

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr Strand, Cllr R Russell, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr S Lee, Cllr C Hurt, and members of the public.

In Attendance:

District Cllr Peter Watson, Cllr Neil Atkins and Cllr Ann Watson; County Cllr R Davison.
Cllr Cheryl Pidgeon – Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Labour Party in South Derbyshire

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the above Councillors. In the absence of the clerk Cllr Beadle took the minutes.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.09.14. Apologies

Cllr Spenser (work commitments) and Cllr R Strand will be late.

02.09.14. Variation of Order of Business

The Chairman altered the order of agenda in which the items would be heard; If Cllr Strand was not here before the Public Speaking, for this to be delayed.

03.09.14 Declaration of Members Interests

None

04.09.14 District and County Councillor's Report

DCllr Peter Watson

Local Plan was submitted to Planning Inspector in July, Gill Kingaby, and the same inspector that did the report for Nottingham who is familiar with the area.

With regard to fly-tipping on the A6, he noticed that gate had now been put up and the rubbish had gone. However, it had been noticed that there was rubbish at an entrance on the right hand side and the Clean Team will be contacted. With regard to rubbish on Ambaston Lane, in 5 years there have been 94 instances, however people have been prosecuted where possible.

Answers to questions from Persimmon Homes meeting on 14 August. There is a scheme in place to make sure what has been laid down is in force.

Highways and infrastructure will not change and will be the same as 6 years ago and it is believed travel requirements have not changed.

Cllr Rob Davison

Cllr Davison has been on holiday or 2 weeks. He attended the Persimmon Homes meeting on 14 August and thought it very important we should nip issues in the bud. DCllr Davison confirmed he would be staying at the meeting to hear from local residents. Cllr Davison stated that he would give evidence of his concerns re the highways matters on this development and the need to future proof such developments re the number of cars likely to be present given the size of the proposed development.

05.09.14 Boulton Moor Housing

Cllr Bickerton announced that on 14 July Building work commenced without any prior notification. Permission was requested for a sales cabin to be erected and this was erected within 6 days of the 25 day consultation period. There were many concerns raised by the local residents including flooding, dust and noise. With this in mind the Parish Council held a meeting with Persimmon Homes (Gareth Hankin – Senior Land Manager at Persimmon Homes) on 14 August to address these matters. Gareth sent his apologies as he was invited to our meeting tonight but

unfortunately could not make it. Cllr Bickerton confirmed that he would be taking questions from the public and putting these to Gareth Hankin, as well as sending flyers around local residents with reply slips for residents to view the concerns.

06.09.14 Public Speaking

Question 1: A Boulton Moor resident confirmed he has complained to SDCC and the environmental department with regards to dust. Their house backed on to where the building was taking place and where they are storing materials. She confirmed that no dampening down was taking place and the dust was a major problem. They could not open windows, and had to continuously clean their car and windows/windowsills. They had not received any reply from anyone. **Answer from Cllr P Watson:** this was the first he had heard of it. He will look into it but he said this problem should be directed to Persimmon.

Question 2: A resident complained about the sales cabin and the fact that they had not received planning permission to erect the office. He also wanted to know how we can be sure that the £50,000 allocated for transport does not get lost in the budget? He was assured by Cllr P Watson that it was allocated for that particular purpose. The resident was disappointed that the sales office was constructed away from the building site – he thought that if it was on the building site it would have been OK. **Answer from Cllr P Watson:** Officers are aware the office was put up without permission. However, nothing would be done about this for 3 months and by the time action would be taken they would be 6 months down the line so they would take a fly and hope for permission. If it went to appeal the Inspector would have thrown it out and if it lost at the appeal it would have cost money.

Question 3: A resident advised that the sales cabin was classified as temporary accommodation. The land where the sales office is situated is allocated for the Park and Ride and therefore they cannot put a business on this land. The Council should take it down and should adhere to planning consent.

Question 4: A resident confirmed he had been told by the sales office that the office was a temporary situation and the sales office would be moving to the site (no.10) before Christmas. Councillors at the meeting with Persimmon were told that the sales office would only be in this location for 4 weeks (3 of which have already gone).

Question 5: A resident complained about the constant noise (24/7) of a generator or pump from the site. This was confirmed to be a water pump. Can anything be done about this?

Question 6: It was asked about times the site is allowed to operate and it was confirmed: 7.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday; 7.30am-1pm on Saturdays and None on Sundays. Complaints have already been put in but it was concerned on this occasion the noise was due to a vehicle being stolen and vandalism within the site.

Question 7: A resident from Sevenlands Drive thought that the planning permission had been given to Derby City Council. It was confirmed that there are two sites, one is Derby City Council and one is South Derbyshire. The South Derbyshire building was being phased. The first phase out of the 1048 houses is 286 houses. The 1048 homes should be built by 2025. This was approved in 2008 and there is another planning application for another 800 homes.

Question 8: A resident from Mill Hill was concerned about the mud/water on the road and the fact it could cause a terrible accident as boy-racers and motorbikes often speed along Snellsmore Lane. Is Persimmon responsible for keeping the road clean at all times? The drains are already getting blocked with mud and Severn Trent is only responsible for the houses and not construction water. She also indicated that the road signs are inadequate. There are also large bonfires being burnt. It was suggested a letter should be sent to the Environment Agency and Severn Trent about these matters. Rob Davison and Mike Hawkins and Kevin Barton asked to be copied into correspondence.

Question 9: The developers have torn up hedgerows onto Sevenlands Drive and replaced with barriers, which leaves a view directly onto the building site. Is this going to be an access to the site? Answer by Cllr Bickerton: No, this is going to be a pathway to the new estate – pedestrian and not vehicular.

Question 10: Snellsmore Lane has a 60mph speed limit. Are there any plans to reduce the speed limit? Cllr Rob Davison advised that generally the speed limit will only be reduced when street lighting is erected. However Cllr Davison will carry out a safety visit to see if it can be reduced and maybe a temporary limit put in.

Question 11: Concerns about the water table. He had been advised by the site manager that there would be the construction of a pond and the resident was concerned about stagnant water and household insurance premiums and community safety – particularly amongst children. It was advised that a pond was built on Stenson Fields estate and this only fills up when it rains. We would like to know whether this pond will be a permanent one or a temporary tank.

Question 12: Is there a process in place to review Council Tax bands? **Answer:** not aware but will look into this. Cllr Davison said this should not happen as the banding took place in 1991. Resident said he has received notification that there may be changes.

Question 13: A Thulston resident asked whether the pathway from Thulston to the bus stop on the A6 could be improved. He had put in a request last year and wants to know if there is any way we can improve this before the winter sets in. This was discussed and Cllr Davison requested the resident's name and address and telephone number and he will speak to him and look into this.

Cllr Davison asked if there were any issues that had not been brought up which needed to be brought to his attention. No replies. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

07.09.14 To take a vote of confidence/no confidence in the Aston Ward South Derbyshire District Councillors

The Parish Councillors were asked to give their views and concerns before the vote was taken:

Cllr. Russell – concerned with the lack of response to correspondence

Cllr. Mansfield – With regard to the sales office, large companies should not be able to break the law. He thought expectations should be managed and given heads up of what happening.

Cllr. Strand – After going out of our way to give detailed responses, we have been given little guidance. He was very disappointed that the planning committee had not answered our concerns in more detail. He is very disappointed as we are trying to develop the community and we are not being allowed to do that.

Cllr. Hurt – Feels we have asked questions but were not heard or listened to.

Cllr. Lee – We are all volunteers, have put together a lengthy response and have taken things as far as we could without any assistance. One of his main concerns is the traffic and getting out of Boulton Moor in rush hour traffic now, never mind when the new houses are built.

Resolved: A unanimous vote of no confidence in the Aston Ward Derbyshire District Councillors was taken (pp. Cllr. Strand, seconded Cllr. Lee).

Response from District Councillors:

Cllr. P Watson : Disappointed they were not advised about this until tonight. Comments should not have been directed at District Councillors but to planning. He confirmed that comments in our response were considered in great depth by local planner and a decision made. Not sure this carries any weight. Suggested a meeting with Chief Executive. He felt he had helped a great deal in the past from planning applications in Thulston to adoption of sewers etc.

Cllr. A Watson: Disappointed as she had listened and helped us at the last meeting.

Cllr. Neil Atkins: Disappointed as he thinks he does all he can to assist us.

Cllr. P Bickerton confirmed he is happy to meet with Frank McArdle and Cllr. Strand and Cllr. Lee will also attend. Cllr P Watson advised that we may not get a meeting for 2/3 months as he is a very busy man. Cllr. P Watson confirmed that he will still continue to do what he was elected to do and will continue to attend our meetings. Cllr. P Watson, Cllr. A Watson and Cllr. N Atkins left the meeting at 8.50pm.

08.09.14 Digital Derbyshire

Nothing to report. We should invite Tony Whaling to our next meeting for an update.

09.09.14 To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July 2014. Cllr. Hurt advised that he was absent from the last meeting due to sickness and not work commitments. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th July 2014 were approved and accepted (pp Cllr Russell, scd Cllr Beadle) as a true record and signed off immediately by the Chairman.

10.09.14 Police Report

Nothing to report as no police officers were present at this meeting.

11.09.14 Flooding and Gravel

It was advised that that Tarmac Lafarge are in discussion with regards to the fencing of the bank to prevent horseriding. Another flood-bank walk to be arranged. A date to be given by Peter Waters when he can do this. Need the facility to look at plans.

12.09.14 Chairman's Report

Further to our meeting with Proludic at the last meeting, the Chairman confirmed that we need to communicate with the residents of Boulton Moor to get their input as to whether a playground is required. We will send round a flyer to do this.

13.09.14 Matters for Decision or Discussion

13.1 When the floodbank is viewed, we will also look for a position to put the grit bin. Talk to Jonathan about the signs.

13.2 Cllr Hurt did not sign Register of Interests form as this was not available

13.3 Contribution to Vitalise will be discussed at next meeting

13.4 Parish Plan is taking on board the purchase of ceramic poppies for the WW1 Exhibition next year

13.5 It was agreed that we are happy with the £25 per cut we pay for mowing of the village hall grass. Cllr Strand proposed and Cllr Hurt seconded.

14.09.14 Cycle Scheme Investment

Cllr Lee will work on this in the winter months

15.09.14 Councillor's Reports

Cllr Russell had received a request from a resident for give way signs and lines to be painted on the road at the junction of Brook Road and Grove Close. Also, Parish Magazine entries have not been altered.

Cllr Mansfield observed that the grass verge on Oak Road (on the left hand side from Thulston to Elvaston) is not being mowed and there is now grass growing through the tarmac. The mowing stops half way down the road. He thought that perhaps we could do something to pretty up the village e.g. flower box on village sign post (like Aston). The Hedgerows near to bus-stop and other areas in the village have still not been cut and suggested a letter to the landowners. It was suggested that perhaps we should speak to the Parish Plan about planting more flowers around the village. Also, can the letters on the war memorial be repainted or cleaned.

Cllr Strand was happy to report that after notifying the Clean Team about rubbish on Ambaston Lane the rubbish was cleared promptly. Also, happy to see that most of the "for sale" signs on the corner of Grove Close have been removed. He reported that there is a tree on the verge of Oak Road with telephone cables running through it. It looks very dangerous and wonders whether the cables need to be moved. With regards to the footpath mentioned by a resident earlier, Cllr. Strand questioned whether it would be worth repairing as it would soon fall back into disrepair. Speak to Cllr Rob Davison.

Cllr Lee was concerned about the noise of lorries reversing. He was also concerned about the condition of the Raynesway underpass and thought they may need to get the Clean Team down there again to clean up after the skateboarders. Also the lamp posts have still not been repaired.

16.09.14 Clerk's Report

As Jonathan was not present, this was left for the next meeting.

17.09.14 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

These are being received

18.09.14 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001044	J Irons – Clerk's salary - August	331.11	-	331.11
001044	J Irons - clerk home allowance £18 pm	18.00	-	18.00
001045	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay August	152.25	-	152.25
001046	HMRC – clerk's tax for August	82.80	-	82.80
001047	Grant Thornton – external audit	100.00	20.00	120.00
001048	Nick Sellek – website domain renewal	78.35	-	78.35
001049	Cllr Paul Bickerton – room hire Nunsfield H.	26.00	-	26.00
001050	Elvaston Village Hall Trust – cleaning hall	780.00	-	780.00
001051	St. Bartholomew's Parish Church , C/yard	350.00	-	350.00
001052	Staples – ink, paper and envelopes	18.73	3.74	22.47
	TOTAL	1937.24	23.74	1960.98

(b) **Income**

£ 40 allotment rent (final)

(c) **Direct Debits**

None

Bank balance as at 30th July 2014 £28,668.01

19.09.14 To consider planning applications:

9/2014/0783 – certificate of lawfulness for the erection of an extension at 9 Yew Tree Lane, Thulston. **Resolved:** no objections.

It was suggested by a resident that the Parish Council re-introduce the policy of advising people immediately opposite and next door about Planning Permission requests. **Resolved:** considered unnecessary.

20.09.14 Items for Information only

None

21.09.14 Agenda Items for next meeting

- Contribute to Vitalise;
- To pay the VHC grants and discuss council's service commitments to VHC;
- Cllr Hurt signature for his Register of Interests;
- Updating of website

22.09.04 The next Council Meeting is on Monday 13th October 2014 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Signed

CLlr P Bickerton (Chairman)