

MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th February 2015 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr R Russell, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr R Strand, Cllr S Spenser, 2 members of the public and J Irons (clerk).

In Attendance:

County Cllr R Davison.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.02.15. Apologies

DCllr Peter Watson (attending a full meeting of the District Council) Cllrs S Lee and C Hurt (both having work commitments).

02.02.15. Variation of Order of Business

None.

03.02.15 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr Mansfield at minute 19.02.15 – planning.

09.02.15 Police Report

The clerk reported that 7 minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 2 in the Rural Ward had been logged on the police website for December. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

Council welcomed PCSO Emma Guest who reported the police had recently conducted a speed awareness exercise in Elvaston. On 23rd January 40 vehicles travelled at an average speed of 30.3mph (ranging from 22 – 47mph). A speeding ticket was issued to an offending driver. On 2nd February 106 vehicles travelled at an average of 30.8mph (ranging from 21 – 48mph). As punishment several drivers were advised to attend a speed awareness course. Similar enforcement has been taken in Aston on Trent.

The area is generally quiet as regards crime. Two incidents of ASB occurred at the Castle recently and Emma believes more police presence would deter this. She wondered if a security firm exists to maintain order.

The housing office and several semi-built properties on Snelsmoor Lane were broken into – Persimmon Homes has no security measures present, especially around its shipping containers. Terry Gorman reported trouble and abusive behaviour at the cricket club, especially in school holidays; Emma noted it and asked Mr Gorman to report it to Gill Forester, the estate manager.

05.02.15 County Councillor Report.

Cllr Rob Davison

1. Thulston and Elvaston are unlikely to receive superfast broadband due to line length; however they will receive regular broadband by 2018 (hopefully 2017). Ambaston and Shardlow are served by a different cabinet and will go live next month.

2. April 2015 sees the introduction of the Care Act which is an overhaul of the social care system and designed to improve it.

3. Elvaston Castle – an interim body now operates and has a Chairman; a nominee will be appointed to represent this Council. The main Management Committee has yet to be formed. DCC has applied for Lottery Funding; if the bid is successful the development stage of existing buildings will begin. The second stage involves match funding and further funding will be pursued between 2017 and 2021.

Cllr Strand was concerned that no enabling development was intended until the MC was in place and thought further new housing would result in complaints from residents of noise and disruption from activities in the Park. Cllr Davison said the freehold will not alter (no such change has been requested) and no enabling development would be undertaken in Stage 1 but may do in Stage 2, although this must be passed by the Committee.

06.02.15 Public participation

None

07.02.15 Report from Terry Gorman of the Parish Plan Group

Terry Gorman began by thanking the Council for its support. The plan steering group originated in 2009 and has seen its members increase since. It produced a questionnaire in 2010 to glean the community's views on transport, activities and communications and believes more community involvement would be welcome. To this end, businesses, district and county councils are being approached.

Achievements include a Queen's Jubilee event, gardening club and commenting on planning applications. The annual horticultural show and the golden gates gallop are well frequented by residents and receive support from Council. The group received sponsorship for, and many visitors to, the sensory garden and pergola at the Castle; the Council's grant helped greatly with financing the latter. He awaits with anticipation the involvement of the forthcoming Management Committee and in the meantime has plans to arrange carol singing, fashion shows and coffee mornings; car boot sales are a possibility.

The Annual Fete on 25th May has bands, children's rides and other activities planned; and the WW1 Centenary event to be held from 16th – 23rd August will benefit from a Heritage Lottery fund grant. It intends to include bands, walking trails, school children to dress in the period and write poems, and an insertion of soldiers' stories in the Derby Evening Telegraph.

The clerk mentioned that advertising of the group's events is a fixture on the notice boards although the dates on this existing poster will expire around April. Cllr Beadle added that a new poster can be inserted onto the Council website (in jpeg format) and an insertion on Facebook is possible. One member suggested that the group be a Council agenda item in future.

Cllr Strand believed the group to be successful in many facets and that Council and the group should work in tandem to keep the relationship alive.

08.02.15 Boulton Moor Housing

The Chairman read correspondence relating to a complaint on 14th January by a BM resident over noisy pumps and Persimmon Homes' response. SDDC had issued a noise abatement notice to PH with which the company complied. Two weeks ago the clerk reminded DCllr Watson that the company had not yet removed its advertising signs in Shardlow; clerk to ask Gaynor Richards at SDDC to pursue.

09.02.15 Digital Derbyshire

Nothing in addition to that already reported by Cllr Davison (above).

10.02.15 To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th January 2015. These were approved and accepted as a true record (pp Cllr Strand, seconded Cllr Beadle) after which they were signed by the Chairman.

11.02.15 Flooding and Gravel

Clerk produced an update from Derby City Council over the proposed works to flood defences in the area, particularly Ambaston and Shardlow, and had emailed this to an Ambaston resident earlier who requested it. However, it was absent the relevant maps which are due to be circulated by DCC soon.

12.02.15 Chairman's Report

Cllr Lee added to his apologies for absence by announcing his resignation, which he had sent earlier by email. Consequently the Chairman asked for offers from members to stand for Vice-Chairman. Cllr Mansfield did so which was proposed by Cllr Beadle, seconded Cllr Strand and agreed.

13.02.15 Matters for Decision or Discussion

13.1 supply and installation of a litter bin by the post box on Main Road, Elvaston. **Resolved:** agreed.

13.2 To trim brambles and hedge along the village green footpath. **Resolved:** agreed and clerk to arrange with the contractors.

13.3 Report from the website group meeting. **Resolved:** not held therefore now to be held on 24th February at Nunsfield House (7.30pm);

13.4 HS2 update – nothing new.

14.02.15 Cycle Scheme Investment

Nothing to report and to be removed from future agendas.

15.02.15 Councillor's Reports

Cllr Strand was pleased that a fallen tree on the footpath between Sturges Lane and the B5010 he reported in the last meeting had quickly been removed. He reminded Council that nominations are required for the upcoming elections in May and suggested using flyers through letterboxes and the Facebook page to encourage residents to stand. Clerk to write an appropriate flyer.

Cllr Russell reported the poor state of cats' eyes on the A6 between Broad Lane and the Thulston roundabout. Clerk to inform Highways.

Cllr Mansfield was dismayed to report that errant parking on pavements at the Elvaston war memorial continues and spoke to PC Vickie Ball who was on site recently. She claims the entrance to Silver Lane is a lay-by and therefore allows the parking of cars but admits they should not encroach on pavements. Cllr Mansfield believes it's possible for he and Vickie to create a parking prohibition sign that can be applied to such cars. He also rued the fact that the Ball Lane hedge had not been cut – Cllr Beadle added that this is the responsibility of the landowner. Clerk to write.

16.02.15 Clerk Report

1. The lengthsman started a part time job so will not be able to do more hours than the 24 hours already allocated to him.

2. Clerk wrote to Lottery Fund to support Elvaston Castle's request for funding.

3. Three grit bins on Boulton Moor have been filled.

4. Reply from Heather Wheeler. 'Dear Dr Irons - Thank you for your letter regarding details of a telecommunications upgrade at Thulstone, Derbyshire. I have sent a copy of your letter to Mr Ronan Dunne, the Chief Executive Officer at Telefonica UK, and asked him to investigate. I will let you know as soon as I receive a response.

5. Clerk spoke to Ian Hey at SDDC regarding funding for a new playground. Before applying the Council must show a need for it, especially as Persimmon Homes has included a play area under the s106 agreement. SDDC require resident's feedback and a solid plan in place (how does it address local need, improve children's health etc) before it considers granting any funds. It is helpful to establish if the proposed play site is on parish land; and what age group the site wishes to target compared to the group Persimmon's will be aimed at (under 11's compared to teens for instance).

In Aston on Trent a group of mums detailed such background information and was successful. Moreover, SDDC would be less than keen to support the project until it had seen PH's finished playground.

Further funding rounds are upcoming in June/ July and Ian is happy to attend a Council meeting once we have more background information.

6. In the last meeting the Council made the following resolution regarding funding for VH cleaning costs: Council's financial responsibilities over the cleaning of the Village Hall. Resolved: to reduce the grant award by one-third in the coming year (2015/16) and by one-third again in the following year (2016/17)'. Clerk informed VHC – 'Council awarded a grant of £780 this year; hence, the forthcoming award equates to £520.

7. Clerk attempted to set up a new email address for the Council through Google mail. However, he cannot now login due to a retained password created by the previous clerk. Because present clerk cannot access he will therefore create a new email address through another provider. **Resolved:** to be discussed at the forthcoming website meeting.

17.02.15 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

Circulars 01-05/2015 had been emailed to all Cllrs previously.

18.02.15 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment – the following cheques were approved and signed:

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total £
001077	J Irons – Clerk’s salary in January	437.40	-	437.40
001077	J Irons - clerk home allowance £18 pm	18.00	-	18.00
001077	J Irons – expenses, petrol to Bakewell & rtn	61.10		61.10
001078	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay January	174.00	-	174.00
001079	HMRC – clerk’s tax	109.40	-	109.40
001080	SDDC – waste sacks	46.00	-	46.00
	TOTAL	845.90		845.90

(b) **Income** – None

(c) **Direct Debits** – None

Bank balance as at 31st January 2015 £21,212.21

19.02.15 To consider planning applications:

9/2015/0014 - THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AT 4 OAK ROAD THULSTON.

Cllr Mansfield left the room for approximately 5 minutes.

Resolved: no objection, after which Cllr Mansfield returned.

20.02.15 Items for Information only

Clerk had received no essential items for members’ perusal.

21.02.15 Agenda Items for next meeting

- Boulton Moor;
- Broadband;
- Report from the website group meeting (if held);
- Cllr Hurt to sign the clerk’s contract agreement;
- Cllr Mansfield to sign his acceptance of office of Vice-Chairman.

22.02.15 Cllr Spenser left the meeting at 9.25pm.

23.02.15 The next Council Meeting is on Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.30pm

The Chairman closed Part 1 of the meeting at 9.30pm.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

24.02.15 a new clerk’s contract in accordance with a salary agreement made between the Finance Committee and the Clerk on 19th January was **duly signed** by both Chairman and clerk. The agreement document pertaining to it was signed by clerk and 3 members of the Finance Committee, the 4th member, Cllr Hurt, to sign in the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed Part 2 of the meeting at 9.55pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)