

ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

PRESENT: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair), Cllrs Lee, Mitchell, Strand & Mrs Coyle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Harrison, G Pollard (Press), R F Hill (Clerk), PC Deborah Croxall and 2 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - DCLLR HILARY COYLE

1. The SDDC waste collection department's statistics of tonnage collected by the refuse freighter showed an average of 1.5 tonnes over the last 4 visits.
2. The next Quarry Liaison meeting is at Elvaston Castle on 31 March 2010.
3. The next Flood Liaison meeting is at the Council Chamber, Swadlincote on 19 November at 10.00am (moved from 11 November).
4. The SDDC offices will be closed (except for the emergency service) from 24 December until 4 January.
5. A committee of 8 district councillors, one of which is Mrs Coyle, has been appointed to work alongside the Boundary Committee during the South Derbyshire District Council ward boundary review.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - CCLLR JOHN HARRISON

1. Cllr Harrison has been heavily involved in the County Council's pay and grading review which should have been completed in 2007. It is now in its final stages but it is not expected to meet with immediate approval by the trade unions because, though some employees' pay will increase, that of others will suffer a reduction.
2. Though the locality will be spared the disruption of having the Formula 1 Grand Prix at Donington Park next year, it must be viewed as an economic and social disaster for the area.
3. East Midlands Airport Noise Survey. Cllr Harrison has responded on behalf of Aston & Melbourne Ward to say that the noise measurement model used ought to be based on actual noise and not average noise since it is the actual sound of aircraft which causes nuisance. The runway extension has been approved by North West Leicestershire District Council, subject to conditions.
4. Elvaston Castle:
 - 4.1. Cllr Harrison is trying to organise a meeting with senior officers of English Heritage and Highgate Sanctuary to find a way round the obstacles which have caused the negotiations to drag on for the last 5 years.
 - 4.2. The proposed footpath widening alongside the B5010, which DCC had agreed subject to it signing a contract with the owner for the transfer of land required to carry out the work, may be jeopardised if the negotiations referred to in 4.2 above are not consummated.
5. Proposed Pedestrian Refuge on the A6 near Elvaston Meadows: Cllr Harrison recommended that the Council gets in touch with Peter Leigh from County Highways department to arrange a site visit.
6. Replying to Mr Waters' insistence that any meeting convened to talk about improving the Ambaston flood defences must include DCC members as well as officers, Cllr Harrison said the attendance by members of DCC's Development Control Committee could cause them to be judged as prejudiced and therefore rendered ineligible to vote in committee; better, therefore, for parishioners to aim their arguments at DCC's officers in the hope of influencing the officer report on which the members will eventually base their decision.

OPEN SESSION

1. Mr Waters said that the fencing guarding the Ambaston flood bank against people driving

along it had been removed and he would contact the Environment Agency to see if they knew why.

2. Mr Shaw said that the trees on the Borrowash side of Borrowash Bridge had been cut back and the effectiveness of the street lights there had been much improved as a result.

3. Mr Shaw said that it was incumbent on the Environment Agency to contact district councils as part of the procedure to be followed in order to get approval to install waste incineration plants. Therefore, SDDC should have been contacted regarding the proposal to install such a plant just outside the district council boundary in the City of Derby.

POLICE REPORT - PC DEBORAH CROXALL

5 Oct - Elvaston: theft of a vehicle number plate;

16 Oct - Thulston: property taken in a non-dwelling burglary;

28 Oct - Elvaston: theft from a vehicle stationed at the caravan park;

31 Oct - Elvaston: an incidence of criminal damage;

1 Nov - Elvaston: rucksack stolen from a man while he was repairing a bicycle puncture;

8 Nov - Elvaston: theft from a vehicle.

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PC Croxall asked if the crime statistics were, in fact, covering all areas within the parish.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1.11.09: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Wainwright (illness) & Russell (unavoidable commitment elsewhere).

2.11.09: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3.11.09: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Lee, seconded by Cllr Mitchell and agreed that the circulated minutes for the 12 October meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4.11.09: ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION'

County Councillor's Report

5. Clerk to arrange a site meeting to be attended by Mr Leigh and members.

6. Noted.

Police Report

The Clerk agreed to send PC Croxall a street listing covering the whole parish.

5.11.09: CLERK'S REPORT

1. Avenue of Trees; they are protected under the terms of T.P.O. Order No.8, 1976 (this defines the species as oak).

2. Parish Council vacancies: nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer at Swadlincote by no later than noon on Friday 13th November. SDDC advises that if the separate elections for the two vacancies are contested, the parish council needs to be aware that the cost will be around £2500 in total: the hire of a mobile unit for Boulton Moor will cost over £1000.

3. Openreach letter re telephone line re-routing at Ambaston Lane: under the Communications Act 2003, BT has a Universal Service Obligation (USO) to make basic telephony available to everyone at an affordable price and the poles have been erected to enable service providers to maintain supply to their customers on Ambaston Lane. BT has done this having been granted rights to install plant in the public highway without the need to apply for a wayleave, provided a notice is affixed to allow for objections.

4. Snelsmoor Lane Road Safety Improvement Scheme: DCC advises that this will involve cutting back overgrown vegetation and possibly hardening of the verges on the bends to improve visibility.

6.11.09: PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

9 2009 0858 NO - erection of a ten cat pen block and pergola at Old Camellia Farm, Elvaston.

RESOLVED: to make no objection.

Decisions

9 2009 0782 FH - garage conversion to living accommodation at 79 Sevenlands Drive, Boulton

Moor: GRANTED.

7.11.09: MATTERS FOR DECISION

To make a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund. RESOLVED: to make a donation of £100.

8.11.09: FINANCE

8.1. The following payments were approved:-

P Casey, Lengthsman's wages 4 weeks to 8 November

£ 90.87

(includes 2 extra hours for clearing hedge clippings from around the War Memorial)

R F Hill, Clerk's salary for November

£239.78

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund

£100.00

H. F. Mitchell, reimbursement of photocopying costs (Alvaston Press Ltd)

£ 3.60

8.2. Budget and precept for 2010/2011: members were asked to be ready at the next meeting to recommend any projects which may require to be funded during 2010/2011 so that the budget can be agreed and the precept set at the appropriate level.

8.3. The Clerk said he was consulting HMRC regarding the necessity to operate a PAYE scheme for the Council's two employees. He was asked to also seek advice from DALC on that and on how to set up pension arrangements for the Clerk.

9.11.09: ELECTORAL REVIEW FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

9.1. District Warding

The Boundary Committee's consultation process into how district ward boundaries may be adjusted to

achieve a more even district councillor/elector ratio will take into account expected population

movements over the next 5 years. It is quite possible, therefore, that if the Boulton Moor development

is completed within that time scale, that part of Boulton Moor within the South Derbyshire boundary

could qualify to be represented by a dedicated district councillor. Members were asked to consider the

implications of this in preparation for the discussion which needs to take place in council before the

consultation ends on 18 January 2010.

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9.2. Parish Warding

The Chairman tabled a paper supplied by SDDC's elections department explaining the rationale for

creating two parish wards at Elvaston and the allocation of parish councillors representing each of the

two wards. After the last electoral review the number of councillors was increased from 6 to 9 with the

additional 3 being allocated to the new Boulton Moor Ward on the basis that it did not warrant the

same level of parish council representation as Elvaston Rural Ward given that the residents there had

not at that time taken an active role in parish affairs. The Chairman contended that this lack of

involvement was no longer true and that, therefore, the case for only 3 councillors representing

Boulton Moor could not now be justified. Members were asked to consider their views in readiness for

a further debate on the subject in the near future.

10.11.09: PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr Strand presented the case for the Council having its own website. He used the model developed by parishwebsites.co.uk which has a standard core of features and 3 costed levels of additional features giving first year costs ranging from £250 to £800 and ongoing annual costs thereafter from £100 to £300. The Chairman thanked Cllr Strand for the work he had done and it was agreed that competing products needed also to be considered before the project could be put out to tender. The Clerk was asked to make it an agenda item for the December meeting.

11.11.09: BOULTON MOOR/ELVASTON MEADOWS ISSUES

Cllr Lee handed the Clerk a draft letter restating the case to Postcomm for a mail collection box on Colwell Drive to serve all Boulton Moor residents.

12.11.09: GRAVEL & FLOODING REPORT

12.1. The Environment Agency has advised that the Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy paper has now been signed off and it is confident that the project will survive inspection under the Defra Spending Review which it needs to do in order to be approved.

12.2. Tarmac is now predicting a March 2010 start of its northern extension gravel extraction operations even though the application is still under consideration by DCC.

13.11.09: ELVASTON CASTLE

Cllrs Lythgoe, Mitchell, Russell, Strand and the Clerk attended a meeting at the Village Hall on 20 October with Dr Tanya Spilsbury from Highgate Sanctuary at which she said that the concept of having an hotel inside a public park had dissuaded many potential hotel operators from taking an interest in the project. She also said that, subject to the current review of how much it will cost to renovate the estate buildings (excluding the castle itself) being completed in early November, she predicted that the project could be complete by the Spring of 2013. Measures to protect the public's right of access to most of the existing park would be written into Highgate Sanctuary's lease contract with DCC and those same terms would be mirrored in Highgate Sanctuary's management contract with the chosen hotel operator. Highgate Sanctuary will lease the whole of the estate from DCC and lease back those parts of it not needed for the hotel and golf course project leaving DCC still responsible for its maintenance.

14.11.09: FORTHCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Safer Neighbourhood meeting, Monday 7 December at 7.00pm, Weston on Trent Village Hall.
- Joint Meeting with Parish Councils, Wednesday 11 November at 6.30pm, Council Chamber, Swadlincote preceded by a light buffet in the Committee Room from 5.30pm.
- Flood Liaison meeting, Thursday 19 November at 10.00am, Council Chamber, Swadlincote.
- Elvaston Parish Council meeting, Monday 14 December at 7.30pm, Elvaston Village Hall.
- Christmas Lights Switch-On & Grand Fireworks Display, Friday 27 November at 7.00pm, Swadlincote Town Centre.
- Quarry Liaison meeting, Wednesday 31 March at Elvaston Castle.

15.11.09: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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

