

ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

PRESENT: Cllr Lee (Chair), Cllrs Russell, Spenser & Strand.

IN ATTENDANCE: R F Hill (Clerk), CCllr J Harrison, G Pollard (Press), 4 parishioners & 1 member of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (read in DCllr Coyle's absence)

1. Boulton Moor Play Area: so far neither SDDC or Derby City council representatives have offered a solution; the facilities for football on Field Lane, which is in the city at the end of Mill Hill, are to be upgraded ruling out any possibility of land being offered for a play area. DCllr Coyle will remain in touch with both SDDC and Derby City to try and resolve the issue.
2. Planning application at 4 Grove Court, Thulston - see 6.09.10 below.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. Footpath widening alongside the B5010: DCC has approved a scheme which will be implemented subject to DCC's negotiations for the purchase of an adjacent strip of land being successful.
2. Restoration of garden artefacts at Elvaston Castle: £500,000 has been secured to enable the restoration of the Moorish Temple, Golden Gates and Haha Wall. The consultant's report quantifying all the repairs needed to restore the Castle and the remaining artefacts is expected by the end of October and it will form the basis for discussions between Highgate Sanctuary, English Heritage, DCC and the planning authority (SDDC).
3. The East Midlands Development Agency is to be scrapped to be replaced by business led local enterprise partnerships (LEPs); a proposal has been lodged for an LEP comprising Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire including the two main cities.
4. CCllr Harrison distributed copies of SDDC's Annual Report 2009/10 and recommended it as a source of excellent and informative reading.
5. CCllr Harrison also distributed car rear window stickers extolling the practice of conforming to speed limits.

OPEN SESSION

1. Messrs Roberts & Waters asked for permission to speak at agenda item 10 (Gravel & Flooding).
2. Mr Roberts asked if there had been any information from the Highways Agency regarding noise levels on the A50 and Alvaston spur.
3. Mr Shaw thanked CCllr Harrison for his work to get the B5010 pavement widening issue resolved.
4. Mr Shaw said that the entrance gate to the Sustrans Heritage Way has been padlocked and mobility scooter users cannot now access the path.
5. Mr Jefferies asked if anything could be done to improve the visibility of oncoming traffic for motorists on the B5010 wanting to turn right into Grove Close, Thulston.
6. Mr Jefferies said that the hedge adjoining the pavement on Broad Lane, Thulston needs to be cut.
7. Mr Jefferies said that the finger post on Main Road, Elvaston pointing the direction to St Bartholomew's Church had been removed.
8. Mr Madeley said that despite the recent close attention of the police, recent reports indicate that there is still an underlying crime problem on the Elvaston Castle Estate and its environs.
9. Mr Madeley thanked the Clerk for a letter he had received letting him know about the latest restoration plans described in Item 2 of the County Councillor's report (above). He went on to strongly urge CCllr Harrison to do all he could to make sure that any restoration plan was overseen by an experienced clerk of works so that maximum value could be realised for the money invested in the project.
10. Mr Jefferies said that the Parish Plan survey indicated that people were of the opinion that the two bus shelters on London Road needed to have some protection at the front against the elements.

POLICE REPORT FOR AUGUST

Reported Incidents

- 01/08 - Egg thrown at a window on Cornmill Close.
04/08 - ASB involving youths on Woods Meadow.

07/08 - ASB involving youths on Woods Meadow.
22/08 - Adults & children reported swimming in the River Derwent near Borrowash Bridge.
23/08 - vehicle on Pool Close not taxed.
24/08 - vehicle on Broad Lane, Thulston, seized by police and person found to be driving without insurance.
30/08 - vehicle causing a nuisance on Mill Hill, Boulton Moor.

1

Reported Crimes

04/08 - Elvaston Castle: theft of 2 mountain bikes.
16/08 - Main St Ambaston: theft of a mountain bike.
25/08 - Grove Close Thulston: bag stolen from a vehicle but found intact the following day.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1.09.10: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Lythgoe (bereavement), Mrs Coyle & Mitchell (both illness).

2.09.10: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3.09.10: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clr Russell moved, seconded by Cllr Strand and agreed that the circulated minutes of the 9 August meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4.09.10: ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION'

Open Session

1. Permission granted.
2. The Clerk said there had not and undertook to contact the Highways Agency.
4. Clerk to contact Sustrans and/or DCC.
5. Clerk to contact Peter Leigh at DCC Highways.
6. Clerk to contact the landowners.
7. Cllr Harrison said that, though replacement was the responsibility of the church, he had recommended to DCC's officers that the signpost be replaced at public expense.
10. Clerk to check the feasibility of ordering a shelter with a panelled front.

5.09.10: CLERK'S REPORT

1. Hedges & Ditches on the Showground (5.08.10, item 1).
The Showground Committee says that some of the hedges were cut on the roadside from a health & safety aspect having first checked that no birds were nesting. In respect of the internal drainage ditches, these do not actually carry any water due to the ditches beyond the showground not being very good and some remedial work was carried out on one particular ditch between two of the fields to stop horses and public having to mix when crossing that ditch during the County Show. The Committee also reminds parishioners that the land is not a public space, is in private hands and there are no footpaths across it.
2. Bye Election
There have been sufficient expressions of interest in becoming a parish councillor for a contested election to take place - provided that the interested parties are prepared to ask for nomination papers.
The Clerk has notified SDDC and has asked for an election date to be set.
3. The Army Presentation Team has invited a parish council representative and guests to a presentation

explaining the Army's role in support of the government's defence policy, training and preparation for operations world-wide, the army's capability, the quality of its people and some of the challenges facing the army today. There will be an opportunity afterwards to question the presentation team and local soldiers about the army. Light refreshments will be provided. The event will be held at The Assembly Rooms, Derby on Thursday 30th September, 6.30pm to 9.00pm.

4. Bus Shelter

Residents near the A6/The Greenway bus stop have been asked to approve/disapprove the erection of a

shelter there. Of the 12 households asked, 6 did not reply, 5 approved and 1 disapproved.

SDDC's Safer

Communities Manager has advised that the Police Beat team has been asked for its comments but

having received no reply, he assumes it has no concerns and that the parish council may go ahead with

the installation. The Clerk is now applying to DCC for a 50% grant towards the cost of the shelter which

will be supplied and erected by DCC.

5. Replies awaited re:-

- adoption of Boulton Moor/Elvaston Meadows as highway maintainable at the public expense;
- reason for the new street sign at the end of Ambaston Lane;
- Tarmac's acknowledgement that the hedge on Ball Lane needs cutting.

6.09.10: PLANNING

No new applications.

Decision: 9/2010/0492/FH - garage conversion at 5 Willow Croft, Boulton Moor. GRANTED.

Appeals: the occupant of 4 Grove Close, having failed to comply with the original approved plan in respect of a window on the front elevation, submitted a subsequent application for an extension of a different design and following the eventual completion of the extension in accordance with the planning permission, the property's normal permitted development rights - as detailed in the Town & Country (General Permitted Development)(No.2)(England) Order 2008 - applied under which the window now fitted, complied.

7.09.10: FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

cq 831 - P Casey, Lengthsman's wages 4 weeks to 5 Sept	£116.84
cq 832 - R F Hill, Clerk's salary for September	239.78
cq 833 - DMH Solutions Ltd, risk assessment programme	101.27
cq 834 - Staples, black printer cartridge	36.86

8.09.10: WEBSITE

Cllr Strand reported that the website content is being progressively augmented; the times of mobile library visits are now on. Cllr Strand has noticed that the library does not visit Boulton Moor and wonders whether this is an oversight. The Clerk undertook to check with the library service. There were 755 unique website visits during July and over 6000 pages seen.

9.09.10: BOULTON MOOR/ELVASTON MEADOWS ISSUES

1. It was agreed that DCC should be asked to supply 3 grit boxes, one on the corner of Colwell Drive and Mountfield Way, one on the corner of Mill Hill and Sevenlands Drive and one halfway down Meadow Nook.

2. The Clerk was asked to progress Royal Mail about the installation of a mail collection box on Colwell Drive.

10.09.10: GRAVEL & FLOODING

Cllr Mitchell and Mr Waters attended a meeting at the Environment Agency's offices in Nottingham on 2 September, called to finalise with Tarmac their offer towards improving the flood defences at Ambaston. In Cllr Mitchell's absence, Mr Waters was called upon to report:-

Tarmac repeated its offer to supply material at cost but would not stretch to providing it free.

However Tarmac's representative could not say when that material would become available: quite likely the combination of a lack of demand for gravel and the fact that the required clay is deep in the ground under the gravel leads one to suppose that it could be anything up to 9 years. The Environment Agency's (EA) plan to manage flood risk at Ambaston and other Lower Derwent areas is to construct flood defences to an optimum standard of protection along an alignment through Derby. Specific to Ambaston, EA's proposed business case will deliver a range of solutions and EA anticipates that this will include a plan to mitigate the increase in flood water downstream of Derby (caused in part by the anticipated detrimental effects of flood defence improvements in Derby itself) by raising the flood bank. The obvious problem is that if the overall plan for Derby and its downstream neighbours is for an integrated approach and Tarmac's offer is accepted, the execution of the overall scheme would have to be delayed until the Ambaston material was available. It is not realistic to assume that the City of Derby would wait that long: EA's declared proposals for Derby City start with a public engagement exercise that is planned to start this month to establish an acceptable alignment for the raised defences through the City and EA has agreed to review Derby City's Master Plan to allow the fully integrated approach to be taken. EA calls this the Blue Corridor Vision. Mr Waters recommended that rather than risk Derby City, in its urgency, adopting a unilateral approach, members should reject Tarmac's offer and pursue a solution with EA that will ensure an integrated approach is preserved. He further recommended that the levy grant be waived to Tarmac, paid up front to EA/DCC and amortised over the period of extraction. This would ensure that, for the first time in this parish, levy money would actually be used for the benefit of the community that had suffered the greatest disturbance from extraction - exactly what the levy was designed for. He suggested that this plan be made known to CCllr Harrison (not present at this stage of the meeting) for him to brief Heather Wheeler MP on what needs to be done to make it happen.

11.09.10: ELVASTON CASTLE

See Item 2, above, of the County Councillor's report.

12. 09.10: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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