

MINUTES OF THE ELVASTON ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th June 2019 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present:

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

In Attendance:

CCLlr N Atkin, DCllrs P Watson and Dan Corbin, 13 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.

01.06.19: 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.

02.06.19: Declaration of Councillors' agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct, to sign Declarations of Office and review their Registers of Interests. Councillors duly agreed and signed as required.

03.06.19: 2. To interview prospective candidates for co-option to the council. **Resolved:** 6 candidates were interviewed with co-option (if applicable) to take place in Part 2 – see minute 06.06.19 below.

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

04.06.19: Election of Chairman

Cllr Bickerton was proposed by Cllr Spenser and seconded by Cllr Beadle. **Resolved:** Cllr Bickerton was elected signed his declaration of acceptance of office form.

05.06.19: Election of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Beadle was proposed by Cllr Bickerton and seconded by Cllr Spenser. **Resolved:** Cllr Beadle was elected and duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office form.

06.06.19: To co-opt candidates to the council. Two candidates representing the Boulton Moor ward were appointed who then duly signed their Declarations of Office forms. They will complete their Registers of Interests and forward to the clerk. Co-option of rural candidates will be conducted at the July meeting. The chairman thanked all candidates for their attendance.

07.06.19. Variation of Order of Business None.

08.06.19: Declaration of Members Interests None declared.

09.06.19: Elvaston Castle Action Group Nothing to report

10.06.19: Elvaston Castle & Gardens Trust update

Three additional trustees are to be appointed and further committees to be formed. A new website is being created.

11.06.19: Digital Derbyshire.

Mr Birch has been championing this cause for some considerable time and received a recent update from DD with which he is satisfied. As he stated in his reply to DCC: *'The FTTC connections to the new Thulston cabinet will provide superb down and upstream speeds to both Thulston and Elvaston. The speeds associated with the FTTP connections to Ambaston will 'future proof' that hamlet for many decades and will be well worth waiting for. Reviewing my notes of our meeting last year, you did mention the possibility of FTTP connection for Ambaston and that is a real bonus'.*

Ambaston is now due to be connected within the next 12 - 15 months. Kevin asked DCC to be kept abreast of further developments. The chairman thanked him for his efforts.

12.06.19: Councillor's Reports

Cllr Beadle spoke to a resident in Yew Tree Lane who was dismayed that an allotment plot holder complained of him depositing grass cuttings from his garden onto the plot. The clerk subsequently wrote to the resident. However it transpires that the strip of land concerned forms part of his land, not the plot. Hence the resident is within his rights depositing cuttings here.

Cllr Beech is pleased to see the new waste bin installed at the jitty between Sevenlands Drive and Buttercup Leys but rues the absence of letter post-boxes in the area. She requested a notice board key from the clerk in order to display public notices in the board at the abovementioned jitty.

Cllr Bennett called for a neighbourhood watch scheme to be implemented at BM; Cllr Beadle advised him to search online for contact details of such a scheme. He believed a Boulton Moor road sign would benefit from flowers planted below it. The clerk advised him to ask the City Council for permission.

Volunteer litter-pickers use equipment supplied by SDDC although Cllr Bennett said they are in need of further litter grabbers etc. DCllr Watson kindly offered to enquire at district council.

Cllr Spenser thought that weeds on the ground around the war memorial on Main Road need removing; the chairman thought it only fair to ask the lengthsman to conduct once she recovers from a recent accident. Cllr Spenser considered the May Fete to be a well-organised event as was yesterday's Ramathon run through the rural villages.

13.06.19: District and County Councillor's Reports.

DCllr Peter Watson

1. DCllr Watson introduced Dan Corbin to the meeting, a new district councillor for the Aston Ward.
2. In the May election the Tories obtained 22 seats while the Socialists received 14 at district council.
3. The Area Forum and SNM will be held at Aston on Trent on Wednesday.
4. He believed the Persimmon Homes liaison meeting should be postponed for a month to which the chairman agreed.
5. DCllr Watson attended a OCOR meeting at Derby City Council accompanied by Ambaston resident Kevin Birch. They were assured that no work is intended that will affect the level of protection from flooding; DCllr Watson awaits DCC's letter of confirmation. Climate change and other issues were discussed at this OCOR meeting.
6. DCllr Watson has asked for the planning committee to assess an application at Yew Tree Lane.
7. SDDC financial reserves are good and are expected to increase as more houses are built in general. He rues the amount of s106 monies collected that sits at the district council and stated that unless allocated within 3 years it is lost.
8. Community Partnership Schemes are presently being funded. DCllr Watson said volunteers for all activities are vital and should be supported.

Cllr Neil Atkin

1. Cllr Atkin congratulated the chairman and vice-chairman to their roles tonight.
2. He has been appointed Vice-Chair of the district council while Cllr David Muller has taken up the role of Chairman for the year ahead.
3. Cllr Atkin urged anyone to contact either DCllr Watson or himself in the event of any localised flooding.
4. Regarding the latest update on Digital Derbyshire he will respond to Mr Birch when necessary (see above).
5. The Tree & Avenue Management Plan (TAMP) to address preservation of the historic avenue of trees was approved at the Quarry meeting in July last year, a consultation over which ends on 18th June. Both he and Mr Birch are happy with progress and the intention is for small oak trees to be planted as part of the scheme.

14.06.19: Elvaston Communities Group

Eve Wilson considered that the Group's notices placed locally stating that parking is available in the Castle's public car park helped ease congestion during the Fete on 27th May and had asked Gill Forester to display notices stating that the Castle car-park was open. The Fete enjoyed a good turnout until around 2.30pm when rain affected attendance and stallholders left. Also the Derby Football Club attracted most of the attention. She thanked volunteers for their help and considered the size of the event to be ideal so no plans are afoot to increase it.

A McMillan coffee morning event will take place on 22nd June in the village hall. A jazz concert will be held on 26th July which if successful may become a regular event; tickets are available at £10. Refreshments will be served. An 'Apple Day' is being organised for 22nd September and will be advertised on both the Group's Facebook page and website.

The sensory garden is presently closed due to the relaying of paths. The churchyard is being tended with a programme in place focusing on encouraging wildlife.

15.06.19: Website maintenance. Clerk has encountered problems with uploading documents to the new site but has since engaged the help of a web developer who has rectified the issue. This may incur a small charge. The renewal of both the domain and hosting of the site needs to be discussed with Cllr Mansfield at another date. Mr Birch thought that minutes of flood liaison meetings should be displayed to which the clerk replied this is possible.

16.06.19: Public Speaking.

A resident raised the issue of insurance cover for litter-pickers; DCllr Watson kindly offered to enquire at district council. A question arose over whether parish members may carry out litter-picking; DCllr Corbin kindly offered to investigate.

Mr Birch was pleased to see flowers set in the Ambaston village sign planter by a schoolgirl as part of a school project aimed at helping to improve the local environment for the benefit of residents. Her father and a neighbour bought the compost and flowers and do not want reimbursing. Members agreed that the clerk should send her a letter of appreciation and a gift voucher to the value of £15. Kevin was dismayed to see that the forthcoming year's precept request from SDDC had increased by 16% and thought it unwarranted considering the level of reserves held by council.

A resident expressed disappointment over the cancellation of 2 recent council meetings in April and May due to council being inquorate. Hence council business could not be conducted. She believed she was misinformed about vacant council seats in both wards.

Another resident voiced concern over the non-selection of candidates tonight for the rural ward and thought the process flawed. She did not agree with the issue being held-over to the next meeting nor candidates being interviewed again by the same panel of members as tonight's had been. She publically stated that she will attempt to petition to dissolve the council.

17.06.19: To approve the minutes of the (2) meetings held on the 11^h March 2019 and the 2 Finance meetings held on 9th April 2019 and 14th May. These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (all were pp Cllr Beadle seconded Cllr Spenser).

18.06.19: Appointment of members to Committees or Sub Committees and their respective delegated authority. Held over to the next meeting.

19.06.19: Police Report. 8 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 8 in Boulton Moor in April. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.police.uk/derbyshire/DE03/crime>.

20.06.18: Boulton Moor Housing. Nothing further to report, any outstanding issues will be addressed at an upcoming Persimmon Homes liaison meeting.

21.06.19: Flooding and Gravel. Mr Birch had sent a report of the Quarry meeting held on 9th April to the clerk who subsequently had circulated it; he gave a precis of the issues tonight. Mr Birch attended the recent OCOR meeting with DCllr Watson as mentioned above.

22.06.19: Matters for Decision or Discussion

22.1 Parking issues: nothing to report.

22.2 councillor training course and to book a s.106 course. Clerk stated that a course was originally booked on 3rd June although attendance was not possible. A further one will be held on Wednesday 23rd October. New candidates are soon to be co-opted therefore this item will be held over to the next meeting.

22.3 installing steps on the village green. Clerk suggested that the path be stoned without applying steps to which members agreed. **Resolved:** clerk to obtain quotes. DCllr Corbin kindly offered to investigate the progress of the registration of the village green into council's ownership.

22.4 To review council policies. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

22.5 update on the intended Colwell Drive sign. Clerk met Highways on site last week and now has a quote from an approved contractor. Clerk has asked DCC for details of additional contractors and awaits its reply.

22.6 Outcome of the creation of a cricket club committee. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

22.7 To consider a donation to the Children’s Holiday Home. **Resolved:** agreed to the value of £150 (pp Cllr Bennett, seconded Cllr Beech).

22.8 To complete further forms relating to online banking. Due to the continual problems encountered with the Nat West bank members **agreed** to adopt the services of the Unity Trust Bank. Clerk has started the process with Unity and details of serving members were obtained which will be inserted into the application.

22.9 To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration. **Resolved:** to decide the number of poppies required in the next meeting. Discussion ensued over the possibility of placing silhouettes throughout the wards. The Communities Group announced that it wished to become involved. Mr Birch added that this item should be placed on the Facebook pages to make residents aware. DCC recognises the significance of this appeal and has therefore agreed to allow poppies to be attached to lighting columns or posts subject to certain criteria.

22.10 To consider the rectification of a lengthman’s tax payments. HMRC placed the lengthsman on the wrong tax code but her overpayment of tax paid since April will be reimbursed in the next meeting.

22.11 To consider a grant application for maintenance of the church burial site. **Resolved:** agreed (pp Cllr Beadle, seconded Cllr Spenser).

23.06.19: Chairman’s Report

The chairman thanked the attending district and county councillors for their support over the past year and welcomed the 2 new members co-opted tonight and Cllr Beadle to the post of vice-chair. He also gave thanks to recently retired members Paul Loakes, Rick Strand and Becky Russell. The chairman then proceeded to read his annual report intended to be imparted at the APM.

24.06.19: Clerk’s Report

1. Clerk received a message from ex-councillor Becky Russell reminding council that as she had been the PC representative for both the Castle and the Village Hall committee these two positions need to be addressed (now scheduled for the next meeting).

The VH committee seek an additional 360-litre bin costing £7.50 per emptying visit (£195 per annum) and asked if the PC would pay this. Members **agreed**, clerk to send a grant application form.

2. Clerk had circulated the following to members prior to the meeting: CALL FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2023. The Executive membership of DALC is appointed every 4 years at the AGM of the Executive, and is therefore due for re-election in October 2019. In line with the DALC Constitution Executive members are drawn from councillors appointed by the votes of member local councils in each district.

3. One allotment plot is available.

4. The Air Ambulance service ask whether council would place textile banks in the area. The chairman will ask the Harrington Arms if it is prepared to house one in its car park.

5. Three new waste bins are now installed at the Borrowash Road bridge, Mountfield Way and the walkway at Sevenlands Drive/ Buttercup Leys. A quote received today for replacing the Meadow Nook bin (as this has irreparable damage) is:

A free standing dog waste bin including fittings	£364.80
Removal of old damaged bin and installation of new bin	£56.00 - £94.00 (depending on existing foundations).
Admin charge	£30

Members **agreed** to purchase.

6. Clerk had formulated a response to complaints over the cancellation of recent meetings and read it at this point. He will send a copy to the 2 complainants.

25.06.19: Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001329	J Irons – Clerk’s salary May	491.63	-	491.63
001329	J Irons – clerk’s expenses (see attached sheet)	95.37	-	95.37
Stand order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay May	285.60	-	285.60
Stand order	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay May	285.60	-	285.60

001330	HMRC – employee’s tax May	180.20	-	180.20
001331	DCC – clerk’s pension May	147.64	-	147.64
001332	Cllr M Beadle – reimbursement for flowers sent to l/man	30.00	-	30.00
001333	s.137 grant application from St Barts (if agreed earlier)	350.00	-	350.00
	TOTAL	1866.04	-	1866.04

- (b) Income
- 2 allotment rents banked on 20th May £ 30.00
- HMRC VAT reimbursement for 2018/19 on 9th May £ 952.52
- (c) Bank balance as at 28th May 2019 £31237.76

26.06.19: To consider planning applications

9/2019/0438 - REPAIR WORKS TO CHIMNEY AND INTERNAL OPEN FIREPLACE AT ELVASTON VILLAGE HALL MAIN ROAD ELVASTON. **Resolved:** no objection.

9/2019/0447 - THE PRUNING OF TWO WILLOW TREES COVERED BY SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 471 AT 2 MAIN STREET AMBASTON. **Resolved:** members objected to this citing reasons for the pollarding being unnecessary. The trees appear not to overhang the road and any hindrance of light entering the residence is not unduly restrictive. Clerk to copy DCllr Watson with the comment.

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

28.06.19: Agenda items for the next meeting

- Co-option of members to the rural ward;
- councillor training course and a s.106 course;
- creation of a cricket club committee;
- To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration;
- To review council policies;
- Contractor quotes to stone the path on the village green (if any);
- Appointment of members to Committees or Sub Committees and their respective delegated authority;
- Apologies in advance from Cllr Bennett.

29.06.19: Date of next meeting – Monday 15th July 2019 at **7pm at Nunsfield House, Boulton Lane, Alvaston.**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.25pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)