

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th April 2017 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

Cllr Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr R Russell, Cllr R Strand, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr S Spenser, J Irons (clerk) and 7 members of the public.

In Attendance:

County Cllr R Davison and DCllr Hilary Coyle.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.04.17 Declaration of Members Interests None.

02.04.17. Variation of Order of Business None.

03.04.16 To receive a presentation from Mr Hardyl Dhindsa, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire.

Mr Dhindsa began by explaining the role of the PCC as being the public face of policing. The 1st term of the role ran from 2012-16 and Mr Dhindsa's runs from 2016-20. He is committed to visiting all 383 towns (rural and urban) in Derbyshire

The chairman lamented that no PCSO had attended a council meeting for a year while Cllr Mansfield asked how areas are judged as regards police coverage. Mr Dhindsa replied saying areas are targeted according to efficient use of resources, particularly financial which are being cut by central government. Community engagement is key to maximising effectiveness and results. Where possible he concentrates on not being consigned to target figures. A common complaint over several years has been the congested parking at Grove Close; Mr Dhindsa said these can be reported on the police 101 phone number while Safer Neighbourhood and the local authority should be involved. However, members insisted that raising this issue at SN meetings has been done on a regular basis but with little response. Mr Dhindsa offered to look into it. The clerk added that he had contacted Melbourne police station who replied saying it will investigate; clerk to send Mr Dhindsa the PC's details.

Cllrs Mansfield and Strand asked whether residents can take action; Mr Dhindsa offered to provide 500 leaflets that may be attached to windscreens. While appreciative Cllr Russell said previous attempts to do so were met with verbal abuse from the driver/ resident. Cllr Strand asked whether parking near or obstructing a fire hydrant was an offence; Mr Dhindsa offered to enquire.

DCllr Coyle was pleased to see the reintroduction of the Derbyshire Alert email bulletins but considered that no local information was evident. Mr Dhindsa said this is a work in progress but it will eventually cover all areas.

Mr Dhindsa circulated copies of PowerPoint slides as further explanation. The salient points comprised:

A new 5-year police and crime plan introduced last year includes safety for the most vulnerable, tackling the impact of drugs and alcohol, supporting those with mental health issues, working together with victims services (including probation and rehabilitation), more involvement with the community and delivering safety services to address domestic violence, hate crime, victims of crime (especially youth related), child exploitation etc.

During major emergencies or public marches police forces must send units to other areas because small forces are not able to combat such events.

Putting communities first by tackling crime & disorder and ASB; and working in partnership with other agencies to address road safety, parking etc.

Assessing government legislation and more involvement with the Criminal Justice Service.

One suggestion is that the PCC takes over fire & rescues services but Mr Dhindsa is reluctant preferring collaboration instead.

As mentioned above, the reintroduction of Derbyshire Alert which now has 4000 registered members.

Above all, to gain trust with the public and be proactive by engaging with the community.

Minor crimes such as shoplifting, damage, burglary and car crime has reduced 50% in the last decade; by their nature these tend to be visible to the public. In contrast drug dealing, child exploitation, gun crime, e-crime, money-laundering, prostitution, modern slavery and human trafficking has all increased; many of these are hidden from public view. This comes at a time when police force numbers are declining.

The chairman thanked Mr Dhindsa for his informative presentation after which he left at 8.40pm.

04.04.17. Digital Derbyshire.

Cllr Strand considers that while useful in the beginning the internet provider 'Big Blue Rocket' is proving problematic. He advises that old service providers be retained out of necessity citing a return to 'Digital Derbyshire' being a favourable approach. Hence he suggested drafting a letter to DD to which members agreed. The chairman thanked Cllr Strand for his input.

05.04.17 Councillor's Report

Cllr Russell thought that the drain at the Beechwood caravan park had not been tended to because it is still blocked; clerk to remind Highways.

Cllr Strand rues that several large posters (and a mobile advertising board) are evident at Thulston traffic roundabout. Cllr Beadle thought the absence of both a footpath on Snelsmore Lane and a speed limit posed a hazard to pedestrians.

Cllr Mansfield said the village hall held its AGM on 31st March adding that the hall is prepared to pay for grass cutting in the future, which absolves the parish council of this cost. Cllr Mansfield suggested that the outbuilding at the village hall may be used for storage of gazebos but needs clearing out first. Insuring the gazebos is another issue to be addressed.

County councillor's combined annual & monthly report:

A path at Boulton Moor has now been adopted;

DCC has ensured ongoing progress at Elvaston Castle although Cllr Davison rues the unsuccessful bid to obtain a HLF grant. He commended Cllr Strand's input regarding the Development Board;

Cllr Davison has chased Biffa for progress at the quarry stating that it is now accountable. He praised Ambaston residents Peter Waters and Kevin Birch for their commitment to this and flooding issues;

No answers are forthcoming to deter errant parking, probably the only possibility is a change in the law;

Cllr Davison is glad that problems with developers at the outset of the Buttercup Leys estate have improved greatly;

In response to a resident's complaint of a lack of footpath and a speed limit along Snelsmoor Lane as mentioned above Cllr Davison believes this poses a risk to health & safety;

In response to Cllr Strand's complaint of numerous posters at the Thulston traffic roundabout displaying events from outlying areas Cllr Davison thought this to be a Highways issue. DCllr Coyle offered to raise this with district's enforcement officer;

Cllr Davison is keen on keeping county councils and parish boundaries (i.e. not keen on the splitting of unitary authorities). He is concerned that areas such as Boulton Moor may become subsumed into Derby City. Consequently, BM would not receive attendances and representation at parish level from county or district councillors (and very few from City councillors).

The chairman thanked Cllr Davison, DCllr Coyle and other district councillors for their contributions and attendance tonight and throughout the year.

06.04.17 Boulton Moor Housing Nothing to report.

07.04.17. Elvaston Communities Group and storage of gazebos.

Mike Tong apologised for Eve Wilson's absence due to illness. He announced that the Big Band night on 1st April was a success. Upcoming events are the gardening club on 20th April and the fete on 29th May. Mike met the cricket club which recently had its planning application for a new pavilion refused although it is due to be reconsidered. Storage for the gazebos may be available. Mike asked council for a grant to help fund the horticultural show – clerk furnished him with a grant application form to be completed.

A discussion over storage of the gazebos and insurance issues ensued as mentioned initially by Cllr Mansfield above; clerk to respond with an explanation of the Group's insurance responsibility.

08.04.17. Elvaston Castle Charitable Trust

Nothing further. Clerk to invite Tony Palmer of the 'Elvaston Castle & Garden Trust' to the next meeting to give an update.

09.04.17. Website maintenance. Held over to the next meeting.

10.04.17. Public Speaking

Few further contributions to those already aired during the PCC's presentation. A resident advised against installing gas and electricity smart meters; they are problematic due to the poor signal reception in this area.

Another resident began to ask for an update on car parking issues and signs although the clerk said this is covered later (see minute 13.2).

11.04.17 To approve the minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th March 2017 were approved (pp Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Strand), accepted as a true record and signed off immediately by the Chairman.

12.04.17 Flooding and Gravel

Cllr Strand attended the last Quarry Liaison Meeting where the conveyer issue was discussed.

13.04.17 Matters for Decision or Discussion

13.1 Village green registration. Cllr Beadle received an adequate number of questionnaires from residents and has passed them to the solicitor to progress registration at the Land Registry.

13.2 update on car parking issues and signs, and BM Boulton Moor signage. The police investigation of errant car parking at Grove Close was covered during the PCC's presentation. Regarding the introduction of signage to deter it clerk sent the details to SDDC in January and sent a reminder on 31st March. SDDC's reply on 3rd April stated it is still looking into it.

Council wish to place 2 signs at Boulton Moor; one about 25 yards south of Askerton Close, Buttercup Leys estate on the same side of the road (and just before the bend) and the other on Colwell Drive on land owned by DW Homes. Clerk contacted both in January & February and reminded them on 31st March and awaits replies. That said, DW Homes has agreed in principle.

13.3 Adoption of this year's risk assessment was **approved** and then signed by the Chairman and clerk.

13.4 The internal audit of the accounts for year 2016-17 had not yet been completed so were unavailable to view.

14.04.17 Clerk's Report

1. Clerk asked Severn Trent water to cut the hedge on Main Road, near to Silver Lane. ST replied: '*Cross checking this against our ownership database, the land you mention is not owned by Severn Trent Water. Therefore, they as there is no ownership, there will be no maintenance responsibility for the hedge*'. This despite cutting it in the previous year.

Resolved: Cllr Beadle to make enquiries over land ownership at this site.

2. Cllr Mansfield spoke to the resident living next to the village green regarding hedge cutting who would welcome some help. He prefers to cut it himself and have the cuttings removed. **Resolved: all** hedge cutting to be delayed until October and to be discussed in the next meeting.

3. Clerk made an application to the airport's community fund for a grant of £1000 towards the signage project; this will hopefully be agreed at its next community finance meeting.

15.04.17 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

Members confirmed that they had received recent circulars from the clerk.

16.04.17 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment – cheques to be approved and signed

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001199	J Irons – Clerk's salary March	477.40	-	477.40
001199	J Irons - clerk home allowance - March	18.00	-	18.00
Stand order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay March	192.00	-	192.00
001200	HMRC – clerk's tax March	121.80	-	121.80

001201	DCC – clerk’s pension March	123.58	-	123.58
001202	Cllr Richard Strand – allotment gate key	9.50	-	9.50
001203	SDDC – waste sacks	50.00	-	50.00
001204	Elvaston Village Hall – room hire 2016	165.00	-	165.00
001205	Paul Fox - strim and cut foliage village green	280.00	56.00	336.00
	TOTAL	1437.28	56.00	1493.28

- (b) Income – 1st tranche of precept for 2017/18 (received 5th April) £5620.00
Bank interest (year) £ 12.26
- (c) **Bank balance as at 31st March 2017** **£33,877.25**

17.04.17 To consider planning applications:-

9/2017/1096 - OUTLINE APPLICATION (ALL MATTERS RESERVED) FOR THE ERECTION OF TWO DWELLINGS AT 41 GROVE CLOSE THULSTON. **Resolved:** if preferred members to furnish the clerk with comments which can be submitted to district council.

9/2017/0286 - APPROVAL OF RESERVED MATTERS OF PLANNING PERMISSION REF: 9/2010/1134 FOR THE ERECTION OF 119 DWELLINGS (IN LIEU OF 113 PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UNDER APPLICATION REF: 9/2015/0612) WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING (BOULTON MOOR PHASE 1C) ON LAND AT SK3931 8655 SNELSMOOR LANE THULSTON. **Resolved:** no objection.

THE REBUILDING OF PART OF THE NURSERY GARDEN BOUNDARY WALL AND TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO ALL OTHER SECTIONS AT ELVASTON CASTLE COUNTRY PARK BORROWASH ROAD ELVASTON. **Resolved:** no objection.

18.04.17 Items for information only

Nothing of note had been received by the clerk.

19.04.17 Agenda items for the next meeting.

- Broadband provision;
- Elvaston Communities Group including storage of gazebos;
- Elvaston Castle Charitable Trust including a possible visit from Tony Palmer;
- Boulton Moor Housing;
- Website maintenance;
- Hedge cutting;
- Parking issues;
- Signage issues;
- To consider a grant to the garden club.

20.04.17 The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 8th May 2017 at **7.30pm**

The Chairman closed Part 1 the meeting at 9.50pm

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

21.04.17 – to consider a resolution under the public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the press and public in order to discuss the following item.

22.04.17. – Outcome of the clerk’s and lengthman’s appraisals and salary reviews held at the chairman’s house on 20th March and to sign the minutes of it. The clerk read out the minutes after which the chairman signed them (having previously been agreed by chair and vice-chair). To sign the clerk’s new employment contract; duly signed by chairman and clerk.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman).