

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th March 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

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

In Attendance:

District Cllr Peter Watson; County Cllr R Davison.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

1. Apologies

Cllrs Spenser (work commitments), Lee (work commitments) and Beadle (holiday).

2. Variation of Order of Business

The Chairman altered the order of agenda in which the items would be heard; to bring forward one guest speaker item at this point with the other following County and District Councillors reports.

Guest Speaker - Nick Sellwood, National Trust Project Development Manager.

Nick outlined proposals for the vision and long term aspirations of Elvaston Castle. 3000 public comments were received from the recently held workshops and 6 guiding principles are now in place, including: DCC to retain freehold of the estate; historic landscape and biodiversity will be preserved; and public access to the gardens, parkland and house will be maintained. DCC need new funding to initiate plans but do not rule out converting redundant buildings into residential housing (enabling development). One comment was that these may encourage restrictions by residents, thereby affecting the park. However, Nick assured that strict controls would be applied so that these would not be allowed to affect heritage. Another comment was that traffic should enter via the A50 and not the village; also, the present drive is unsuitable to take more traffic, which would result from the housing. Nick said a new access road and pedestrian walkways may be created. Despite having 350-400k visitors annually the NT will assess other income possibilities and attract a more commercial approach to the Castle's viability. For instance, options may include caravan sites, catering opportunities, horse riding facilities and holiday lets. A resident asked if the new Management Committee to implement these options will be within DCC to which Nick replied these are early stages and the structure is still being explored.

3. Declaration of Members Interests

None.

4. District and County Councillor reports.

South Derbyshire District Council – DCllr Peter Watson

Rates – for the 4th year running SDDC will not raise its portion of the Council Tax; it has cut costs. However, it collects the tax for the County Council, Fire Authority and Police and these bodies have increased the levy.

Liaison Meeting – a Parish Council Liaison Meeting will be held on 30th April.

Repairs - Parish Councils will soon receive a letter informing them of repairs to footpaths and jitties that are in SDDC ownership.

Trees – a complaint received a year ago of trees on the A6 has been dealt with by the landowner, who has replaced them.

Flooding - DCllr Watson reported flooding on the Borrowash Bridge to the EA although he has not received a reply yet.

Army – it is possible the Government may deploy the Army to inspect and repair flood defences.

Meetings – DCllr Watson will attend the Gravel Liaison Meeting on 19th March and the Race Track Meeting on 2nd April.

Waste - Green bins were very successful and have been well received. The Shardlow recycling site will remain but those at Aston, Barrow and Weston will be removed soon.

Thulston brook bridge – Cllr Bickerton asked if the flooding had been addressed; DCllr Watson suggested he speak to Zoe Sewter at District Council.

Police - Council welcomed PCSO Vicky Bell who said a number of shed break-ins had been reported recently but not in this area. Cllr Russell noted a car parked next to the main junction; this should be reported on the telephone 101 line. A resident noted that intruders are prevalent in the area at present.

Derbyshire County Councillor – Cllr Rob Davison

Ambaston – Cllr Davison visited the Ambaston flood bank last Monday with Peter Waters, the Chairman, clerk, 2 other Cllrs and a District Cllr engineer. He gave thanks to Peter Waters for his informed tour.

Elvaston Castle – DCC will adhere to the 6 principles alluded to by Nick Sellwood earlier. DCC has preferred strategies but these must be acceptable. Cllr Davison will attend a meeting next Monday at the Castle with 4 parishioners who are well versed in the issues.

5. Guest Speaker - Ian Hey (Community Partnership Officer, Culture & Community at SDDC) presented a talk on Neighbourhood Development Planning.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to influence new development. It includes Community Right to Build entitlements; and Community Right to Challenge, which enables communities to challenge to take over local services that they think they can run differently and better.

Parishes may comment but not object unless it has a specific reason; in the absence of this it is presumed to support the development. However, it can request the types, style and design of buildings and can do this through the NDP without recourse to the usual planning channels. The parish cannot block a development once passed.

Any preferences over buildings must pass a 2 test rule: a) must be couched in planning terminology; and b) must pass a referendum of over 50% of voters. Plans must evidence housing needs and facilities (schools, pedestrian paths etc). The Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum must define the area, which is usually defined as the parish boundary, and produce a statement describing how the area is appropriate and its vision for growth. Boulton Moor has been agreed but the Parish Council can influence its layout by telling planners its preference for green areas, community facilities etc. If adopted, the site becomes part of the Local Plan. Evidence is vital and consultation with relevant bodies is essential; SDDC would assist and will provide some funding. The Department of Communities & Local Government also provides grants and prides itself on making a decision within 10 days. Time is short because the first expression of interest begins on 1st July. As alluded to above, there would be a cost involved for the referendum but SDDC would assist.

The cost of planning consultants, if appointed, would be high (circa £25-30k). The Local Plan Consultation for this area is on 19th March at Aston on Trent.

Agreed (pp Cllr Strand, sec Cllr Hurt): NDP to be pursued through Ian Hey and a Working Party of Cllrs to be formed to discuss and report to Council between May and June.

01.03.14: Public Speaking

None.

02.03.14: To approve the minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February were approved and accepted as a true record and signed off immediately by the Chairman after a minor amendment.

03.03.14: Flooding and Gravel

A resident reported that EA began work on Ambaston flood bank; top soli and reinstatement work are still required. The Chairman said the recent walk along the flood bank was informative and urged other Cllrs to inspect it. **Agreed.** Clerk to send photos to Cllrs Sean Bambrick, Margaret Calladine and Linda Chilton.

04.03.14: Chairman's Report

The Chairman reminded Cllrs to give thought to the need for a new Deputy Chair in May (preferably from the Rural Ward).

05.03.14: Matters for Decision or Discussion

5.1 Council's service commitments to the Village Hall Committee. **RESOLVED:** meeting between PC and VHC to be held (3 representatives from each body). Clerk to arrange.

5.2 To enlist a councillor for the Rural Ward. **RESOLVED:** Chairman and Cllr Bickerton to deliver flyers in Ambaston to garner interest.

5.3 Updated allotment tenancy agreement. Clerk had made amendments and updates to the present agreement and asked the Chairman to check these. The Chairman had responded this evening; clerk to peruse.

06.03.14 Cycle Scheme

Deferred to the next meeting.

07.03.14 Councillor’s Report

Cllr Russell reported damage to the road on the B5010, outside Gardner’s Cottage on the bend which has since got worse – about 80 yards of tarmac is affected. She believes the drain is damaged and a hole has appeared around it. Clerk to remind Highways once again.

Cllr Strand said fly tipping on the A6 remains. Clerk reported this to the Clean Team after the last meeting whose reply was that the owner of the site is unknown and so no action can be taken. Clerk to make another appeal to SDDC.

08.03.14 Clerk’s Report

1. Dates were invited for a councillors’ site visit to the Ambaston flood bank; clerk distributed A4 maps.
2. Interest was invited for defibrillator training; the Chairman has sent this to Cllr Bickerton.
3. Siting of the second defibrillator. **RESOLVED:** clerk to ask Harrington Arms again and give them the instruction booklet on electrical connection.
4. Heartbeat Trust wrote to Village Hall stating a new battery was on order. Clerk has completed a form that registers the other defibrillator with the Ambulance service; this was checked by Cllr Russell who verified it as correct.
5. Refuse freighter will visit the Harrington Arms on 5th April.
6. Playground Boulton Moor – clerk noted this is to be provided by the Owner according to the S.106 Agreement.
7. Chairman sent a letter of support to Terry Gorman re WW1 Heritage Lottery application.
8. War Memorial ownership – Council has a power to maintain, repair protect and adapt. More names need to be added. **RESOLVED:** clerk to inform Parish Plan Group of the contact at the Records Office to research names.
9. PROPOSED BASE STATION UPGRADE AT ADOPTED GRASSED HIGHWAY VERGE, SHARDLOW ROAD, DERBY, DE72 (cell site ref: CTIL 115295_TEF 037764 - ALVASTON EAST). This is an equipment upgrade for Telefonica to provide 4G services in the area. **RESOLVED:** clerk to ask if this will benefit Elvaston and Thulston.
10. Clerk suggested the Assets Register should include 2 defibrillators and the Council laptop which was **agreed**. Latter 2 items should be added to insurance schedule which was **agreed**.
11. Renewal of advertisements on the website. **RESOLVED:** held over to the next meeting.
12. Clerk distributed information on possible funding opportunities for new projects.

9.03.14 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Clerk offered Circulars 04 & 05/14 which had been emailed to all Cllrs previously.

10.03.14 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001020	J Irons – Clerk’s salary *	473.04	-	473.04
001021	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay	152.25	-	152.25
001022	Staples – paper & toner	46 80	9.36	56.16
001023	DALC - subscription	387.98		387.98
	TOTAL	1060.07	9.36	1069.43

* includes overtime.

(b) Income

S.136 receipt from SDDC - **£6,478.**

(c) Direct Debits

None

Bank Balance as at 28th February 2014 £24,364.27

11.03.14 To consider planning applications:-

9/2014/0150 – erection of an extension at 5 Mere Beck Ambaston. **RESOLVED: no objection.**

12.03.14 Items for information only

13.03.14 The Annual Council Meeting is on Monday 14th April 2014 at **7.00pm**

14.03.14 Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Allotment agreement;
- Neighbourhood Development Plan working group report (if held);
- Cllr vacancy for the Rural Ward;
- Renewal of advertisements on the website;
- War memorial – result of Records Office search;
- Staining of the wooden notice boards.

There being no further business the Chairman closed Part 1 of the meeting at 9.50pm

PART 2 –CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

15.03.14.

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 – the Chairman received this in the last meeting to peruse but did not have it with him. **Agreed:** decision to be held over to the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed Part 2 the meeting at 9.56pm

Signed

Cllr R Strand (Chairman)

J Irons – clerk.