

ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

PRESENT: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair), Cllrs Lee, Mitchell, Wainwright & Miss Russell.

IN ATTENDANCE: R F Hill (Clerk), G Pollard (Press) & 3 members of the public (Messrs Roberts, Shaw & Waters).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - DCLLR HILARY COYLE

A prepared report was read in DCllr Coyle's absence:-

1. Cyclamax Spondon - SDDC were not aware of the proposed waste incineration plant and have not been consulted. Gill Hague, Head of Development Control, said she would contact Derby City to find out why SDDC had not been consulted.
2. Ragwort - Chris Mason, Leisure Services Manager for SDDC, has provided SDDC's policy on ragwort: SDDC mows highway verges throughout the District on behalf of the County Council. The agency agreement with DCC relates solely to grass cutting. If DCC wanted SDDC to deal with anything else there would have to be a separate instruction. DCC have asked on one occasion for Japanese Knotweed to be dealt with but never Common Ragwort. DEFRA's website identifies Common Ragwort as one of 5 harmful weeds identified in the Weeds Act 1959. The site also identifies methods of dealing with the weed. When it has emerged on land within SDDC's ownership it has usually been dealt with by hand pulling or digging out. Ragwort on highway verges should be reported to the DCC call centre 08456 058 058. If individuals feel that their requests for action have not been dealt with satisfactorily, they can also report specific problems to DEFRA who have the power under the Weeds Act 1959 to take the necessary remedial action. A check of the DCC website shows no mention of anyone reporting or dealing with Ragwort on highway verges. In simple terms it is down to the owner of the land to deal with the problem and in the case of most highway verges, DCC is the owner.
3. Boundary Review - The Boundary Committee is looking at the number of electors and the number of councillors in each ward. Aston Ward has one of the lowest electors to councillors ratios in the district. Review starts at the end of October 2009 and will be completed by December 2010 in time for the May 2011 elections.
4. Elvaston Gravel Liaison - Phil Stubbs of DCC is trying to arrange a meeting with Elvaston Parish Council, DCC, Tarmac and the Environment Agency.
5. Melbourne Area Meeting - Wednesday 21st October Weston Village Hall, 7.00pm
6. Flood Liaison Meeting at SDDC - 11th November 10.00am - This is still in the diary but may change since the attendance for this time was very poor at the previous meeting.

OPEN SESSION

1. The gravel meeting, referred to in 4. of the District Councillor's report, needs to have DCC members as well as officers present and should take place before Tarmac's northern extension application is granted.
2. The Council was asked to display in the notice boards the relevant contact details for reporting ragwort.
3. Members were asked if there had been any developments regarding widening the footpath alongside the B5010.
4. The Council was asked to add clearing debris deposited in the aftermath of flooding to the projects under the Community Payback scheme.
5. The Council was asked to thank the appropriate agency for the improvement in litter control around the A50/A6 spur.
6. Many of the oak trees in the Avenue of Trees have been replaced by lime or horse chestnut trees on the premise that acorns can be harmful to cattle. The Council was asked if there was a preservation order on the trees, to encourage the owner (Tarmac) to replace with oak and to consider using the Chairman's Fund to make a donation to that end and also to establish whether the water table would be affected if the proposed gravel extraction went ahead.

7. Elvaston Parish Council is not on Derby City Council's consultee list for the Raynesway incineration plant. The Council was asked to press for details of what would be incinerated and how it will be monitored. 5 November is believed to be the decision date.

POLICE REPORT

Period 1 Sept to 11 Oct:-

7 Sept - theft of a sat nav from a vehicle on Mill Hill, Boulton Moor.

10 Sept - burglary on Main Road, Elvaston.

11 Sept - fly tipping on Ambaston Lane.

19 Sept - nuisance vehicle on Mill Hill, Boulton Moor.

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20 Sept - antisocial behaviour involving youths on Main Road, Elvaston.

27 Sept - antisocial behaviour involving youths on Meadow Nook, Boulton Moor.

29 Sept - stolen pedal cycle on Elvaston Lane.

PC Crerar has left Area 3 and been replaced by PC Deborah Croxall.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1.10.09: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Strand (personal reasons) & Mrs Coyle (meeting at SDDC); also from CClr Harrison (meeting at SDDC).

2.10.09: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman said he had a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 9 2009 0801 FH (see 7.10.09).

3.10.09: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Wainwright, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed that the circulated minutes of the 14th September 2009 meeting be signed as an accurate record.

4.10.09: ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION'

Open Session

1. Clerk to ask CClr Harrison to arrange.

2. Clerk to arrange.

3. Clerk to ask CClr Harrison for an update.

4. Clerk to arrange.

5. Clerk to write to Balfour Beatty/Connect

6. Clerk to check for a preservation order, to write to Tarmac to ask for future replacements to be oak, to put 'Chairman's Fund' on the agenda for the November meeting and to write to Mr David Griffiths for his opinion of whether the water table will be affected by gravel extraction.

7. Clerk to write to Derby City.

5.10.09: PARISH PLAN - TO PROVIDE A GRANT OF £200 TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO ENABLE IT TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

Resolved: AGREED. The Clerk said that he had been asked not to effect payment until he had received advice from Mr Jefferies, the Steering Committee's treasurer, that the account details had been established.

6.10.09: CLERK'S REPORT

1. A Cultivation Licence has been concluded between DCC & Mr & Mrs Green of Thulston House, 10 Oak Road, Thulston.

2. DCC is proposing to introduce a 40 mph limit between Borrowash and Elvaston (currently 60mph). Comments are invited before a decision is made in the latter part of October.

3. S106 Agmt - Boulton Moor: CD available to view. Cllr Wainwright undertook to produce 4 copies for other members.

4. A copy of the National Association of Local Council's 'An Introduction to Quality Status' was given to each member present.

5. Parish Council vacancies: a notice went on the notice boards on 30 September. Electors have until 20th October to request an election to fill the vacancies (10 valid signatures required), otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option. It was agreed that efforts should be made to request elections for both vacancies.

7.10.09: PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

CD9/0909/120 - erection of 1 new poly tunnel & 2 poly tunnel extensions at Elvaston Castle Country Park. RESOLVED: no objections.

9 2009 0782 FH - garage conversion to living accommodation at 79 Sevenlands Drive, Boulton Moor. RESOLVED: subject to the occupant at No. 77 next door having no objections, Clerk to advise no objections

9 2009 0801 FH - to raise the height of 2 dormer windows from the originally approved height. RESOLVED: no objections (Cllr Lythgoe left the room while the other members came to the decision).

Other

SDDC's explanation of how the decision to approve the conversion of the derelict farm building next to Castle Court, Elvaston was arrived at prompted members to ask the Clerk to check whether sustainability/non-sustainability is taken into account by SDDC in arriving at such decisions.

8.10.09: FINANCE

1. Members approved the adjustment of staff pay with effect from 1st April 2009 in accordance with the NJC 2009/10 salary award (Clerk, 1%; Lengthsman, 1.25%)

2. The following accounts were approved for payment:-

cq 786 - P Casey, Lengthsman's wages 4 weeks to 11 October
£ 80.05

2

cq 787 - R F Hill, Clerk's salary for October	£239.78
& expenses 5 months to 12 October	<u>79.32</u>

319.10

cq 788 - Staples, stationery & office supplies

22.21

cq 789 - Bentley Copying Services, replace paper sensor on photocopier

51.75

cq 790 - Audit Commission, 2008/09 audit fee

161.00

3. The Clerk said that the Audit Commission, in approving the Annual Return 2008/09, recommended that members review their practice of paying staff without the deduction of tax/NI. Members asked the Clerk to include the matter on the agenda for November.

9.10.09: BOULTON MOOR/ELVASTON MEADOWS ISSUES

1. The Parish Plan Steering Committee has agreed to take up Cllr Wainwright's proposal to press for a pedestrian crossing/refuge from the Greenway across the A6.

2. The Clerk agreed to work with Cllr Lee to produce a letter in support of the location of a Royal Mail collection box on Colwell Drive.

10.10.09: GRAVEL & FLOODING

1. Tarmac is still awaiting approval of its application to extend gravel extraction northwards from Elvaston Quarry.

2. The Environment Agency, while remaining positive on the subject, does not yet have a date for flood bank improvements to start.

11.10.09: ELVASTON CASTLE REPORT

1. The estimated cost of updating and repairing the estate buildings should be known by mid-November.

2, Ms Tanya Spilsbury of Highgate Sanctuary has agreed to meet members to update them as to the latest position.

12.10.09: COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. Cllrs Lee & Mitchell attended a presentation by the Boundary Committee on 7th October at Swadlincote as part of the consultation process triggered by the fact that on the basis of the December 2007 electoral register, 35% of the wards within South Derbyshire have an electoral

variance of over 10%. Any boundary changes arising out of the consultation process will be confined to district wards and will not affect existing parish boundaries though it is possible that revised district ward boundaries may result in some parishes falling into more than one ward. The Boundary Committee will take into account predicted changes in the electorate over the next five years and this is likely to include the proposed Boulton Moor development. The formal consultation will commence on 27 October when further information on the process will be made available, meantime the Clerk was asked to find out what SDDC's predictions are for changes in the electorate over the next five years.

2. The Donington Racetrack/Parish Councils Forum, set for 13th October was cancelled and the proposed date for the next one is 8th December.

13.10.09: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk circulated a list of the 'information only' items received since the last meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.