

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th July 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

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

In Attendance:

DCllr Ann Watson and PC Claire North.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.07.14 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Lee (work commitments), Mansfield (holiday), Hurt (work commitments), CCllr Rob Davison (holiday), DCllr Peter Watson (holiday).

02.07.14. Variation of Order of Business

Items 12.4, report on the meeting with Persimmon Homes on 8th July; and 6 & 12.5, report on the meeting with Digital Derbyshire on 2nd July were brought forward. After the guest speaker finished the Chairman brought forward item 9 (Police Report) to the next position.

03.07.14. Declaration of Members Interests

None.

04.07.14. District Councillor's Report

DCllr Ann Watson announced that she had nothing to report relevant to this parish.

05.07.14. Housing development and Digital Derbyshire.

The Chairman noted that attendance at the recent Persimmon Homes meeting was poor; Gareth from PH cancelled and no District Councillors arrived. However, Cheryl Pigdeon (Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate at South Derbyshire) was on hand to discuss PH's plans. He thanked Cheryl Pigdeon for her attendance and help at that meeting.

The Chairman received noise complaints over contractors' lorries' reversing devices on Snelsmoor Lane and wondered if such vehicles should be banned. The complainant also worries about the development of an access road onto Sevenlands Drive. He will forward these details and a prospective date for another meeting with PH to DCllr Watson. She believes a planning application has not yet been submitted but will check. Cllr Strand rued that issues had been raised with SDDC but very little feedback had been received. The main concerns are potential traffic congestion through lack of planned infrastructure; noise, disruption and surface water run-off; apparent lack of cafes, shops, restaurants, and doctor's surgery; and planned high density housing. He was also apprehensive about the location of the Park & Ride route, it being near to the A50 and intended primary school. Cllr Strand called for SDDC representation at the meeting with PH.

After attending the Digital Derbyshire meeting Cllr Strand thought it doubtful Elvaston will benefit; although £2.9m becomes available in 2017 there are no guarantees this will deliver an improved service. As council tax payers it is unfair on our residents and even adversely affects house prices. Tony Whaling (Digital Champion for the area - <http://www.elvaston-parish-broadband.org>.) contributed saying DD is reviewing the area again; from 1350 properties 550 were missed in the original assessment. Moreover, Weston on Trent was bypassed altogether. DD imparted the wrong information and the technology is thus far unused. Cllr Strand believed SDDC can help to make this village's views known.

06.07.14. Guest Speaker - Adam Dickerson of Proludic Ltd to discuss play equipment for the forthcoming Boulton Moor recreational area.

Adam began by distributing display posters outlining the stages of creating a recreational area and discussed play equipment for a site on Boulton Moor. Council should begin the process by asking residents what its community wants

and to secure funding it must show an evidence of need. Proludic then assess the results and suggests equipment, number of items, site location and issues etc before quoting. The community is asked its preferences over types of equipment; Proludic then provides examples of completed areas, gathers feedback via questionnaires and can be present at a public meeting if arranged. The site in question at Boulton Moor contains 379 properties which Adam estimated may require around £20k to furnish a decent facility. Ongoing maintenance with regular inspections is essential (the lengthsman may attend a half-day course to acquire the necessary skills for instance).

Funding is available from various sources although it depends on differing criteria and the firm would help with the application. Big Lottery Fund and landfill operators are prime sources to which DCllr Watson added that some s106 finance may become available. Adam offered his help and asked Council to advise him of the results of the consultation with the community. The Chairman thought the Parish Plan Group can help with the latter (flyers through doors for instance) after which he thanked Adam for his attendance and input.

07.07.14: Police report

PC Claire North said PC Ball is looking at the speeding problem at Colwell Drive. Cllr Russell raised the speeding issue on the B5010, lorries being mostly at fault. PC North will address this soon.

The clerk read the following from the police website:

Elvaston – 2 minor incidents reported in May (1 burglary and 1 other theft on or near main Road;

Elvaston Castle - 2 minor incidents reported in May (1 ASB and 1 other theft);

Thulston – 1 vehicle crime at The Pinfold;

Boulton Moor - 3 minor incidents (1 vehicle, 1 ASB and 1 other theft). Details are available on the Police website at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire>.

08.07.14: Public Speaking

A resident asked for agendas and minutes be available at the start of meetings in future; an arrangement with Lafarge has resulted in an end to the jet-ski nuisance; and he is discussing flooding issues at the north of Ambaston with EA.

Cllr Strand noted that the walk by some members around the flood bank in March was enlightening and had improved their knowledge. He urged those members unable to attend to do so and suggested a Saturday morning. **Agreed:**

Peter Waters, the Clerk and members will liaise to decide suitable dates.

09.07.14: To approve the minutes

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th June were approved and accepted (pp Cllr Russell, scd Cllr Strand) as a true record and signed off immediately by the Chairman.

10.07.14: Flooding and Gravel

Nothing to report.

11.07.14: Chairman's report

Following the earlier discussion over housing the Chairman stated that more detailed and relevant information is needed from Persimmon Homes with which to inform the public, certainly before development starts. Resulting information should be forwarded to residents, probably by posting flyers through residents' doors, and their feedback is essential. This process will require liaison between all parties (Council, residents, PH and SDDC).

12.07.14: Matters for Decision or Discussion:

12.1 request over the following issues at Ambaston to be considered by Council:

- Access only and children's play area signs: **RESOLVED:** clerk to ask DCC;
- Dog waste bin: **RESOLVED:** clerk to request a generic litter bin with relevant sticker denoting such waste from SDDC;
- Grit bin: **RESOLVED:** clerk to order a new and filled bin from DCC;
- Bus timetables to be posted on the Ambaston notice board: **RESOLVED:** denied;
- Resurfacing of Church Drive, Elvaston – highly unlikely due to financial constraints.

12.2 Cllr Spenser to sign Request for Dispensation form and Cllr Hurt to sign Register of Interests form. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Spenser duly signed, Cllr Hurt's signature to be obtained in the next meeting.

12.3 signing of bank form to receive interest gross: **RESOLVED:** duly signed by 2 member signatories.

12.4 accept/ reject offer from Western Power for electricity connection for the defibrillator. **RESOLVED:** Council's electrician responsible for installation will ask the Harrington Arms if it wishes to house the device; failing that the Council will buy a thermal bag in which to house the cabinet.

12.5 To discuss the Council's commitments to the Village Hall Committee. **RESOLVED:** To pay the VHC grants and discuss Council's service commitments to VHC in the next meeting.

13.07.14: Cycle Scheme

Nothing to report.

14.07.14: Councillor's Reports

Cllr Strand asked neighbours to the recent Yew Tree Lane planning application whether they had been notified of such, which they had.

Cllr Beadle requested that a tree on the corner of Yew Tree Lane and Broad Lane be trimmed/ cut; Clerk to arrange. Cars parked on the corner of Silver Lane cause obstruction; clerk to advise PC Vickie Ball.

15.07.14: Clerk's Report

1. Clerk received the following reply from A1:

'A-one+ are the managing agents working on behalf of the Highways Agency and we maintain the trunk roads and motorways in the East Midlands.

Thank you for your email regarding the broken lights in the pedestrian underpass at the Boulton Moor end of Raynesway, Elvaston, South Derbyshire. I have passed this onto our street lighting department. They have been in to make the area safe and to follow up with a permanent repair'.

2. Gill Forrester - Assistant Area Manager, Park Manager/Elvaston wrote:

'I agree with you that the vegetation at Stables Drive entrance is in need of cutting back. We are currently in discussion with the gentleman to whom the hedge (opposite the village hall) belongs, to arrange pruning it back in the near future- as it is this hedge in particular that appears to be encroaching. We would hope that this would be possible towards the end of July, if not sooner, to avoid any conflict with nesting birds.

I am aware that the Village Hall prunes its yew hedge back beautifully each year – and that other adjoining landowners tend to do the same'.

3. Clerk asked whether the FACEBOOK page on the Council's website is set as a closed group. This way, the administrator can delete posts if it considers them inappropriate. It may also be set so that comments are approved before being posted. You can also remove members of closed and secret groups. **Agreed:** clerk to ask previous clerk about the settings.

4. Clerk attended the Making Localism Work' Conference in Harrogate on 10th July and has since circulated notes to members.

5. Hilda Roberts noted that grass cuttings by the tradesman at the village hall were left in two black bags. Cllr Russell replied she agreed to collect them but did not; however this will be rectified in future. The contractor charges £25 per cut and members envisaged a requirement of around 6 cuts during the high season.

6. Clerk contacted Ian Briggs, a previous contractor, regarding mowing, hedge cutting etc. and awaits a reply.

7. Clerk is on holiday for the September meeting, therefore it was **agreed** the clerk will prepare documents in readiness and deliver them to Cllr Beadle who will take the minutes.

16.07.14: Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Clerk offered Circulars 15 & 16/14 which had been emailed to all Cllrs previously.

17.07.14: Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001040	J Irons – Clerk's salary - June	331.31	-	331.31
001040	J Irons - clerk home allowance £18 pm, June	18.00	-	36.00
001040	J Irons – Clerk's salary - July	331.31	-	331.31

001040	J Irons - clerk home allowance £18 pm,July	18.00	-	18.00
001041	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay June	152.25	-	152.25
001041	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay July	152.25	-	152.25
001042	HMRC – clerk’s tax for June	82.80	-	82.80
001042	HMRC – clerk’s tax for July	82.80	-	82.80
001043	Hydroclean – cleaning of war memorial	140.00	-	140.00
	TOTAL	1308.72		1308.72

(b) Income

£5410 - 2nd tranche of Precept from SDDC
£300 Western Power donation towards the defibrillator.
£ 60 allotment rents

(c) Direct Debits

£26.80 Severn Trent – 1st instalment of yearly water rate.

Bank balance as at 30th June 2014 £29,476.73

18.07.14: To consider planning applications:- none received.

19.07.14: Items for information only

20.07.14: Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Contribution to Vitalise;
- To pay the VHC grants and discuss Council’s service commitments to VHC;
- Cllr Hurt signature for his Register of Interests;
- Nick Sellek website renewal invoice.

21.07.14: The next Council Meeting is on Monday 8th September 2014 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)