

Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th October 2016 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

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

In Attendance:

DCllr Neil Atkin, CCllr Rob Davison, 7 residents, Mr Tony Palmer and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.10.16. Apologies

Cllrs P Bickerton (holiday), DCllrs Peter Watson and Hilary Coyle, and CCllr Rob Davison (possible lateness).

02.10.16. Variation of Order of Business

To receive the district council report at 04.10.16 and to receive the county council report when/if CCllr Davison arrives.

03.10.16 Declaration of Members Interests

None

04.10.16 District Councillor Neil Atkin

1. DCllrs Peter Watson and Hilary Coyle were attending the Safer Neighbourhood and Melbourne Area Forum this evening and so were absent for which they sent their apologies. DCllrs were aware of the clash with the parish council meeting on the same night but it highlights the difficulty of having sufficient attendees available to all meetings.
2. A proposal for a secondary school at Thulston Fields has been submitted; SDDC is a statutory consultee. However, this lies in either a greenbelt or green area; the Secretary of State will investigate whether a special case for the greenbelt is evident. CCllr Rob Davison is to clarify tonight if he arrives. The second choice of location is Lowes Farm, near Sinfin Moor Lane, Chellaston.
3. A Food & Drinks Festival will take place in Swadlincote this coming Friday to Sunday.
4. SDDC's statement of accounts and annual report can be viewed on its website.
5. The date of the next Flood Liaison Meeting is 2nd November at 10am at Swadlincote.
6. The recent planning meeting saw only 6 parish councillors present, none of which were from the Aston area. Enforcement and timelines for decisions were two of the aspects covered. DCllr Atkin urges members to make an effort to avail themselves for future meetings.

05.10.16 To receive a presentation from Tony Palmer (Chair of the Elvaston Castle Development Board).

On 26th July DCC approved the Board's proposals for the trust which equated to Articles of Association and terms of reference also being approved. The Board has an advisory role only; the trust will run the estate.

The new venture is titled 'Elvaston Castle & Garden Trust'. The county council is now recruiting trustees and Tony hopes that local people are interested in the role; it is advertised on the National Trust website which expires at end-November with interviews to be held in January. Trustees and trust are intended to be in place by 1st April.

Tendering for a wedding contractor is underway; these services will be held in a marquee or the Gothic Hall. The estate receives the income generated.

The tea rooms were tendered in February although the new contractors have not arrived therefore this contract continues to be offered. A new operator should be appointed in a month or two.

Recent work to the caravan site means drainage has improved and ongoing management of the site shall be tendered soon. Scaffolding exists at the main building because roofs are being replaced.

DCC has approved (in principle) a development plan spanning the next 10 years. A new entrance into a new car park accessed from the A6 is proposed and a visitor hub will be created (to include history and future plans for the Castle). The present car park remains.

New heating and toilets will be introduced into the Gothic Hall – this has been approved by DCC.

The gardens are Grade 2 listed as is the building.

Total cost is expected to be c£30m (£10m from DCC and the trust to raise £20m through HLF etc). Once renovated the buildings in the courtyard will probably become offices and are expected to attract firms such as surveyors, estate agents etc. Enabling development i.e. residential is part of the work; Home farm in particular must be preserved which may cost c£500k. However, Tony believes this could lead to investor funding of c£2m.

Residents' questions.

Cllr Mansfield asked of the access from the A6. Mr Palmer thought this may be via Bedford Drive but it is under discussion. A new road would be expensive and DCC would be expected to meet the cost. Cllr Strand added that all alternative ideas have been raised at Board meetings.

A different showground is proposed as the present one is not fit for purpose due to flooding. Also, the new car park area floods but Highways would assess. A new roundabout may be possible although land ownership problems exist. A resident tried to elicit what would become of the old showground; Tony replied saying this can become an open recreational area.

To answer a resident's concern Mr Palmer explained that trustees are voluntary but eventually a development manager will be employed. The trust will then gradually take over the running from DCC (TUPE arrangements would then be triggered). The trust then leases the estate from DCC, probably under a peppercorn rent. That said a break clause should be inserted to ensure DCC do not increase rents once the Castle begins to make money.

A resident was concerned that with increased visitor numbers and traffic flow, peace and quiet will be adversely affected; it detracts from being a country park. Tony assured that the existing garden will retain this element, the nature reserve will assist and the existing showground can serve the same purpose. Tree planting is planned which also helps in this regard.

One resident wondered if training of stonemasons and similar artisans can be included in the project. Tony believed so and wants to include children in gardening/ educational activities.

Finally, Mr Palmer reminded council that there is a call for trustees and community engagement is the key.

The chairman added that no firm decisions had been taken over enabling development and in any case it is not targeted solely on housing. Although the stables and museum had been lost the community can inject its own ideas for the future, which is taking shape and looking brighter. He and Mr Palmer will report regularly on the project's progress.

The chairman thanked Tony for his attendance and update adding that it had been a most informative and worthwhile visit.

06.10.16 County Councillor Rob Davison, who arrived at 8.35pm.

1. A quarry liaison meeting will be held at Shardlow tomorrow night.

07.10.16 Cllr Mansfield left the room at 8.35pm and returned at 8.40pm.

2. As mentioned above Thulston Fields is the first choice for a secondary school but lies in the greenbelt, Lowes Farm being the alternative site.

08.10.16 Public participation

A resident present complained of both mud on roads and the width of roads at Buttercup Leys; contractors are guilty of the former while roads appear so narrow as to restrict the access of emergency vehicles. Cllr Davison replied saying he will check with Highways over road accessibility; while the clerk suggested that the mud issue can be raised at the next Persimmon Liaison meeting on 24th November. The resident also believed there is a lack of sporting facilities at the new development, such as tennis courts; the chairman assured that plans for these exist.

A resident asked for an update on the errant parking on Brook Road; Cllr Beadle added that Silver Lane also suffers. Cllr Russell asked police officers at the last Safer Neighbourhood meeting who said inconsiderate parking is not actionable, only illegal parking is. Cllr Davison thought this to be a Highways matter and will enquire; it may be possible to paint yellow lines as a deterrent.

09.10.16 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2016. These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Mansfield).

10.10.16 Police Report

The clerk reported that 6 minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 7 in the Rural Ward had been logged on the police website for July. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

11.10.16 Digital Derbyshire

No further updates but the chairman wished this item to be placed lower down the agenda in the next meeting.

12.10.16 Boulton Moor Housing

Nothing to report.

13.10.16 Elvaston Communities Group

Eve Wilson was pleased to announce that the coffee morning held on 25th September was a success and a ladies fashion show will be held on 4th November at the village hall; tickets are available albeit in limited supply. Mike Tong said a working party recently planted shrubs at the sensory garden. The next event is carol singing at the Harrington Arms on 18th December. A traditional walk will take place in the New Year.

14.10.16 Flooding and Gravel

Mr Kevin Birch announced that Peter Waters had stood down as lead flood warden, a role Kevin has now assumed. He had previously circulated a draft flood plan to the Parish Council which was **accepted**. The next step is for Kevin to meet EA on Thursday to discuss this document; it must be suitable to DCC, EA, police, emergency services etc. Once accepted the plan will then be developed. It needs to be posted on the website although the clerk noted that the present web developer is somewhat lax in his approach. Hence, it is important for council to review the website maintenance immediately.

15.10.16 Chairman's Report

None.

16.10.16 Matters for Decision or Discussion

16.1 website maintenance. This item to be held over to the next meeting and placed higher on the agenda.

16.2 Consideration of village entry signs and boundary sign at Colwell Drive. **Resolved:** This item to be held over to the next meeting.

16.3 hedge at Grove Close. **Resolved:** no further action.

16.4 storage of the Communities Group's new gazebos. **Resolved:** This item to be held over to the next meeting.

16.5 registration of the village green. Cllr Beadle obtained advice from Alexander & Co. solicitors who will investigate at a cost of c£850 plus Land Registry fees should council wish. **Resolved:** agreed and members wish to be kept up to date with any increases in the estimated fee.

17.10.16 Councillor's Reports

Cllr Russell has replaced a defibrillator pad and intends sending those out-of-date to a 3rd world charity, to which members **agreed**.

In addition to her earlier comment above Cllr Beadle rues the increased number of parked cars on the road in Elvaston and wonders if the Castle would place cones to deter this. Clerk to ask Gill Forester. The hedge opposite Cllr Mansfield's house is overgrown – Cllr Mansfield offered to speak to the owner.

Cllr Spenser said he enjoyed the Golden Gates Gallop fun run; and has joined the 'Big Blue Rocket' broadband supplier.

Cllr Mansfield thanked participants, marshals and the Communities Group speaker who took part in the Golden Gates Gallop event, which should raise £1500-2000. He believed next year's occasion should be advertised more widely, especially on websites. In light of Peter Waters relinquishing his role as flood warden Cllr Mansfield thought a letter of thanks from the council is appropriate as appreciation to his continued effort and input for many years.

18.10.16 Clerk Report

1. Clerk asked council if it wished to donate to this year's RBL poppy appeal; this was **agreed** in the amount of £150.
2. Clerk advised that he has been appointed clerk to Stenson Fields parish council. Members had no objection and congratulated him.

19.10.16 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

Members had received recent circulars from the clerk.

20.10.16 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001174	J Irons – Clerk's salary September	477.40	-	477.40
001174	J Irons - clerk home allowance	18.00	-	18.00
Stand order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay September	192.00	-	192.00
001175	HMRC – clerk's tax September	60.80	-	60.80
001176	DCC – clerk's pension September	123.58	-	123.58
001177	Community Heartbeat Trust	33.00	6.60	39.60
001178	Communities Group – s.137 grant towards gazebos	2100.00	-	2100.00
	TOTAL	3004.78	6.60	3011.38

(b) **Income**

Western Power wayleave grant - £4.60

(c) **Direct Debits**

None

Bank balance as at 30th September 2016 £34,664.56

21.10.16 To consider planning applications:

9/2016/0875 - THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AT 3 BARRONS COURT ELVASTON

Resolved: no objection.

22.10.16 Items for Information only

The clerk circulated 2 items of interest.

23.10.16 Agenda Items for next meeting

- website maintenance;
- Boulton Moor;
- Elvaston Communities Group;
- Elvaston Castle Development Board;
- Purchase of more speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins;
- new rural and Boulton Moor signage;
- Digital Derbyshire;
- To raise a cheque to the amount of £150 for this year's RBL poppy appeal;
- Registration of the village green;
- Letter of thanks to Peter Waters;
- Storage facility for gazebos possibly at the village hall.

24.10.16 The next Ordinary Council Meeting is on 14th November 2016 at **7.30pm**.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm

Signed

Cllr R Strand (Chairman).