

MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th February 2016 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman), Cllr R Russell, Cllr R Strand, Cllr M Beadle, Cllr T Mansfield, Cllr P Loakes and Cllr S Spenser.

In Attendance:

DCllr Hilary Coyle, CCllr Rob Davison, 47 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.02.16. Apologies

Cllrs C Hurt (work commitments) and DCllrs Peter Watson and Neil Atkin.

02.02.16. Variation of Order of Business

None.

03.02.16 Declaration of Members Interests

None

04.04.15 To receive a presentation from Tony Palmer (Chair of the Elvaston Castle Development Board) and Rev Jane Plackett (board member).

The Heritage Lottery Fund rejected the bid for monies applied for by the Board; this award was to finance repairs and development of the Castle and buildings. The Board met HLF after the rejection for feedback which included the following:

- a) It constituted a large bid of £5m;
- b) It was high risk, required match-funding and the future revenue streams were dubious; and
- c) No private sector partner is forthcoming and none are likely at this stage.

The Board advises DCC on how to proceed i.e. on the repairs of buildings in order to generate capital to bid again. A Charitable Trust (including a trading company) should be created to oversee the project to which DCC agree in principal although it has concerns about the powers the Trust will have. The Trust would utilise volunteers who would work for the Trust, not DCC. This is intended to be in place by autumn after the appropriate legal advice has been sought. In the meantime Focus Investments has been employed to create a business plan suitable for making another HLF bid. The Board is actively seeking private sector partners.

Enabling Development (converting redundant buildings into residential housing) comprises an essential project although county council cuts are a factor that may hinder progress. Home Farm presents such an opportunity while new cafes and offices are possible in the courtyard.

Questions from the public – answered by Tony Palmer

1. DCC should not be in charge of volunteers. *Mr Palmer replied saying volunteers will devote their time to the Trust, not DCC. However, the Board realise it is insensitive to cut staff and then hire volunteers.*

2. How are new tenants to access Home Farm?

Bedford Drive presents a logical traffic approach without the need for tarmac as other solutions are possible.

3. It appears the estate will transform from an asset into a profit-making project; what would the Trust's status and objectives be?

The 10-year vision for Elvaston Castle should provide heritage, leisure and educational facilities; much still depends however on legal advice. Options mooted so far to increase the revenue capacity include increasing the car parking

charges, introducing caravan sites and the take-up of a catering contact. The Charitable Trust would ensure that public money will be spent on the Castle which is why we are pursuing the formation of such a body.

4. Will all routes be open from Boulton Moor, I wish to see the community brought together?

No restrictions are intended because public access is critical.

5 Could another café be placed in the car park?

It depends on planning permission.

6. With DCC leasing properties out will it maintain control of the site?

The Trust would hold the site on a lease from DCC's freehold.

7. I am worried that the enabling development will become urban sprawl. Land will be lost to those new residents who will be the beneficiaries.

Housing would be peripheral, not large in nature, and applications will be consulted upon. No architects have been appointed yet. DCllr Coyle urged residents to contact her over any concerns over planning issues.

8. What happens to the Castle?

Gutters will be repaired and further measures taken to prevent deterioration. No decision has yet been made as to the use of the Castle. We estimate a cost of around £15-20m to conduct the work.

9. Will the working museum become retail or residential? Also, where will residents park their cars?

No decision yet but consultation will be undertaken.

10. Any access allowed around the showground will encourage heavy traffic and increased safety risk.

All access will be assessed although an environmental cost is always present in these circumstances.

The Chairman read 4 further questions sent to him via email to which Mr Palmer replied.

Cllr Davison offered some closing comments.

Two of the original 6 guiding principles spring to mind and are sacrosanct:

a) Pedestrian access will be maintained through the estate although developers are not keen on seeing unfettered public use.

b) DCC will keep the freehold but SDDC will decide on planning applications.

Cllr Davison is critical of DCC's response to the ongoing problem of progress on commercialisation.

Regarding funding, the availability of more money through HLF for instance reduces the £800k subsidy supplied by DCC (and taxpayers) and puts the estate on a better financial footing.

Mr Palmer added that Historic England is a statutory consultee which presents an additional level of protection over excess planning, reduced commitment to heritage etc. Indeed, one of the 6 guiding principles states that historic landscape and biodiversity must be preserved.

05.02.16 Cllr Mansfield left the meeting at 9pm.

06.02.16 Digital Derbyshire

Cllr Strand reported that further to the recent questionnaire completed by residents DCC's Digital Derbyshire project is now asking for its own questionnaire to be completed which is to ascertain demand for fibre services which will then feed into BT's cabinet capacity management process. Consequently, Cllr Strand asked DD the question '*does this questionnaire relate to the standard 'fibre to/copper from the cabinet' service or to a full fibre service to the home/business at a premium cost*'? Members **agreed** to wait for DD's reply; responses to the questionnaire are required by end-May which gives members ample time to formulate their actions.

Also, an alternative provider ('Big Blue Rocket') that council considered has gone quiet because it appears to be unhappy with the local village response.

07.02.16 District and County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Rob Davison

1. Cllr Davison praised the Chairman for his commitment in traveling from London to chair the meeting.
2. He recognised the ongoing input of a local resident concerning Elvaston Castle and was sad to report his passing.
3. A pothole at the Harrington Arms has been repaired; and the problematic road signage at Thulston traffic he recently reported to Highways roundabout has been altered.
4. Cllr Davison attended the Local Plan Part 2 presentation at this village hall on 28th January.
5. He will report on the blocked sewage drain at Swarkestone causeway in the next meeting.

Cllr Loakes highlighted the poor road surface on Ambaston Lane which also becomes flooded; Cllr Davison will report it to Highways.

08.02.16 Cllr Bickerton left the meeting at 9.20pm and Cllr Strand assumed role of chair.

09.02.16 Police Report

The clerk reported that 3 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/>.

10.02.16 Public participation

Nothing further to add.

11.02.16 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2016. These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Beadle, seconded Cllr Loakes).

12.02.16 Boulton Moor Housing

Nothing to report

13.02.16 Elvaston Communities Group

Nothing to report

14.02.16 Flooding and Gravel

Nothing to report

15.02.16 Chairman's Report

None.

16.02.16 Matters for Decision or Discussion

16.1 To consider speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins. **Resolved:** Cllr Mansfield was arranging to buy a sample of stickers to be tested on bins but due to his early departure from the meeting this item has now been held over.

16.2. Clerk received no reply from Gill Forester asking whether prohibition dog fouling notices are acceptable placed around the Castle grounds. **Resolved:** Cllr Russell to ask Gill.

16.3 Allotment rentals. **Resolved:** to be maintained at £15 per year per plot.

16.4 Outcome of the Safer Neighbourhood meeting (including any comments over 'inconsiderate' car parking notices). **Resolved:** Cllr Russell asked the Safer Neighbourhood warden at this meeting who advised we ask SDDC's parking warden; Cllr Russell to ask.

16.5 to sign the bank standing order form for the lengthsman's remuneration. **Resolved:** relevant forms were duly signed by 2 member signatories.

17.02.16 Councillor's Reports

Presently Cllr Russell checks the defibrillators at the Harrington Arms and village hall and applied to the Heartbeat Trust for a new safety kit which has arrived; new diodes are now required which she will order. She will also ask the

- Purchase of litter picker and high-viz suit for the lengthsman;
- Checking of the defibrillators;
- Outcome of the finance committee’s meeting to decide the provision of a clerk’s pension and to sign the clerk’s 2016/17 contract of employment.

24.02.16 The next Council Meeting is on Monday 14th March 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Chairman closed Part 1 of the meeting at 9.48pm

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

25.02.16 – 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.

26.02.16 – Outcome of the finance committee’s meeting to discuss the provision of a clerk’s pension and to sign the clerk’s 2016/17 contract of employment. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman).