside two cottages next to the Park).

We most urgently ask that these repairs be carried out without any further delay please’.

Highways replied earlier this day ‘The Road Works Centre has confirmed that this area has now been allocated to the gang and should be carried out within the next couple of weeks, providing no emergency works interfere with this’.

5. Clerk sent members an updated Budget report and gave further insight into some of the figures.

#### 17.07.15 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

Circulars 15 - 17/2015 had been emailed to all Cllrs previously.

#### 18.07.15 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment – the following cheques were approved and signed:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total £
001106	J Irons – Clerk’s salary in June	493.40	-	493.40
001106	J Irons – Clerk’s salary in July	493.40	-	493.40
001106	J Irons – Clerk’s home allowance in June	18.00	-	18.00
001106	J Irons – Clerk’s home allowance in July	18.00	-	18.00
001107	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay in June	174.00	-	174.00
001107	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay in July	174.00	-	174.00
001108	HMRC – clerk’s tax in June	53.40	-	53.40
001108	HMRC – clerk’s tax in July	53.40	-	53.40
001109	Noel Baker Print Services – flyers Nov 2014	34.00	-	34.00
001110	Nick Sellek website domain & host renewals	58.85	-	58.85
001111	Shelter Maintenance Ltd – bus shelter repair	806.00	161.20	967.20
001112	Cllr Rick Strand – allotment gate key	8.50	-	8.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2384.95</b>	<b>161.20</b>	<b>2546.15</b>

(b) **Income**

£773.84 – Zurich Insurance (bus shelter settlement claim);  
2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of the Precept on 6<sup>th</sup> July from SDDC - £5,410.00.

(c) **Direct Debits**

None.

**Bank balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015                      £27,696.31**

**19.07.15 Resolved:** to hold a meeting of the Finance Committee at the conclusion of this Parish Council meeting.

#### 20.07.15 To consider planning applications:

9/2015/0538 - ERECTION OF STORAGE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION OF MANEGE FACILITY AT AMBASTON LANE FARM AMBASTON LANE AMBASTON. **Resolved:** no objections.

9/2015/0587 - THE FELLING OF NORWAY MAPLE TREE COVERED BY SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 9 AT 7 GROVE COURT THULSTON. **Resolved:** no objections.

#### 21.07.15 Items for Information only

Clerk offered several minor items for members’ perusal.

**22.07.15 Agenda Items for next meeting**

- Boulton Moor;
- Broadband;
- Parish Plan Group;
- Elvaston Castle Development Board.

**23.07.15** The next Council Meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed this meeting at 9.25pm

**24.07.15** Finance Committee Meeting. **Resolved:** to sign a cheque in accordance with the grant of £700 awarded to the Parish Plan Steering Group in the previous meeting (minute 14.07.15 [14.5]). Mike Tong thanked the council for its funding and continued moral support.

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total £</b>
001113	Parish Plan Steering Group.	700.00	-	700.00

There being no further business the Chairman closed this meeting at 9.30pm

Signed .....  
Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)