

ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th MAY 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

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

IN ATTENDANCE: CCllr Harrison, R F Hill (Clerk), one parishioner & one member of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – John Harrison

1. Ann Jacob, the Environment Agency's project leader on the Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy, will attend the Gravel and Waste Liaison Committee meeting on 16th May.
2. Elvaston Castle: Highgate Sanctuary is no longer accorded preferred bidder status. Fresh bids will only be asked for after July by which time it is hoped that the National Trust will have decided if it wants to bid for the lease; after that the tendering process will commence. All bids will be required to be guided by the recommendations in the recently published Options Appraisal report.
3. £36,000 has been spent on raising the Gothic Hall and two adjacent rooms to a standard suitable for hire to the public on a pre-bookable basis.
4. John Harrison said that he will not stand for re-election in May 2013.

OPEN SESSION

1. The Chairman thanked John Harrison for his regular attendance and support during his term of office. Mr Waters also expressed his thanks.
2. Mr Waters said that any involvement by the National Trust with Elvaston Castle would result in the public being charged for access but CCllr Harrison said that free access on foot to the grounds would be maintained.
3. In answer to a question from Mr Shaw, CCllr Harrison said that the situation regarding the acquisition of land to enable pavement widening alongside the B5010 was not clear now that Highgate Sanctuary is no longer the preferred bidder for Elvaston Castle.
4. In answer to another question from Mr Shaw, CCllr Harrison said that he had taken up the deteriorating condition of the pump house and water wheel at Elvaston Castle with DCC officers who say that it will be considered at another budgetary phase but that steps will be taken to see what can be done to arrest the deterioration in the short term.
5. Mr Waters asked permission to speak on Gravel and Flooding.

POLICE REPORT – Incidents occurring in March 2012

Sevenlands Drive	Burglary	1
Meadow Nook	Burglary	1
Brook Road, Thulston	Anti-social behaviour	1
Oak Road, Thulston	Anti-social behaviour	1
Oak Road, Thulston	Other theft	1

Definitions:-

Anti-social behaviour	Includes personal, environmental & nuisance behaviour.
Other Theft	Includes thefts other than shoplifting, such as bicycle theft or theft from a person.
Burglary	Includes offences where a person enters a house or other building with the intention of stealing.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

6.05.12: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Harper.

7.05.12: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

8.05.12: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr Sharp, seconded by Cllr Coyle, moved that the circulated minutes of the 16th April meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true record. Agreed.

9.05.12: ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION'

Open Session

5. Granted.

10.05.12: CLERK'S REPORT

1. Use of weed killer on verges: detailed reply received from Steve Sheppard at SDDC –
 - weedkilling around the bases of street furniture means that the trimmers do not damage the protective coating on those items (because they do not need to go right up to them with the trimmer);
 - staff welfare: usually street furniture is directly adjacent to the highway with the attendant risk that that entails to anyone required to engage in verge maintenance, especially when they are kitted out with ear defenders and face shields which reduce their awareness of oncoming vehicles and their chances of taking evasive action;
 - Strimming so near to the highway runs the risk of stones and debris being propelled onto the highway with the possibility that they will cause damage to passing vehicles.
2. The hedge alongside the fork to Thulston looks as though it has been recently trimmed albeit to a height which would still obscure the view for motorists taking the left turn to Thulston from Ambaston. Since the highway authority's remit stops short of hedges and fences, its responsibility only covering highway, pavement and verge, it therefore falls to the adjacent landowner to maintain the hedges and fences and if, as in this case, the landowner chooses to have a 12 foot high hedge, there is nothing to stop him from doing so.
3. Footpath #3, Grove Close to the Golden Gates: DCC's Footpaths Officer has inspected and talked to the occupant of No. 18 who says that he started trimming the hedge but heavy rain prevented him finishing it. Another inspection will be carried out in the next week or so.
4. Footpath#3, electric fence. It is legal to have electric fences next to a public footpath provided they are appropriately signed, as this one is. The Footpaths Officer also says that this section of footpath does not have a specified width but he does not think the existing arrangement can be regarded as an obstruction.
5. Defibrillator: the location still has to be established but the landlord of the Harrington is considering a request for it to be placed on the back wall of the Harrington Arms.
6. Newsletter: still not sent to print: waiting for an answer on the defibrillator.
7. Electoral Review of Derbyshire: the Boundary Commission has published its recommendations which set out to ensure that each county councillor represents a similar number of voters. The full recommendations, including maps, can be

found at www.lgbce.org.uk. The consultation closes on 8th June and opinions should be submitted to The Review Officer (Derbyshire), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG.

11.05.12: PLANNING

Applications

None.

Decisions

None to report.

12.05.12: FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment;-

P Casey – Lengthsman’s wages, 4 weeks to 22 nd April	£123.33
R F Hill – Clerk’s salary for May	239.78
Staples – Office supplies (print cartridges and paper)	93.05
R Strand – reimbursement for an allotment door key for Mr Maddock	4.25

13.05.12; WEBSITE

The Chairman recommended that someone be found to take on the job of managing the website because, in his new role of Chairman, he is not best placed to maintain the degree of objectivity required for the job.

14.05.12: GRAVEL & FLOODING

1. Mr Waters said that traffic along the top of the flood bank continues.
2. Mr Waters advised members of the likely sale of Tarmac’s sand and gravel operations to Lafarge.

15.05.12: ELVASTON CASTLE

The Clerk was asked to advise Gillian Forester of the appointment of Cllr Coyle as a parish council liaison officer on Elvaston Castle matters.

16.05.12: COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

1. Clerk and Chairman undertook to raise the Thulston Brook culvert grate issue with Ann Jacob at the Gravel and Waste meeting on 16th May.
2. The Clerk was asked not to assign an agenda item to Boulton Moor/Elvaston Meadows issues since they can be raised under “Councillors’ Reports”.
3. The Chairman said he wished to stand down from his membership of the Parish Plan Steering Committee. Cllr Sharp volunteered to take on the role.

17.05.12: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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