

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th July 2019

AT NUNSFIELD HOUSE, ALVASTON

Present:

Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), S Spenser and M Beadle and E Beech.

In Attendance: CCllr N Atkin, DCllr P Watson, 19 parishioners and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 7-7.30pm; Present: Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), S Spenser and M Beadle.

01.07.19: 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.

02.07.19: To interview prospective candidates for co-option to the council representing the Rural ward. **Resolved:** 2 candidates were interviewed with co-option (if applicable) to take place in Part 2 – see minute 03.07.19 below. One candidate for the lengthsman role was considered.

PART 2 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION (7.30pm onwards)

03.07.19: To co-opt prospective member candidates and prospective lengthsman to the council. Two candidates representing the rural ward were appointed who then duly signed their Declarations of Office forms. They will complete their Registers of Interests and forward to the clerk.

1 candidate for the role of lengthsman was appointed.

The chairman thanked all candidates for their attendance.

04.07.19: Apologies for absence Cllr C Bennett (holiday).

05.07.19. Variation of Order of Business None.

06.07.19: Declaration of Members Interests None declared.

07.07.19: Elvaston Castle Action Group

A member of the Group has spoken to Heather Wheeler (Conservative MP for South Derbyshire) over the environmental impact of the Master Plan. She is concerned over the loss of 23 acres of green belt land on the A6 and car-parking issues. Another concern is the planning application regarding 351 homes under planning application number 9/2019/0658 (see minute 27.07.19 below). Council was asked to be cognizant of all applications and their impact adding that the Group would help with any comment over such. In addition she asked whether DCllr Watson has asked for the planning committee to assess an application at 1 Yew Tree Lane; clerk said he had received no reply but will ask him.

8.07.19: Elvaston Castle & Gardens Trust update

Two trustees were present with one stating that the fully allotted 12 trustees are now in place. Talks with the HLF are ongoing and the trust is presently creating a business plan. Mace and DCA have been appointed as strategic management consultants. The Trust wishes to engage with the community in order to progress projects.

9.07.19: Digital Derbyshire. Nothing to report.

10.07.19: Councillor's Reports

The 2 new councillors introduced themselves and the chairman welcomed them to the council.

Cllr Beadle was pleased to say that car-parking congestion in Elvaston & Thulston was minimal during the recent county show and steam rally events. She believes parking will be prohibited during the Woodland Festival in September.

Cllr Beech relayed a message from Cllr Bennett in his absence offering to inspect defibrillators in future. She is concerned about the travellers on Colwell Drive (as mentioned below at minute 12.07.19). Cllr Beech emailed the City Council for more information on the fixing of Armistice Day poppies to lamp-posts. She rues the litter strewn in trees on Field Lane Park, Buttercup Leys; clerk to ask the lengthsman to clear. Cllr Beech is aware of a Wildflower Project undertaken in various parts of the country and thought this would brighten both the BM and rural wards. Flowers are planted on verges; it has been done on A453. Clerk to ask Highways for permission.

11.07.19: District and County Councillors arrived at 7.45pm.

12.07.19: District and County Councillor's Reports.

DCllr Peter Watson

1. DCllr Watson pursued a councillor's request for the provision of litter grabbers/ viz jackets. SDDC will provide 10 litter-pickers and yellow coats, and black waste bags. Cllr Bennett can either collect these or have them delivered.
2. OCOR – Derby City confirmed that safety measures regarding flooding in the rural villages are being adopted.
3. DCllr Watson will make representations over the planning applications if requested (although see minute 25.07.19 below).
4. He confirmed that the annual precept asked of SDDC by council is a matter between the 2 bodies. The amount granted is not presently ring-fenced.
4. He agreed with the chairman that the Persimmon Homes liaison meeting should be postponed until the September parish meeting.
5. DCllr Watson reiterated his comment from the last parish meeting and publically stated that he while not wishing to become involved in parish council matters he is gravely disturbed that the council acted illegally over the course of the last 3 months.

13.07.19: due to DCllr Watson' allegations and unruly behaviour the chairman told him leave at 8.10pm which he did.

14.07.19 (continued) County Councillor Report.

Cllr Neil Atkin

1. Cllr Atkin raised the matter of travellers on Colwell Drive. Clerk responded saying he reported this to SDDC on Friday who was aware and has started legal proceedings after conducting a site visit. Despite being Derby City land SDDC's environmental officer assured he has the matter in hand.
2. He will make representations over the planning application 9/2019/0658 if requested.

15.07.19: Elvaston Communities Group

Eve Wilson announced that a McMillan coffee morning event on 22nd June raised £250. A jazz concert will be held on 26th July; tickets are available at £10 and attendees are allowed to bring alcohol. An 'Apple Day' is being organised for October. The sensory garden and churchyard is currently undergoing work and grass cutting. Eve asked a Castle & Gardens Trustee if a community engagement officer will be appointed who replied to say not yet but nevertheless the trust is keen to support and partner the Group. The trustee asked for the Group's contact details.

16.07.19: Website maintenance.

An ex-councillor who created the new site which is now inaccessible was irate over the council's handling of the matter. He also stated his reasons for not standing for co-option. The chairman agreed to speak to him in a few days' time.

17.07.19: Public Speaking.

Numerous questions were asked by several residents over myriad issues which included *inter alia*:

s.106 monies available in connection with the council's precept;

Dismay at the increase in precept requested from SDDC within the current year considering the high level of reserves held by council;

The eligibility of a s.137 grant due for payment this evening;

Planning application 9/2019/0557 (after which the chairman invited Mr Birch to the next Persimmon Homes liaison meeting);

An overgrown hedge on land opposite Beechwood caravan park which obstructs an already narrow pavement (clerk to contact Highways to cut);

A faded and illegible defibrillator sign in the notice board at Silver Lane (clerk to renew);

Absence of road markings on the newly tarmacked Grove Close (clerk has asked Highways once but will repeat);

Car congestion at Buttercup Leys which will only worsen as new houses are built (chairman to raise at the Persimmon meeting);

The inefficacy of DALC in its advice given to the clerk over co-option matters and in general;

A statement of complaint read by a previous candidate for co-option at the last meeting (who along with 2 other candidates has since withdrawn their application).

Several expressions of disappointment over the cancellation of 2 recent council meetings in April and May due to council being inquorate;

Regarding the latter issue clerk read a rebuttal statement in response to complaints over the cancellation of recent meetings, detail included in minutes and the co-option process undertaken. The chairman added that the possibility of a by-election will be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime council will seek advice from the SDDC Monitoring Officer.

The chairman thanked all residents for their comments.

18.07.19: County Councillor Atkin left at 8.50pm.

19.07.19: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2019 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th June. These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (the former were pp Cllr Beadle seconded Cllr Spenser, the latter pp Cllr Beadle, seconded Cllr Beech).

20.07.19: Appointment of members to Committees or Sub Committees and their respective delegated authority.

The Officers for 2019-2020 were all unanimously elected as follows:-

- Elvaston Castle – Cllr Dodson;
- Village Hall Committees – Cllr Beadle;
- Finance Committee – Cllrs Bickerton, Spenser and Beech;
- Elvaston Communities Group – Cllr Bickerton and Beech;
- Allotment Committee – Mr Strand is no longer a member but kindly offered to report any issues at the site;
- Charities Trusts – Cllrs Dodson and Bullivant;
- Website & facebook page – Cllr Beadle;
- Boulton Moor development – all members.

21.07.19: Police Report. 3 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 11 in Boulton Moor in May. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DE03/crime>.

22.07.19: Flooding and Gravel. Mr Birch had little to report save as regards requesting formal approval from council of the proposed renovation of the Shardlow pit. Clerk to circulate his previous email to members for their comment. The chairman gave special thanks to Kevin Birch for his diligence and input on flooding and gravel matters and for attending the Quarry Liaison meetings.

23.07.19: Matters for Decision or Discussion

23.1 Parking issues. Highways has stipulated that VAS signs in Elvaston and Thulston will be allowed only to help prevent accidents/ speeding in the event of a fatality or injury occurring within the last 3 years; this applies even if council wished to fund the signs itself.

23.2 laying stones on the village green path. Clerk obtained 2 quotes for stoning of the path and awaits a third from another contractor.

23.3 To review council policies. **Resolved:** agreed with no changes.

23.4 update on the intended Colwell Drive sign. Clerk has a quote from 2 Highways' approved contractors and awaits more quotes from additional contractors; he reminded Highways last week with no response so will chase.

23.5 To complete further forms relating to online banking. Clerk has completed 80% of the process with Unity Trust

Bank. The process now needs one or 2 members and possibly the clerk to complete the final stage of the application.

Resolved: clerk to circulate details of the application to members for their perusal.

23.6 To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration. Discussed earlier at minute 10.07.19 above

24.07.19: Clerk’s Report

1. To offer prospective attendees a councillor training course and to consider booking a s.106 course. Training courses will be held on 2nd, 7th and 30th September, 23rd October and 18th November. A s106 course will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. Woodland Festival 20th – 22nd Sept. a temporary clearway for various roads will be arranged in Thulston and Elvaston. You can view the order on this link <https://roadworks.org?tm=114083175> .Derbyshire Highways Hub
3. Clerk read the finance statement from SDDC outlining the s106 monies spent & received thus far (to district and county councils from Persimmon Homes).
4. Travellers set up camp at the open space behind the parish notice board on Colwell Drive, Bouton Moor on 11th July (discussed earlier).
5. A resident of Holt Way (Buttercup Leys Estate) has become increasingly concerned by the use (or misuse) of the woodland area opposite his house. Masked teenagers loiter in the woods and subsequently at the entrance of his driveway. He does not ask for the trees to be cut back in any way. Nevertheless without appropriate fencing or form of boundary into the woodland area there is continuing misuse of this space. Hence he believes a fence that spans the distance from the Holt Way sign and along his private drive will deter these actions. Clerk reported to SDDC and awaits its findings.

25.07.19: Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001334	J Irons – Clerk’s salary June	491.83	-	491.83
001334	J Irons – clerk’s expenses (see attached sheet)	33.00	-	33.00
Stand order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay June (final payment)	285.60	-	285.60
Stand order	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay June	285.60	-	285.60
001335	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay June (tax refund)	114.20	-	114.20
001336	HMRC – employees’ tax June	131.60	-	131.60
001337	DCC – clerk’s pension June	147.64	-	147.64
001338	Elvaston Village Hall Trust – s.137 grant to fund emptying of a wheelie waste bin	195.00	-	195.00
001339	Children’s Holiday Home donation under s.137 a grant	150.00	-	150.00
	TOTAL	1834.47	-	1834.47

(b) **Income**

2 allotment rents banked on 26th June £ 30.00
 SDDC 2nd tranche of precept 2019-20 on 5th July £ 6910.00

(c) Bank balance as at 5th July 2019 £38161.91

26.07.19: To consider planning applications

9/2019/0557 - ENABLING HIGHWAY WORKS COMPRISING THE STRAIGHTENING OF SNELSMOOR LANE AND A NEW ROUNDABOUT ACCESS TO SERVE THE DERBY CITY HOUSING SITE KNOWN AS ‘SNELSMOOR GRANGE’; ON LAND AT SNELSMOOR LANE THULSTON. **Resolved:** to hold discussion until the Persimmon Homes meeting

9/2019/0658 – APPROVAL OF RESERVED MATTERS OF OUTLINE PERMISSION REF. 9/2010/1134 FOR THE ERECTION OF 351 DWELLINGS ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS ROADS, DRAINAGE AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (BOULTON MOOR PHASE 1E) ON LAND AT SK3931 5448 SNELSMOOR LANE BOULTON MOOR. **Resolved:** to hold discussion until the Persimmon Homes meeting

27.07.19: Items for information. No major items of interest were received.

28.07.19: Agenda items for the next meeting

- To discuss the possibility of a by-election within the parish;
- councillor training course and a s.106 course;
- Colwell Drive sign;
- To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration;
- Online banking;
- Approval (or not) of Mr Birch's Flooding and Gravel report;
- Contractor quotes to stone/ widen the path on the village green.

29.07.19: Date of next meeting – Monday 12th August 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)