

ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY
2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

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

IN ATTENDANCE: CCllr Harrison, G Pollard (Press), R F Hill (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (read by the Clerk in DCllr Hilary Coyle's absence)

1. Following receipt of an enquiry about the possibility of kerbstones being laid at the corner of Ambaston Lane and Main Street, Ambaston, DCllr Coyle inspected and found that the corner had been churned up by vehicles. She has passed the matter to CCllr Harrison since it is the responsibility of DCC Highways dept.
2. At the Melbourne Area Forum, two Elvaston residents said that they had not been given keys when DCC changed the padlocks on the gates in Elvaston Castle Country Park and now they are unable to access services essential to their own domestic existence. Details were passed to CCllr Harrison.
3. Passenger and freight business at East Midlands Airport has seen a 10% reduction over the last year. However, noise has decreased since DHL replaced its ageing fleet with brand new, quieter aeroplanes.
4. SDDC Budget: the controlling group is committed to maintaining or improving its services to the community without increasing the burden on them and the council tax to be announced on 1 March will be the lowest since the present council tax was introduced.
5. Now that one of the two independent councillors has defected to the Conservatives, the Council now has 22 Conservatives, 13 Labour and 1 Independent member.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - CCLLR JOHN HARRISON

1. Elvaston Castle.

1.1 It is 5 years since Highgate Sanctuary was chosen as the preferred bidder. There will be a meeting at Matlock on 1 March, probably exempt, at which CCllr Harrison hopes to convince the Cabinet that matters need to be progressed more quickly. He said that the release next month of the survey detailing the condition of the estate artefacts may encourage progress.

1.2 Trees alongside the Golden Gates Drive are being thinned on the advice of an arboricultural expert who says that without such action the ancient trees will suffer. Sensitive to parishioners' concerns about increased noise from and sight of the A50 & A6 for Thulston residents, CCllr Harrison undertook to get the job halted pending a site meeting which he would try to arrange.

2. The County Council tax increase for 2010/2011 will be 1.5%.

3. The waste management consultation, Big Choices, ends on 9 April. The Big Choices Report, questionnaire and two back up documents are available to view on DCC's website.

OPEN SESSION

1. In addition to matters raised in the two reports above, Mr Madeley expressed concern about:-

1.1 the apparent lack of progress regarding the installation of bus shelters;

1.2 the lack of progress to clear out the drainage channel by the fishermen's car park;

1.3 the alleged failure of the landowner to replace protected trees felled within the

area covered by

TPO Order No. 3;

1.4 the absence of a sign to mark the start of Footpath 11 (past Grange Farm) at its north end;

1.5 the possibility of Home Farm being converted to anything other than an interpretation centre

supporting the nature reserve.

2. Messrs Roberts and Waters both asked for permission to contribute to the discussions on

agenda items 6 (Planning) and 12 (Gravel & Flooding).

3. Two Grove Court residents said that the tree thinning on Golden Gates Drive had removed some of the barrier to noise from the A50 & A6/B5010; not only that, they could now see the traffic where they could not before thinning took place.

POLICE REPORT

Reported crimes/incidents, 1 Jan to 3 Feb:-

Crimes

1 Jan - criminal damage to property at Willow Croft, Boulton Moor.

Incidents

1 Jan - loud music played from a vehicle on Sevenlands Drive, Boulton Moor;

27 Jan - suspicious male knocking on doors and hanging around Sevenlands Drive;

27 Jan - eggs thrown at a vehicle on Cornmill Close;

31 Jan - abuse written in the frosting on the windows of vehicles parked on Cornmill Close.

Mr Roberts said someone had found a firearm in a ditch, took it home and called the police and was disappointed that it took 8 hours and 3 phone calls before they arrived.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1.02.10: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Mrs Coyle (District Council commitment) and Cllr Mitchell (ill in hospital).

2.02.10: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3.02.10: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr Russell moved, seconded by Cllr Spenser, that the circulated minutes of the 11 January meeting be signed as a true record. All agreed.

4.02.10: ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION'

County Councillor's Report

1.2. The Chairman said that as the tree thinning was probably an ongoing process, it ought to be stopped pending a site meeting. Cllr Harrison undertook to see if that could be arranged.

Open Session

1. The Clerk undertook to report the condition of Footpath 11 to the Footpaths Officer (1.4).

He also said he would write to Mr Madeley regarding items 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3.

2. Granted.

5.02.10: CLERK'S REPORT

1. Avenue of Oaks: other tree types were introduced because a farmer using the land claimed that a surfeit of acorns was not good for his livestock. The Clerk has not received a reason why this was allowed but he has asked that any future replacements are with oak.

2. A50 Noise. Unfortunately the local Highways Agency officer who dealt with this matter so promptly the last time it came up has passed it this time to the area office in Birmingham and despite 2 formal requests for information, a reply has not yet been forthcoming.

3. Raynesway Park Industrial Development: EA reports that a flood risk assessment (FRA) was included with the outline application. The FRA was approved by EA subject to the imposition of suggested conditions but EA believes that these conditions were not imposed by Derby City's planning department. EA suggests that Derby City should be asked to clarify the position.

4. Parish Council obligations towards the welfare of needy parishioners: the parish council has neither the power nor the duty to provide this service.

5. Grit boxes for Boulton Moor: reply awaited.

6. Operation Relentless: this is the scheme under which graffiti was cleaned off the A6 underpass wall using the labour of petty offenders (rather than taking them to court). The scheme is still available for use in such matters as graffiti removal, fly posting removal, fly tipping, undergrowth clearance, self-set tree removal, drug den site clearance, ditching works etc. This service extends to work required on private as well as public property though there may be minimal costs, e.g. cleaning materials where work is done on an individual private scheme.

7. Reallocation of resources by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue (DFRS): by staffing the stations at Swadlincote, Matlock and Glossop with permanent firefighters and taking one of the two fire engines at Ascot Drive and allocating it elsewhere, DFRS claims that it will be able to provide better county wide cover for emergency situations.

8. Drain Cover at Thulston: the cover, which is on the pavement outside No.1 Oak Road, Thulston, was made safe by the rapid response team and then submitted to the Care Team for a new grate to be fitted.

9. Electoral review for South Derbyshire: the Council's submission has been acknowledged by the Boundary Commission. All submissions received can be viewed at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews. Upon publication of the Committee's report in the spring, a copy of the summary detailing its recommendations will be sent to all those who made a submission.

10. The next Joint Meeting with Parish Councils will be held in the Council Chamber at Swadlincote on Wednesday 17th February at 6.30pm, preceded by a light buffet at 5.30pm.

6.02.10: PLANNING

Applications

None.

Decisions

9 2009 1006 FH - garage conversion at 53 Sevenlands Drive: GRANTED.

9 2009 0992 FH - extension at 15 The Pinfold, Thulston: GRANTED.

Consultative

SDDC Core Strategy, Issues & Alternative Options: Mr Roberts remarked that the strategy of taking good land for housing was a misplacement of priorities at a time when others were trying to increase the amount of food which could be sourced locally. It was agreed to discuss the matter fully at the next meeting.

7.02.10: MATTERS FOR DECISION

7.1. To renew the subscription (£10) to South Derbyshire CVS: agreed.

7.2. To make a grant towards the upkeep of St Bartholomew's Churchyard, Elvaston: it was agreed to give a grant of £350.

8.02.10: FINANCE

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

cq 804 - P Casey, lengthsman's wages 4 weeks to 7 Feb	£ 77.89
cq 805 - R F Hill, Clerk's salary for February	239.78
cq 806 - DALC, training course fee (5 cllrs)	
75.00	
cq 807 - S Derbyshire CVS, annual subscription	
10.00	
cq 808 - Elvaston P.C.C., churchyard upkeep grant	350.00

9.02.10: PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr Strand reported that useful comments had been received from fellow members regarding lay-out etc. It was agreed that the matter should be reviewed at the next meeting.

10.02.10: RAYNESWAY WASTE INCINERATION, PROPOSED INSTALLATION

No further development: the Clerk said there had been no indication from the Clerk at Ockbrook & Borrowwash of what that council's response had been. An emission report for the proposed type of plant had been received by Cllr Lee from Mr Shaw.

11.02.10: BOULTON MOOR/ELVASTON MEADOWS ISSUES

Cllr Wainwright said he would like to forward the emailed report sent to the Clerk by the DCC South Area Traffic Team's Project Engineer to interested parties. Agreed.

12.02.10: GRAVEL & FLOODING

Mr Waters asked if the Clerk could approach Tim Ives of EA to see if his session with Derby City to be held in order to finalise the plan for Derby's flood defences would be public. The Clerk agreed to.

In answer to a remark that flood risk debate always centred on Ambaston and those 'at risk' properties along Borrowwash Road, Elvaston should not be forgotten, Mr Waters said that many of the properties at Ambaston were built to a recommended height and that recommendation had turned out to be spurious.

13.02.10: ELVASTON CASTLE

The Chairman said that he was concerned about the plan to have a golf hole on land east of the Golden Gates Drive since this would mean that an ancient footpath would have to be diverted.

14.02.10: COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Russell said that the headwall grill at the west side of the Golden Gates Drive was still not in position. The Clerk undertook to make representations to the Highways Agency with a copy to Mark Todd MP to try and resolve the matter.

15.02.10: FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

8 March - Elvaston Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm at Elvaston Village Hall followed by the ordinary parish council meeting.

9 March - Safer Neighbourhood meeting, 7pm at Smisby Village Hall;

31 March - Elvaston Gravel Liaison meeting at Elvaston Castle.

16.02.10: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

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

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.