

# **MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON**

## **Present:**

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr R Russell, Cllr R Strand, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr S Spenser and Cllr T Mansfield.

## **In Attendance:**

DCllr Peter Watson, CCllr Rob Davison, 4 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

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

### **01.11.15. Apologies**

Cllr C Hurt (work commitments) and DCllrs Hilary Coyle and Neil Atkin.

### **02.11.15. Variation of Order of Business**

None.

### **03.11.15 Declaration of Members Interests**

None

### **04.11.15 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 September. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

### **05.11.15 District and County Councillor Reports**

#### **District Councillor Peter Watson**

1. The Local Plan public consultation on the feasibility of 12,500 new homes to be built in the area by 2028 has concluded and a report is awaited. The final examination will take place in Swadlincote on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December.
2. DCllr Watson awaits a reply from EA regarding raising the flood bank at 2 low points in Ambaston.
3. The provision of broadband in the area remains a complex issue, Weston on Trent use a high frequency radio link but DCllr Watson will allow CCllr Davison to report further on DCC's role.
4. After attending the recent Elvaston Quarry Liaison meeting DCllr Watson awaits a response from Biffa at the next meeting regarding restoration of ground levels and the flood effects of such.

Cllr Russell asked when calendar leaflets informing residents of recycling dates will be received. DCllr Watson said these will be circulated during collections this week.

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

1. DCC submitted a bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Challenge Fund) in February to finance Elvaston Castle but this was refused by HLF in June. That said, HLF welcomes a resubmission once DCC had undertaken further work.
2. DCC must make £40m of costing cuts by next year; hence a public consultation (You Choose) is available online for public comments.  
[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have\\_your\\_say/consultation\\_search/Consultation\\_search\\_index/budget\\_consultation\\_201617.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_index/budget_consultation_201617.asp)
3. DCC's Labour Group will discuss Devolution (implementing a Combined Authority) tomorrow.
4. CCllr Davison discussed the Digital Derbyshire project with Councillor Dean Collins (Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure), BT, Cllr Strand and a resident (George Bell) at County Hall and stressed that any pursuit of independent broadband facilities by residents may jeopardise DCC's provision.
5. CCllr Davison received a reply from Gill Forester concerning the removal of road humps on Church Drive leading to the village hall and beyond.

- a. *The section of access road between Borrowash Road and the boundary of the park is unregistered land. DCC have, nonetheless, repaired potholes on this section and accepts that DCC are therefore responsible for those repairs as a result.*
- b. *Prior to the installation of these speed humps there were concerns from residents etc using this access about the speed of vehicles entering the park. Speed humps were considered a solution.*
- c. *The two speed humps were installed by DCC highways at the request of the then Parish Council - roughly late 80's/early 90's. The PC financially supported their installation.*
- d. *DCC followed a design specification provided by the Parish Council. It is believed that at the time highways questioned the specification as it was non-standard, but was asked to proceed.*
- e. *In the past DCC has suggested that these two be removed, as one in particular is very severe and the route is one used by disabled badge holders – but this has met opposition from other users.*

*Our suggestion would be that if the Parish Council wish to pursue their removal Countryside Services would not necessarily object. i.e. It would be an issue for the PC to address with those residences adjoining that section of road, as the land does not fall within the boundary of the park or DCC ownership.*

*However, as objections surrounding their removal may remain from other legitimate users of that access point- we would naturally suggest that the Parish Council consult with those who would be immediately affected (neighbours/residences).*

*If DCC were subsequently to be asked to remove them and as a result incur costs- DCC would expect a reasonable contribution from users along that stretch (such as the Village Hall) to do so. The cost may be higher than might be imagined, as the surface would need to be scraped back and then reinstated. In the past I have been given estimates of between £500- £1,000 per speed hump.*

Cllr Strand believes that the humps stand too high thereby causing damage to the underside of vehicles while a resident thought that a reduction in height would encourage cars to travel too fast, especially dangerous when horses and pedestrians are around. Another resident commented that modification allowing a gap in the centre and not height reduction may be preferable.

6. Cllr Davison also attended the recent Elvaston Quarry Liaison meeting and was dismayed that neither Biffa nor DCC could answer questions to his satisfaction. DCC has agreed an extension to April 2016 for the levelling and settlement groundwork to be completed although the county councillor thought this poses more of a priority.

#### **06.11.15 Public participation**

A resident was unhappy with proposals for a Combined Authority saying it would take decisions without consulting the local area. He tried to obtain funding from EA to alleviate flooding on the cycleway; EA said it will install a valve when funding is available.

George Bell thanked Cllr Davison for arranging the Digital Derbyshire meeting with Dean Collins and thought BT gave some answers over superfast cables along the A6 and into the Castle. He considered the comments regarding the possible forfeiture of DCC's project should residents decide to opt for an independent provider to be unhelpful. Cllr Davison reiterated that DCC is intent on supplying broadband to our rural parishes.

**07.11.15 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.** These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Strand).

#### **08.11.15 Boulton Moor Housing**

The Chairman reported on the meeting held earlier this evening with Persimmon Homes. He agreed with Cllr Strand that concerns over the footpath at Sevenlands Drive and the proposed repositioning of the intended Primary School (planning application 9/2015/0959) be minuted.

### 09.11.15 Digital Derbyshire

Cllr Strand presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the responses from the recent questionnaire delivered to 100 rural households. A sample of the results concluded:

**Do you Subscribe to Broadband?** 96 answered Yes/ 4 No;

**Which Company supplies Your Broadband?** 31 BT/ 30 Sky and 19 TalkTalk;

**Do you use home Broadband Internet for your work?** 42 said Yes/ 26 desirable/ 28 No;

**What Download speed to you currently achieve?**

<1 Mbit/sec	-	3
1 – 2 Mbit/sec	-	45
2 – 3 Mbit/sec	-	17
3 – 5 Mbit/sec	-	10
>5 Mbit/sec	-	0
Don't Know	-	22

**If you were offered a service with a download speed of 10 – 15 Mbit/sec would you be interested in switching?**

82 answered Yes/ 8 No;

**If 'Yes' what price\* would you be willing to pay?**

<£20 per month	-	2
£20 per month	-	31
£25 per month	-	30
£30 per month	-	9
£40+ per month	-	6
Yes but not Completed		6
No More than Current Provider		1
None Part of Package		2

Cllr Strand will send these results to DCC and BT.

Weston on Trent has an alternative provider to BT, fed from a mast atop the Coopers Arms which goes live this week. One problem for our villages is the preponderance of trees which interfere with the signal. Also, if we as a council and/or residents began using such a provider, forfeiture of DCC's project is possible as mentioned above. Cllr Strand offered to keep in touch with his contact in Weston.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Strand for his input.

### 10.11.15 Elvaston Communities Group

Mike Tong was pleased to announce Eve Wilson as the Group's new Chairperson. The WW1 activities have ended and proved a great success. The sensory garden working party met members of Derby's Royal Hospital who are interested in creating such a project there. A meeting will be held between the two parties tomorrow.

A new Group website is being developed.

### 11.11.15 Elvaston Castle Development Board

Cllr Strand reported that the management committee is being formed; a Heritage Lottery Fund application is to be resubmitted (see above) with specific advice on content to be given by HLF itself; the Development Board found 6 similar situations to those of the Park elsewhere in the UK which may help develop its issues; and the Park is trying to maximise activities such as wedding and catering events, attracting film companies for production opportunities etc. Funds from such activities would remain with the Park and not be forwarded to DCC which will help to engender self-sufficiency.

### 12.11.15 Flooding and Gravel

Cllr Strand attended the Elvaston Quarry Liaison meeting which he considered to be preoccupied with Biffa's attempts at levelling and settlement groundwork as mentioned above.

### 13.11.15 Chairman's Report

None.

### 14.11.15 Matters for Decision or Discussion

**14.1.** To consider quotes for hedge and foliage trimming works at the village green. **Resolved:** clerk to appoint Premier Gardens to conduct this work.

**14.2** To consider speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

**14.3** To consider a proposal from a resident for a dog bin to be installed at the Park. The request was denied by Gill Forester. **Resolved:** further discussion held over to the next meeting.

**14.4** Budget figures to be perused by the finance committee. **Resolved:** finance committee to decide the 2016/17 precept level soon and to present it to council in the next meeting.

**14.5** to consider the adoption of the Elvaston DD Broadband Questionnaire Logo into further circulars etc. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting; in the meantime clerk to search for any art club drawings in his files.

### 15.11.15 Councillor's Reports

None.

### 16.11.15 Clerk Report

1. Clerk contacted SDDC tree officer on 19<sup>th</sup> October to report a large dead tree is evident at Ambaston and awaits his reply.

### 17.11.15 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

No further circulars had been received since the last meeting.

### 18.11.15 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total £
001125	J Irons – Clerk's salary in October	493.40	-	493.40
001125	J Irons – Clerk's home allowance	18.00	-	18.00
001126	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay in October	174.00	-	174.00
001127	HMRC – clerk's tax *	106.60	-	106.60
001128	Staples – 2 black & 1 colour printer inks.	55.81	11.16	66.97
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>847.81</b>	<b>11.16</b>	<b>858.97</b>

\* This represents a double amount of tax payable in one month. Clerk contacted the accounting technician who explained that on a four week payroll there will always be one tax month a year where two payments will be made. In HMRC terms the tax months are from 6th to 5th of the month. I usually date your pay slip a couple of days after you need it so the payslip for October is dated 7th October and the payslip for November is dated 4th November and therefore they both fall into the same tax month, (6th October to 5th November).

#### (b) Income

Clerk stated that a small amount of interest (c£8) has been credited by the bank so far this year.

#### (c) Direct Debits

None.

**Bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

**£27904.24**

**19.11.15 To consider planning applications:**

9/2015/0559 - THE RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF THE GARAGE INTO LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AT 35 MOUNTFIELD WAY BOULTON MOOR. **Resolved:** no objection.

9/2015/0959 - OUTLINE APPLICATION (ALL MATTERS TO BE RESERVED) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-FORM ENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS, CAR PARKING, OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE, SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE, SERVICES, LIGHTING, SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING AT LAND AT SK3931 2744 MILL HILL BOULTON MOOR. **Resolved:** clerk to request an extension of time from SDDC for comment.

9/2015/0940 – THE ERECTION OF A SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AT 14 MAIN STREET AMBASTON. **Resolved:** no objection.

**20.11.15 Items for Information only**

None.

**21.11.15 Agenda Items for next meeting**

- Boulton Moor;
- Broadband (which should be moved higher up the agenda);
- Elvaston Communities Group;
- Elvaston Castle Development Board;
- Quotes for speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins and to discuss VAS signs;
- installation of a dog bin;
- finance committee’s decision on the forthcoming year’s precept;
- Cllr Russell’s search for the deeds of the village green;
- To consider buying printer inks from a different supplier;
- to consider the adoption of the Elvaston DD Broadband Questionnaire Logo into further circulars etc.

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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.58pm

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