

Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th January 2017 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

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

In Attendance: DCllr Hilary Coyle, CCllr Rob Davison, 3 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.01.17 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Bickerton (work commitments), P Loakes (unwell), DCllrs Peter Watson, Neil Atkin (otherwise engaged) and DCllr Hilary Coyle (lateness).

02.01.17. Variation of Order of Business

None.

03.01.17 Declaration of Members Interests

None

04.01.17 District and County Councillor's reports

County Councillor Rob Davison

1. Ambaston's flood co-ordinator Kevin Birch has spoken with Vikki Webb at DCC regarding the start of the Elvaston Quarry extension works due to start in 2018. One concern is that Tarmac will begin the work in a minimal sense and allow the site to become dormant for several years. CCllr Davison assured that this cannot happen and Vikki will respond more comprehensively next month (especially regarding the noisy conveyer).

2. Following on from the last meeting he believed yellow lines would deter errant car-parking on Brook Road and asked Highways for its input. However, the inspector cited a similar request of the previous highways inspector in 2014 which resulted in the same answer; there is a reluctance to adopt this approach because restrictions cannot be applied near residents' drives. Neither collisions nor complaints from emergency/ refuse vehicles etc have been reported in the last 15 years. In addition, to introduce a TRO (traffic regulation order) may take 9-12 months at a cost of c£3000 which is unjustified. CCllr Davison thought a complaint by only one resident is unlikely to succeed in the introduction of such measures; it would need more evidence from other complainants to pursue it. The chairman noted that other families had complained over many years and it was raised at several Safer Neighbourhood meetings. CCllr Davison offered to look back at previous parish council minutes to see if and when the issue was passed to DCC. He thought an unofficial notice may be an option; the chairman asked a resident present who raised it at the last meeting to provide photographs of examples he mentioned previously. Cllr Mansfield thought a bye-law could be implemented deterring inconsiderate car parking. The clerk had researched and produced a legal note stating that parish bye-laws are not applicable in this regard. CCllr Davison offered to ask Highways and revert to Cllr Mansfield.

3. He suggested a site visit to Boulton Moor to determine suitable locations for placing 2 new boundary signs (at Colwell Drive and Snelsmoor Lane). Two members and the clerk **agreed** to meet CCllr Davison the next afternoon to inspect.

4. CCllr Davison believes the latest suggestion from government of increasing council tax by 3% in each of the next 2 years to help fund the provision of care services remains inadequate.

5. He welcomed the recent court decision to stop Sheffield city region absorbing Chesterfield, which he believed would have resulted in Derbyshire being dismembered as an administrative county. The bid failed to consult Chesterfield residents about whether they wanted to join the combined authority.

District Councillor Hilary Coyle (arrival at 7.45pm).

1. A recent planning application for 34 new homes in Melbourne has been granted by an inspector but appeals may arise; previous inspectors opposed it. Funding has been secured for the government's concept of 'garden villages'.
2. Local precepts and concurrent functions grants will be set next month.
3. DCllr Watson will report on the query concerning the footbridge at Thulston Brook next month.

05.01.17 Public participation

A resident complained that he cannot tip rubbish at the Raynesway site because it does not allow S Derbyshire residents to do so, a Derby postcode is needed. He has been told to use the site at Ilkeston. Also, he is upset at DCC's £3 cost to dump a big bag of soil and/or rubble at its sites. DCllr Coyle said district council has no plans to charge – its household waste recycling centre at Park Road Newhall is free. The resident also noted that DCC recently dug the trench at the 'Sustrans' cycle route by 6 inches but considers this insufficient to address flooding; CCllr Davison offered to chase this at county hall if necessary.

The resident told the clerk that ice recently appeared on the road in Elvaston and thought a drain may be blocked; clerk to inform Highways.

An Ambaston resident is dismayed that his planning application for a 2-story house was refused because the planning authority considered it not in keeping with the rest of the village. No one in the village objected and one resident even wrote to the planning department in support of the build. The applicant met the planning officer who subsequently withdrew the applicant's original plans and altered them to a different design configuration. DCllr Coyle handed the resident her card and offered to investigate.

As mentioned above the resident who complained of errant car-parking will take photographs of signs on Elvaston Lane and forward them to the chairman.

06.01.17 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2016. These were approved and accepted as a true record after which they were signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Strand).

07.01.17 Police Report

The clerk reported that 8 minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 2 in the Rural Ward had been logged on the police website for November. Details are available at <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DS03/crime/>.

The chairman reported both a break-in to a shed and graffiti on a door at the allotments.

08.01.17 Website maintenance

In the last meeting Eve Wilson of the Communities Group offered to pursue the progression of a new website for council. While this is ongoing Cllr Mansfield thought the site could be improved by adopting a similar format to the Golden Gallop website. The existing elements on it are good and it has facilities for a minutes archive, online technical support availability, ease of updates with automatic back-ups, photo-galleries, video tutorials and an online payment system. It would cost c£85 per year. The chairman asked Cllr Mansfield to progress this after co-ordinating with the Communities Group over both theirs and our plans which was **agreed**. It may be possible to use the current castle logo that appears on the existing parish council site but this will need the site technician's agreement (also applicable to the new village road signs); clerk to contact him and liaise with Cllr Mansfield.

09.01.17 Boulton Moor Housing

Nothing to report.

10.01.17 Cllr Mansfield left the meeting at 8.40pm.

11.01.17 Elvaston Communities Group

Nothing to report.

12.01.17 Flooding and Gravel

Kevin Birch contacted the clerk to say he had had not heard from the EA regarding the flood plan but will chase. He asked whether he and his wife are allowed to litter-pick around Ambaston. This was discussed further at minute 16.01.17 below.

Noise from the conveyer was mentioned above.

13.01.17 Elvaston Castle Development Board

Cllr Strand had nothing to report.

14.01.17 Chairman's Report None.

15.01.17 Matters for Decision or Discussion

15.1 Village entry signs and boundary signs at Colwell Drive and Snelsmoor Lane. **Resolved:** Cllrs Mansfield and Russell, CCllr Davison and the clerk to inspect the Boulton Moor site the next day. Clerk awaits the new quote for 4 rural signs, now to include planters at the base of the sign.

15.2 storage of the Communities Group's new gazebos. **Resolved:** Held over to the next meeting.

15.3 bank mandates, budget update, setting of the forthcoming year's precept and clerk's appraisal. The meeting and appraisal were not held. Signatures for the bank mandate were obtained from those members present, Cllr Loakes was absent and so could not sign. **Resolved:** both the budget and the forthcoming year's precept of £10820, as per last year's, were agreed (pp Cllr Spenser, seconded Cllr Russell). The Form A precept was duly signed by chairman and clerk.

15.4 registration of the village green. Cllr Beadle awaits the return of completed questionnaires required by the Land Registry from some residents. Cllr Russell agreed to print and circulate copies to more residents.

15.5 car parking issues – discussed earlier.

15.6 to sign the S136 concurrent functions form. **Resolved:** duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

15.7 to consider the invitation of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire to a parish meeting. **Resolved:** Members to consider reasons for the visit and to discuss in the next meeting.

16.01.17 Councillor's Reports

The chairman rued that the dog waste bin at Borrowash Bridge is full to overflowing; clerk to ask SDDC to empty. Cllr Russell wondered if the lengthsman picked litter along Ambaston Lane and said she would inspect soon and contact the clerk.

17.01.17 Clerk Report

1. HMRC now request that tax payments are made online or by telephone banking although the clerk suggested to members that cheque still be used until such time that HMRC insist on the above methods which was **agreed**.

2. Clerk received a letter of complaint from a resident who had walked the public footpath on the village green which leads to the lower green. She considered the footpath inaccessible because of an overgrown hedge next to the footpath; and the steepness of the slope which in adverse weather gets slippery and dangerous. Due to the latter she fell her full length. Members **resolved** the following:

To consider installing steps on the sloping part of the path although this can only be once council attains ownership of the green, which is presently being undertaken; and Cllr Beadle to ask the resident concerned to cut the hedge.

3. Cllr Mansfield ordered these and sent the clerk's details to the supplier who should have provided an invoice but did not. Cllr Mansfield to pursue.

4. The chairman prepared a letter of feedback to DCC over Digital Derbyshire, the content of which members **agreed**; clerk to submit.

18.01.17 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils – newsletters

Members had received recent circulars from the clerk.

19.01.17 Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001187	J Irons – Clerk’s salary December	477.20	-	477.20
001187	J Irons - clerk home allowance December	18.00	-	18.00
Stand order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay December	192.00	-	192.00
001188	HMRC – clerk’s tax December	61.00	-	61.00
001189	DCC – clerk’s pension December	123.58	-	123.58
	TOTAL	871.78	-	871.78

(b) **Income**

None.

(c) **Direct Debits**

None

Bank balance as at 31st December 2016 £31,657.78

20.01.17 To consider planning applications: none

21.01.17 Items for Information only The clerk circulated 1 item of interest.

22.01.17 Agenda Items for next meeting

- website maintenance;
- Boulton Moor;
- Elvaston Communities Group;
- Elvaston Castle Development Board;
- Invitation of police officer, PCSO and PCC;
- Raise a cheque for speed/slow down stickers on Wheelie bins;
- new rural and Boulton Moor signage and application of the Elvaston logo;
- to complete the bank mandate;
- Registration of the village green (questionnaires);
- Car parking issues and signs;
- Allotment rents;
- Litter-picking along Ambaston Lane and into the village;
- Storage facility for gazebos possibly at the village hall.

23.01.17 The next Ordinary Council Meeting is on 13th February 2017 at **7.30pm**.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.32pm.

Signed

Cllr R Strand (Chairman).