

MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th March 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 Peter Watson , CCllr Rob Davison, 3 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.03.16. Apologies

Cllrs C Hurt (work commitments) and DCllrs Hilary Coyle and Neil Atkin.

02.03.16. Variation of Order of Business

None.

03.03.16 Declaration of Members Interests

None

04.03.16 Boulton Moor Housing

DCllr Watson said the BM development is progressing according to schedule and building of the primary school will begin once the 100th dwelling is occupied; its original position has now been changed to a more central location. No further noise, dust or other problems have arisen lately. Relationships between the developers, councils and the community have improved. Last week's liaison meeting comprising Persimmon Homes (PH), district, county and parish councillors, Elvaston communities group and a resident was productive and all such meetings was held along the lines of gravel and flood liaison meetings i.e. public excluded.

DCllr Watson believed that the next meeting scheduled in June is too soon, that 4 such meetings yearly is too many and raised concerns over suggestions that the public should be invited. He cited that district council officers and PH managers are not always readily available. Having spoken to PH and SDDC he said these bodies are hesitant of meetings holding a public forum. Indeed, PH did not have to attend but do so voluntarily. In the future residents' questions can be submitted before the liaison meeting through the parish council.

After discussion DCllr Watson suggested to meet in June as scheduled and the parties can then decide whether quarterly meetings are needed, with which the chairman **agreed and Cllr Strand seconded.**

CCllr Davison thought twice-yearly meetings to be the norm and a good idea, PH are not obliged to attend but risks damage to its reputation should it decline. He opposed yearly meetings stating that the possibility of transgressions occurring by contractors is increased because these need to be discussed and diffused immediately.

05.03.16 Digital Derbyshire

Cllr Strand reported no further news had been received from Robert Rowan at DCC's Digital Derbyshire scheme but thought the questionnaire requested by Mr Rowan should be completed by residents. This should be accompanied by a note explaining that the project requires its own questionnaire to be completed (because the parish has already circulated its own). Cllr Strand offered to compile the cover letter and asked for assistance from other members to deliver them (to include Ambaston) which was **agreed.**

An alternative provider that Cllr Strand mentioned in the last meeting ('Big Blue Rocket') has conducted testing of its service in Thulston and should be live in 3 weeks. Council **agreed** not to approach this or any other provider until the provision details from DCC has been established.

06.03.16 District and County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Rob Davison

1. CCllr Davison reported a pothole on Ambaston Lane to Highways which has now carried out a temporary repair.
2. He was pleased that Severn Trent's repair of the blocked sewage drain at Swarkestone causeway entailed closing of the road for only 1 week. Ironically DCllr Neil Atkin wrote to ST thanking them only to find the company recently experienced an excess of chlorine alert at Castle Donington.
3. The road markings around the Thulston traffic roundabout seem to now be in order.
4. The county councillor expressed concerns over council's consideration of the 'Big Blue Rocket' broadband provision (see minute 05.03.16 above) and urged members to proceed with care; he will contact Cllr Strand to discuss.

Cllr Loakes was critical of the Highways' scant repair of the poor road surface on Ambaston Lane that Cllr Davison had reported and the apparent lack of effort on behalf of the workmen. CCllr Davison replied saying any errant work practices should be noted and reported, which Cllr Loakes has done here.

07.03.16 Police Report

The clerk reported that 4 minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 3 in the Rural Ward had been logged on the police website for January. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

8.03.16 Public participation

None.

9.03.16 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2016. These were approved and accepted as a true record after one amendment was made; thereafter they were signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Beadle).

10.03.16 Elvaston Castle Development Board

Cllr Strand said last month's meeting went well and future minutes will contain both confidential and non-confidential items. The Board has assessed the facilities provided at other venues, such as Trentham Gardens, to glean ideas on how the Castle can improve its offering. The next meeting will be held next Thursday. The Chairman commented that the turnout of residents at last month's council meeting was impressive and saw a well-delivered presentation from its chairman Tony Palmer. He thought the flyers delivered to residents beforehand helped in this regard.

11.03.16 Elvaston Communities Group

The Group's treasurer Ray Jefferies sent a letter to the clerk thanking the council for its financial support of the WW1 project and asking for grant funding in the forthcoming year. Projects include preservative to be applied to seats, regeneration of the water feature at the sensory garden, supplying schools with computer hardware and planting of bulbs on roadsides. Cllr Mansfield will peruse the figures provided and report in the next meeting while the clerk furnished Mr Jeffries with a grant application form.

A Group meeting open to the public will be held on 24th March at 7.30pm; this will explain the role of the group and to help bring the community together.

12.03.16 Flooding and Gravel

Nothing to report

13.03.16 Chairman's Report

None.

14.03.16 Matters for Decision or Discussion

14.1 To consider speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins. **Resolved:** Cllr Mansfield will buy a sample of stickers to be tested on bins.

14.2. Clerk received no reply from Gill Forester asking whether prohibition dog fouling notices are acceptable placed around the Castle grounds. Members discussed whether to buy a bin and its location. **Resolved:** Cllr Russell to ask Gill when they meet on 18th April and the item to remain on the next agenda.

14.3 Outcome of the Safer Neighbourhood meeting (including any comments over 'inconsiderate' car parking notices). No outcome. **Resolved:** members attending the next Safer Neighbourhood meeting (if any) to enquire about notices and parking in general.

14.4 External audit for smaller authorities and the SAAA scheme 2017/18. The clerk advised that as neither the council's income nor expenditure exceeds £25k (at present) it will not be required to complete an external audit. That said, an internal audit will still be required.

15.03.16 Councillor's Reports

Cllr Strand told members that the compost heap at the allotments was blighted with non-compostable white goods and household rubbish. Clerk to issue a note to tenants with their allotment rental demands for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Russell has not yet received a reply from the ambulance service regarding its checking of the defibrillator at Ambaston. She asked members if they wished to donate the recently replaced old electrodes to a 3rd World charity which was **agreed**. She reminded members that her deeds are still available to the solicitor regarding registration of the village green. Vic Venus is happy to cut the village hall grass again in the forthcoming season but asked for a £1 increase in his hourly rate which was **agreed**. Cllr Russell reiterated she wishes to see another member trained in checking the defibrillators in the event she is unavailable; this will be further discussed among members before the next meeting.

Cllr Beadle rued that car parking is still irregular, especially around Silver Lane's war memorial.

Cllr Loakes noticed the overgrown blackthorn on Ambaston Lane which is likely to snag cyclists' and children's clothes. Clerk to report to Highways for its attention.

Cllr Mansfield complained that the 30mph at Elvaston is still in disrepair; clerk has already reminded Highways and will do so again if it remains broken. He wished to know the council's last year's and forthcoming year's contributions to the cost of cleaning the village hall; clerk to provide. He believed the Ramathon race organisers should be reminded of its commitment to clear litter when the event is held in June; clerk to tell them nearer the time.

16.03.16 Clerk Report

1. Clerk told 3 estate agents to remove boards on Broad Lane.; and reported the broken 30mph sign on Main Street again to Highways.
2. Erection of a 'Boulton Moor' sign on Colwell Drive; members **agreed** clerk should ask Highways and place the item on the next agenda.
3. Village green registration; clerk to send Cllr Beadle a scanned copy of the March 1975 newsletter containing information about this for her to enquire at Geldards solicitors; and a DCC email following a clerk enquiry containing further information to CCllr Davison.
4. Clerk contacted DCC to request a trimming of the hedge on Borrowwash Road, on the bridge; a resident present at the meeting confirmed that this has been done.
5. Clerk contacted Gill Forester at the Castle asking her to trim the hedge on Stables Drive which is scratching cars as they pass. No reply at present so clerk to ask her again and copy this message to the chairman.

17.03.16 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

Members had received recent circulars from the clerk.

18.03.16 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total £
001142	J Irons – Clerk's salary in February	507.20	-	507.20
001142	J Irons – Clerk's home allowance	18.00	-	18.00
St. Order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay in February	192.00	-	192.00
001143	HMRC – clerk's tax in February	56.80	-	56.80
001144	DALC subscription 2016/17	397.74	-	397.74
001145	Aspli Safety Ltd jacket, trousers + picker	87.93	17.58	105.51
001146	Noel Baker Print Services – A5 flyers El Castle	13.50	-	13.50
001147	Community Heartbeat Trust – electrodes	78.00	15.60	93.60
	TOTAL	1351.17	33.18	1384.35

(b) **Income**
See below

(c) **Direct Debits**
SDDC – concurrent functions receipt £6799.00

Bank balance as at 29th February 2016 £31,458.80

19.03.16 To consider planning applications:

9/2016/0165 - THE FELLING OF TWO SYCAMORE TREES COVERED BY SDDC TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 9 AT 51 GROVE CLOSE THULSTON. **Resolved:** members to view the trees and send comments (if any) to the clerk.

9/2016/0166 - OUTLINE APPLICATION (ALL MATTERS TO BE RESERVED) FOR THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR UP TO 600 UNITS, A 2 FORM ENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOL, STRATEGIC ROAD LINKS (CONNECTING BOULTON MOOR PHASE 1 AND SNELSMOOR GRANGE) PUBLIC OPEN SPACE INCLUDING CHILDREN'S PLAY PROVISION, SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND LANDSCAPING AND ANCILLARY SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE (BOULTON MOOR PHASE 2) ON LAND AT SK3931 2744 MILL HILL BOULTON MOOR DERBY. **Resolved: no objection.**

20.03.16 Items for Information only

No major new of items of interest had been received by the clerk

21.03.16 Agenda Items for next meeting

- Boulton Moor;
- Digital Derbyshire;
- Elvaston Communities Group and in particular a possible grant application;
- Elvaston Castle Development Board;
- Purchase of speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins;
- Erection of a 'Boulton Moor' sign on Colwell Drive;
- Possibility of dog fouling prevention notices at the Castle and cutting of Stables Drive hedge;
- Village green registration;
- SDDC's supply of car parking notices and parking issues in general;
- Checking of the defibrillators;
- Village hall grant application (if any);
- Outcome of the finance committee's meeting to decide the provision of a clerk's pension.

22.03.16 The combined Ordinary and Annual Council Meeting is on 11th April 2016 at **7.00pm**.

The Chairman closed Part 1 of the meeting at 9.50pm

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

23.03.16 – 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.

24.03.16 – Outcome of the finance committee’s meeting to discuss the provision of a clerk’s and lengthman’s pension and to sign the clerk’s 2016/17 contract of employment. **Resolved:** meeting not held therefore discussion of the clerk’s pension provision is carried over to the next meeting. However, the lengthman’s pension provision will be reviewed once the Buttercup Leys estate has grown.

The council’s auto-enrolment staging date for pension provision is in one year’s time.

The clerk’s 2016/17 contract of employment was agreed and then duly signed by chairman and clerk.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm

Signed

CLlr P Bickerton (Chairman).