



**Minutes of the annual meeting of Elvaston Parish held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7.30pm at  
Elvaston Village Hall, Elvaston, Derbyshire**

**PRESENT:** Cllr M Brown – Chairman, Cllr R Strand, Cllr A Bates, Cllr G Dodson, Cllr P Bickerton, DCllr D Corbin, F Simnett (Lengthsman), J Dean (Lengthsman), F Keppel-Spoor (Clerk/Minutes) There were 22 members of public present.

Reference	Agenda Item	
24/2024-25	Attendance & Apologies	DCllr N Atkin, DCllr P Watson, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr T Williams, Cllr S Spenser
25/2024-25	Minutes	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish held on 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 as a true and accurate representation of the meeting, with the minutes having previously been circulated to all member Councillors. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Dodson.
26/2024-25	Chairman's Report	<p>The most serious issue to affect the parish in the past 12 months must surely be the flooding. A succession of storms and seemingly incessant rainfall have seen unprecedented levels of flooding. Most seriously affected have been parts of Elvaston, the whole of Ambaston and areas between the two. Premises, both residential and agricultural, have been flooded, some twice, within the space of a few months.</p> <p>Whilst record rainfall is no doubt primarily responsible, there may be other contributory factors exacerbating the problem. To complicate the picture, there are numerous agencies, authorities, landowners and developers that, due to a lack of investment, maintenance, or poor planning, may have failed in mitigating the more extreme effects of the flooding.</p> <p>The Parish Council has, whenever possible, tried to establish a dialogue with responsible parties, but it's fair to say that responses have been lacklustre. It's apparent that this is a far-reaching problem that requires coordinated action across a much broader geographical area and cannot be remedied within the parish alone.</p> <p>An emerging threat is the risk that the Parish Council could lose its "Concurrent Functions" funding, in the next financial year. This represents a very considerable proportion of the Parish Council's funding and without it, many of the services that we take for granted could cease. It is worth bearing in mind that those services would continue in "unparished" areas, as part of those functions paid for by your Council Tax. The parishes, however, would lose those services (which would not be picked-up by SDDC) without additional tax being levied, as part of the Parish Council Precept. South Derbyshire District Council has promised a consultation, and I would urge everyone to make your views known.</p> <p>There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, to represent the Boulton Moor area. We are hoping that someone living in Boulton Moor, with a passion for where they live, will still come forward to fill the position. The Parish Council feels</p>



		<p>that the best representation would come from someone with first-hand knowledge and experience of the particular issues prevalent in this part of the parish.</p> <p>Many good things have been happening across the parish. Thanks are due to Elvaston Communities Group for working with the Parish Council to stage last year's Remembrance Day service, at The War Memorial and the Christmas Light switch-on, which was a real success. The Upper Village Green has been looking beautiful, with an even greater abundance of spring flowers. Work on the Lower Green has successfully begun, so thank you to the volunteers who have made this possible. The Book Exchange has proven extremely popular, and it is a common site to see people perusing its contents. A huge thank you to our Lengthsmen (who will be doing a presentation of their own) for keeping the parish so clean and tidy and such a pleasant place to be, and in addition to this are supporting residents and the Clerk with an application to ensure the crossing point between Field Lane and Boulton Moor becomes a recognised Public Right of Way.</p> <p>Thanks, too, to our Clerk and RFO, for keeping us on the straight and narrow for the past 12 months and ensuring that we continue to operate on a sound, financial footing.</p> <p>Congratulations to the Elvaston WI, who celebrated 50 years, this last January (as featured in Derbyshire Life, no less).</p> <p>This parish remains, I believe, a wonderful place to live and the Parish Council is committed to keeping it that way, despite many challenges.</p>
27/2024-25	Local Community Group Reports	<p><b>Elvaston Communities Group-</b> The Communities Group went from strength to strength in 2023. Our request for additional volunteer help has been answered with people coming forward to help particularly with the moving of furniture and the erection of gazebos etc. for outdoor events. Similarly, volunteers have provided cakes etc for refreshments. We are particularly delighted that volunteers who have helped us once have returned to help time and again. Recovery from the effects of the Covid lockdowns has taken a while but events in 2023 were extremely well attended. People are beginning to enjoy their freedom and trust that we will do everything that we can to keep them safe from infection. During 2023 we have continued with favourite events and some new ones. Events included two bingo evenings, a coffee morning to support the Marie Curie organisation, Jazz in the Village, and refreshments at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Elvaston War memorial which raised £80 for the British Legion. The annual Village Fete continues to be extremely well attended and we are working with the Castle to reduce the problem of car parking in the villages when this is on. The spitfire flypast was a great draw. Watch for 2024's airborne treat! We have run an Apple Day event for several years now in different venues. However, in 2022 we worked in collaboration with the Castle and were invited to use the Castle's Heritage Orchard and Frame Yard. This was so successful that it was repeated in 2023 and the Castle has asked that we put on an Apple weekend in 2024. We are happy to continue to take the lead on this as there is a shortage of available Castle staff.</p>



		<p>Blues in the Village was a new event which unfortunately we had to cancel as people thought that they could pay at the door despite the information on the posters. Entry to all of our events is free unless the provider requires payment for attending - then we have to charge in order to cover the cost. We plan to be more vigilant over our publicity in the future. We continue to take care of the churchyard. The mower belonging to the church was stolen in 2023 and we are now using our own equipment. Dave Griffiths continues to stock and care for the parish planters with financial support from the Parish Council. In addition, each year we support local events including adding our Christmas tree to the church's tree festival and marshalling at the Golden Gates gallop and supporting the Parish Council's lighting of the village Christmas tree. 2024 events are available via the website and posters will be added to parish noticeboards ahead of scheduled events.</p> <p><b><u>Elvaston Garden Club</u></b>- Elvaston Garden Club held several meetings in 2023 and 2024 all of which were well attended by members and guests. We held all our meetings in the village hall and the club continues to thrive with membership numbers as high as ever.</p> <p>The Garden Club has become an Affiliated Member of the Royal Horticultural Society this year and the 'RHS Affiliated Society logo' has now been incorporated into our meeting poster. We now have additional support services from the RHS including free gardening advice. The club as a group can now visit one of the five RHS gardens once a year free of charge as well as individual members visiting at discounted rates. We are planning a club visit to RHS Bridgewater this summer. The Produce Show held in September 2023 was a great success and thanks to the good weather the large number of people attending were able to socialise outdoors whilst enjoying the excellent tea and cakes on offer. We are always pleased to see so many people from Elvaston and elsewhere attending this event and look forward to welcoming them again this September.</p> <p>We wish to thank the parish council for their work in maintaining the village hall which is such a great asset to the community. We also look forward to supporting other groups with their events during the forthcoming year. In particular, we will be supporting the Elvaston Fete again in May this year where we will be selling plants and providing gardening advice and support to visitors to our stand.</p> <p><b><u>Elvaston Castle Country Park</u></b></p> <p>Pete Hogg, Operations Manager at ECCP attended and gave a brief overview on the activities at ECCP over the last 12 months. Fairly challenging due to the inclement weather. Park was closed over Xmas and New year for 5 weeks – decision not taken lightly but needed to be done for health and safety purposes. 60 trees were lost over the winter months and these issues have been compounded by the floods – the highest flood levels since 2019 was recorded in October last year. The whole estate has had to be surveyed ahead of reopening to ensure safety of all visitors to the park – this was not a quick process, but it needed to be done as a priority. Disappointingly, a number of visitors to the park ignored the</p>
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		<p>signage informing of the closure, and fortunately there were no incidents recorded. A lot of good work has taken place on the estate – much of it behind the scenes. Volunteer base across many aspects has grown hugely over a number of months with people working in the gardens, the estate, in the shop and at events. Volunteers are a lynchpin to the continuation of events, and everyone is welcome to offer their time. Community allotment is up and running and work is happening with lots of stakeholders including YMCA, MIND, Derby University etc drawing people in to the estate to ensure it remains a community asset and keeping people involved. Lots of events due to take place in the next year, following on from Trance in the Woods, Shine a Light, Woodland Festival as well as some live Shakespeare from a travelling theatre company, open air cinema and classic car events. Bustler Food market are present his weekend, lots of opportunities to bring people into use the facilities.</p> <p>Maintenance work will continue as the weather allows and we are still waiting for some floods to recede to allow the ground to be accessed. Funding is tight and there will be some instances of make do and mend – there are limited staff and a recruitment freeze currently in place means there are still some challenging times ahead. Community Payback are involved, and a lot of good work has been done on a Friday and Saturday across the estate. Logs are now being sold from the estate which is an increase to available funds and there may be some new things on the horizon within various buildings across the estate. Roofing work on the castle North side have been completed, and phase II will commence in due course. Carriageway is being reroofed in the courtyard to provide a dry covered space with seating which will be available for all to sue. Walls of the walled garden are also being improved, some new footings have been added to ensure safety and security if the wall moving forward, as well as work to the gatehouse.</p> <p><b><u>Elvaston Cricket Club</u></b></p> <p>My name is Nicky Blaver and I am the current chair of Elvaston Cricket Club, just starting my second full season in post. It is an honour and a privilege to be in such a position but it is a challenge. Volunteers are vital to the success of local groups but, as I'm sure you are well aware, some are more challenging to work with than others! The cricket club is a huge entity in a small village with many players travelling a fair few miles to join us. We do have several members who live in the parish and we are lucky to have the support of a great local community. Everyone at the club is a volunteer though we do pay for expert coaching for our players, professional support services when we need help or advice looking after our facilities, and a bit of cleaning! With 4 senior teams playing in the Derby shire County League we have over 80 registered players and with junior teams competing in the South Derbyshire Development League, we are able to field teams from age 11 to 18, as well as entering tournaments for youngsters between the age of 8 and 11. We are also an ECB All Stars registered centre where we introduce girls and boys from the age of 5 to the game. It really is a joy to see youngsters playing and learning cricket and there is some excellent young talent out there.</p>
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You should all come along one evening, get a drink at the bar and enjoy supporting these kids. We are also pleased that many of our ladies have formed a team playing Softball cricket in local tournaments – I’m not sure if it’s the cricket or the Prosecco they enjoy more but they had a great summer together and we are hoping that more will join this season. Our club is open to all, regardless of age, sex or ability – there is a place for everyone, so please do get in touch if you wish to join us.

In the last year we have steadied the ship following the pandemic and issues on and off the field that caused upset and chaos. We aimed for all our senior teams to stay in their respective divisions within the county league but despite everyone’s best efforts it just wasn’t to be. Only our First XI stayed in Division 2, the other three teams were all relegated. It is an ethos of the club that junior cricket is open to all youngsters whatever their ability – we believe that they should all get a chance to represent the club in a competitive game whatever the result may be. It is more important to us that these kids get a chance, results don’t matter – it is all about learning to love the game, learning a new sport, making new friends and having fun. It is testament to this long-standing ethos that in our first league game last Saturday 11 of the players who represented the club were home-grown talent – the rest were at Pride Park, I think!!

The winter storms haven’t helped with standing water on the fields for many weeks which has hampered ground preparation and then of course, as many of you will have seen, the large Oak tree on the second ground being blown over. Because of the state of the ground underneath and clauses within our ground lease, this still hasn’t been cleared and it is starting to cause problems for us – we are in regular contact with the park manager and hopefully this will be cleared as soon as possible now, thus enabling us to fulfil our fixtures on that pitch. 4 sight screens were found in the woods and many of our volunteers have worked hard to rebuild them – sightcreens cost over £1600 each so we are extremely grateful that the skill and ability of our members has saved us a great deal of money!

Thanks to the weather, training has only just got underway and the competitive leagues are now in full swing for our senior and junior teams so fingers crossed for more positive results this season and hopefully we can take inspiration from Derby County and gain some promotions!

This season is an important one in the history of our Club – it is 175 years since the first recorded game of cricket at Elvaston was played. A team made up of villagers from Elvaston, Thulston, Aston and Alvaston played against a team from Shardlow. The games were played at Elvaston on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1849 and was played over two innings. A second fixture took place at Shardlow on 11<sup>th</sup> August the same year. Unfortunately I don’t recall who won!!

Celebrations are being planned for our members from Thursday 11 through to Sunday 14 July. Not only will we have our usual league commitments, we are planning parties and fun events for members, as well as our annual charity game to support the Brain Tumour charity in honour of one of our much-loved young members who passed away 7 years ago. The big event takes place on Friday 12 July when a team from the Lashings XI take on an Elvaston XI in a T20 game.



Lashings are a squad of ex-international cricketers who still play around the country in charity and commemorative games such as this one. Players include Gordon Greenidge, Ryan Sidebottom, Devon Malcolm amongst others and we are hopeful that Henry Blofeld will be in attendance – the keen cricketers amongst you will know these names – a lot of our young players just don't know them but they know they will be playing against some great names and some very talented players – what a great opportunity it is for them and a great honour for the club. Corporate and individual marquee hospitality tickets are available and members of the public are very welcome to bring their deckchairs, buy a few pints and a burger or two and cheer on the Elvaston lads! The parish have been very supportive of this event so far and as a club we are extremely grateful for that and for everyone's patience and help to make this a huge, memorable success for our great Club.

Hopefully the weather will start to warm up, we will get some good cricket this season and please remember that you are all welcome to join us – we do have a very good breakfast club on a Saturday morning now – to support our teams!

**Friends of Elvaston**

The membership of the Friends of Elvaston continues to express concern at the lack of transparency from Derbyshire County Council with regard to updated information regarding its previously announced plans for the development of Elvaston Castle and Country Park, in particular; the new roundabout on the B5010, the new road and car parks and the holiday lets which fall within the shadow and curtilage of the Grade 1 Listed St Bartholomew's Church. As well as this we would like to know whether the plans for the new cafe, reportedly having been described as 'naff' and 'an abomination' by councillors, are being continued with in their present form, and how and why plans for the new roundabout are linked to a planning application for further development by Redrow Homes? If Derbyshire County Council's representative is present at this Parish Council meeting we would like these questions answered.

Graham Mansey, Chairman, for and on behalf of the Friends of Elvaston Castle

**Elvaston WI**

President of Elvaston WI gave a short presentation. Meeting times have changed to 2pm and this has increased membership by almost half as much again. Some meetings have guest speakers and in between times there are lots of other activities taking place including a stall at the village fete. Two local charities were supported last year, and the aim is to do the same again this year. The WI Group are an asset to the community and it is hoped they will continue for many years to come.

**Elvaston Castle Action Group (ECAG)**

ECAG did 3 fundraisers in 2023 which generated £1860 in total:

- The Village Fete



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County Show</li> <li>• The Xmas Raffle</li> </ul> <p>The funds have been submitted to the Parish Council account.            Activities are currently suspended (bar a proposed book sale at this year’s Village Fete) whilst we understand what DCC’s aspirations are with the Castle although we understand that there are no applications currently proposed due to budgetary constraints.</p>
<p><b>28/2024-25</b></p>	<p><b>District &amp; County Councillor Reports</b></p>	<p>DCllr Corbin gave a report on behalf of South Derbyshire District Council. It’s been a busy year in the Aston Ward, particularly Elvaston where there has been lots going on.</p> <p>April 2023 – the crossing between Field Lane and Boulton Moor became a prevalent issue and a battle with Derby City Council ensued. The crossing was installed, which was not up to standard, and a further battle ensued to make this a useable access point. This is now being taken forward to have this route recognised as a formal crossing. Further improvements are planned once this is a recognised PROW.</p> <p>Flooding – working with Severn Trent who were not in attendance at the most recent Flood Liaison Meeting – good work is now in progress with Severn Trent to address the flooding issues across the Aston Ward – Elvaston and Ambaston were overlooked despite sitting between two major rivers. There are some legal implications surrounding the ongoing investigations however a meeting is planned in May with Severn Trent and the other parishes in the ward to discuss the ongoing issues and what will be done to mitigate this in the future.</p> <p>Boulton Moor and the A6 Spur sound bund (fence) - this should be a landscaped sound bund, not an acoustic fence and was refused retrospective planning permission following a number of objections. Surprisingly, the day after this application was refused, Persimmon gave the go ahead to start work on the new school on Boulton Moor which should have been open in September 2022. DCllr Corbin updated on the lack of delivery of infrastructure by Persimmon and stated that this has been taken up with those directly involved and a further protracted battle with Persimmon homes is now likely to ensue with regard to the (lack of) infrastructure surrounding the A50 crossing, the sports pavilion and community hub, though it is noted that the school is now underway.</p> <p>Phone mast in the process of being installed in Aston which will hopefully improve signal across the entire ward – this should be erected within the next 2-3 months and powered by EE and Three. O2 will hopefully follow – it is unlikely Vodafone signal will improve as they will not share their equipment on another mast.</p> <p>S136 Concurrent Functions – threat being put forward by controlling group at SDDC currently- this could have significant impacts on this parish and the whole ward as well as all parished areas across South Derbyshire. An alternative budget was presented to SDDC however this was rejected.</p>



		Option to bring forward some leisure facilities were also turned down by the controlling group – disappointing as there are no sporting facilities in this area akin to Greenbank or Etwall Leisure Centre.
<b>29/2024-25</b>	<b>Finance Report</b>	The Parish Council ended the financial year on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 with a balance of £49671.48. This is healthy level of reserves for a parish of this size and demonstrates the robust budget setting and monitoring carried out all year round by the finance advisory group, supported by the Responsible Financial Officer. A far cry from the financial position of four years ago where we eked our way to financial year end with approximately £3 in the bank! During the financial year 2023/24, the parish council received income of £81180.00 against a budgeted income of £64220.00. Expenditure was £61637.34 against a budgeted expenditure of £59050.00. Every transaction made is available for scrutiny via the annual accounts and our bookkeeping and budget monitoring has been highly commended by our internal auditor who described our accounts as exemplary. This is testimony to the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in ensuring we are following best practice guidance and adhering to all openness and transparency guidelines as we deal with the expenditure of public money.
<b>30/2024-25</b>	<b>Diary of A Village Lengthsman</b>	Faye and Julie, our village Lengthsman gave a presentation and overview of the work they do within the parish and a copy of this will be added to the minutes of this meeting as an addendum.
<b>31/2024-25</b>	<b>Closing Comments from The Chairman</b>	Thanks to all for attending, refreshments available to anyone who wishes.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 8.30pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman / Vice Chairman





## Monthly Summary & Bank Reconciliation 2023-2024

Unity Trust Account Balance as at 1st April 2023			£31,515.72	
Chqs issued but not presented as at 31/3/2023			£0.00	
		<b><u>Starting Balance 1 April 2023</u></b>	<b>£31,515.72</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>				
	Total receipts to date	<b>£81,180.00</b>		
<b>Payments</b>				
	Total Payments to date	£63,024.24		
		<b>£63,024.24</b>		
<b>BALANCE</b>			<b>£49,671.48</b>	
		<b>Date</b>	<b>31-Mar-24</b>	
Balance as per bank statement from Unity Trust Savings A/C			£35,415.20	
Balance as per bank statement from Unity Trust Current A/C			£14,228.67	
Payments issued but not presented at bank			£0.00	
Receipts not yet included in bank statement balance			£27.61	
			<b>£49,671.48</b>	
		Difference:	£0.00	