

Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th February 2019 at the VILLAGE HALL, ELVASTON

Present: Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), R Strand, R Russell, M Beadle and E Beech.

In Attendance: DCllr Peter Watson, CCllr Neil Atkin, 7 residents and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.02.19 To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr S Spenser (work commitments), P Loakes (unwell) and DCllr H Coyle. Members approved their absences.

02.02.19 Variation of Order of Business: item 7 was brought forward to item 3.

03.02.19: District and County Councillors' report:

DCllr Peter Watson.

1. DCllr Watson confirmed that the Clean Team can provide litter pick sticks and black bags to volunteers if asked. Cllr Beech replied saying volunteers have begun in Boulton Moor and will she request apparatus; she thanked DCllr Watson for the information. The clerk added that Cllr Beech may wish to view a useful website – litteractiongroup.org.
2. DCllr Watson was dismayed at the treatment of the Elvaston Castle Action Group by DCC at a recent meeting between the two and therefore asked district council's legal team about the possibility of complaining to the Ombudsman. The legal department advised delaying such action until responses from DCC (if any) have been received.
3. DCllr Watson awaits a reply from Derby City Council over the OCOR's proposed implementation of improvements to the Ambaston flood bank.
4. The SNM and Area Forum will be held tomorrow at 6.15pm in the Melbourne Sports Park.
5. He forwarded Ray Jeffries' comments over SDDC's intentions regarding local sports facilities to the officers and thanked Ray for his enquiry.
6. District council elections will take place on 2nd May and attendees were urged to use their vote.
7. The Persimmon liaison meeting will be held in this village hall at 6.15pm before the March parish council meeting on 11th.

CCllr Neil Atkin

CCllr Atkin sent his report prior to the meeting as follows:

Week Commencing: 11th February 201

Chairman

I note from the public participation of the meeting this evening a question has arisen from the Elvaston Castle Action Group whom are seeking support for their latest proposal.

I would like it noted although I am your County Councillor, my position is to report on DCC business without any political influence and not to involve myself in any likely dispute or conflicts of interests therefore will not comment on the matter.

I understand there is a forthcoming meeting with the Action Group & Barry Lewis - Leader of the Council on the 21st February and it would be inappropriate at this stage to make any comment prior to the outcome of those talks.

Budget outcome

Derbyshire County Council budget for the next financial year was agreed at the full council meeting on Wednesday 6th February.

A lower than predicted council tax rise, continual investment in road improvements and targeted spending on services for vulnerable people and children has been agreed.

Council tax will rise by 3.99% with the bulk of the money helping to provide services for vulnerable children, people with disabilities and older people

In order to balance the books council departments need to save £13.4 million next year (2019 – 20) and the budget report sets out plans to achieve this.

An extra £8.4m has been awarded to DCC by the department of transport. The money which is on top of the £36m the council is already investing in roads this year, will be spent on fixing potholes, fixing drains, resurfacing country lanes and building retaining walls.

Capital programme 2019 / 20

Summary of individual schemes

- *Elvaston Castle Staff Compound and Carriage Shelter £0.450m*

The development of the farmyard site to create a new staff base is an essential part of a larger project funding bid to create a new visitor hub at Elvaston Castle. The building and adjacent areas currently used by rangers will be converted to retail or office use as part of the major bid. Co-location with gardening staff would then be desirable, freeing up the Bothy range of buildings for further commercial development.

Structural repairs and re-roofing are required to the Carriage shelter as an essential part of a subsequent larger project funding bid to create a new visitor hub at Elvaston Castle.

The major bid will include the creation of retail, hospitality, office and workshop facilities in repaired historic buildings which will, when converted generate revenue for further repairs and operational costs towards providing a sustainable future for Elvaston Castle and Country Park.

As buildings are appropriately converted, revenue streams will develop and allow the phased transfer of the estate from DCC to ECGT, thus relieving the Council of significant repair and operational costs.

Report from Cabinet held 6th February 2019

(Please note this meeting was held before the budget Council)

Revised Elvaston Castle Masterplan

- *The Strategic Director – economy, Transport and Environment requested cabinet to consider responses to the public consultation on the Elvaston Castle Master Plan and to seek approval to amendments to the draft master plan.*

Decision

- *Cabinet considered the responses received during the public consultation on the draft Elvaston Castle master plan and (1)*
- *approved the amendments to the Elvaston Castle master plan set out in the report;*
- *(2) noted that the master plan document would be redrafted to include these amendments further to the procurement and appointment of a suitable external graphic design resource for a formal re-draft of the master plan, as referred to in the Principal Revisions to the master plan section of the report, and that this service would be funded from the Elvaston reserve Fund;*
- *(3) noted that this master plan, combined with a current Economic Impact Assessment and initial Funding Strategy, would facilitate the preparation of a phase 1 funding bid to the heritage Lottery Fund, and that the detail of this bid would be the subject of a separate report.*

East Midlands Airport independent consultative Committee (ICC)

The committee are meeting on Friday 15th February amongst the agenda items for discussion

- *Managing Directors Report*
- 1) *Parking Enforcement proposal at EMA*
- 2) *E-Gate and Immigration Hall update*
- 3) *Airspace Change programme*
- 4) *Airport updates*
- 1. *Traffic Statistics*
- 2. *Planning*
- 3. *Community Relations*
- 4. *Environment*

Future Agenda Items

- *Update on Strategic Development Plan.*

Cllr Strand rues the continuing delay over delivery of the Digital Derbyshire rollout for this area adding that a year has passed since the meeting at Matlock where an August 2018 installation was promised. Cllr Atkin could not offer any further information; the chairman asked whether he would formally pursue this with the leader of DCC to which Cllr Atkin replied he would. Cllr Strand offered to provide a time-line of events to the clerk who can then send to county council.

He disagrees with the £2 charged to vehicles picking –up/dropping-off travellers at the airport believing it to penalise them and asked Cllr Atkin to raise this at the ICC meeting on Friday. Cllr Strand will send a draft complaint to the clerk who can then forward it on the council's behalf.

04.02.19 Declaration of Members Interests: none

05.02.19 Elvaston Castle Action Group:

Sarah Leuenberger, Chair of the Group, gave an update beginning with her disappointment over the handling of the Group's petition presentation at the County Council meeting on the 5th December and of its outcome. Certain county council members, including Neil Atkin and Tony King, could not speak; those that did provided contentious comments and council ignored all of the campaigning and effort exerted by the Group. Hence Sarah has now lodged a formal complaint with them. DCC made it clear that it has spent c£30m on the project so far; £450k has been approved recently (see Cllr Atkin's report above). Since then DCC's Cabinet approved a number of changes to the Draft Master Plan on 20th December which addressed, *inter alia*, the showground, use of Home Farm, new car parks and the proposed access road to a new location.

Sarah is unsure whether the county council is best-placed to be custodian of the Castle and whether the Trust can access the funds to progress the project. She therefore suggests local groups, including the parish council, as bodies that can push forward the viability and development, especially regarding possible funding sources.

Sarah will now meet Councillor Barry Lewis (Leader of Derbyshire County Council) and his colleague Mike Ashworth on Thursday 21st February to ask if any additional changes or amendments to the Master Plan can be explored and to discuss a potential community buy out of the site. She asked for the council's support in these discussions to which members agreed.

The chairman thanked Sarah for her update.

Cllr Strand averred that the Trust was originally formed because DCC had no idea how to manage the Castle; however now it seems it does not want to relinquish authority. He also thought that any buy-out involves onerous responsibilities on local group(s). The chairman added that a public consultation should be held soon to update residents.

06.02.19 Digital Derbyshire: discussed earlier.

07.02.19 Councillor's Reports:

Cllr Strand is still dismayed that the missing bus shelter on the A6 (subject to an insurance claim) has not yet been replaced; clerk received a reply from SDDC who seek a used or repaired shelter. However due to the inordinate amount of time this is taking clerk will urge SDDC to replace as a priority. He is pleased to see that instead of filling several potholes in Grove Close the county council resurfaced most of the road. That said the contractor's vehicle caused a certain amount of congestion because Highways failed to inform residents of its intention.

Cllr Beech conveyed residents' concerns that paths, pavements and general infrastructure is lacking at Snelsmoor Lane. The chairman suggested that this be addressed at the upcoming Persimmon meeting on 11th March. Cllr Beech will send this and other topics for discussion to the clerk who will forward them to Persimmon and DCllr Watson prior to the meeting.

Cllr Russell highlighted that Highways England is currently exploring various options for upgrading Thulston roundabout and had contacted Erewash Riders association as the bridleway would be affected. She produced a map supplied by Highways England. Sarah Leuenberger of the Elvaston Castle Action Group has since written to a contact at Kier (the construction company) which she gave to the clerk. However members and clerk deem it prudent to write to HE pointing out that this council should have been told and that we wish to be kept informed in future. Cllr Russell suggested that council should seek an updated plan of registered footpaths in the area while a resident added that a written statement usually accompanies such a plan; clerk to contact DCC.

Cllr Beadle received a reply from the solicitors regarding our application to register the Thulston village green. Unfortunately no progress has been made by the county council because it considers our application is not a

priority. DCC also advise that it might take a further year or possibly even more because other applications/matters are more pressing. She noted that 3 accidents had occurred in 5 months on the road bend at the north end of Elvaston village; the chairman asked Cllr Atkin to raise this at the SNM tomorrow night.

08.02.19 Website Maintenance: nothing to report.

09.02.19 Elvaston Communities Group:

In Eve Wilson's absence the chairman noted that that Group AGM will be held on 25th February and the Community Fete will be held in May.

10.02.19 Public Speaking:

Mr Birch asked DCC to fill the grit bin at Ambaston but it has not therefore he kindly offered to remind Highways.

11.02.19 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2019: after a minor amendment these were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (pp Cllr Strand and seconded Cllr Beadle).

12.02.19 Boulton Moor Housing: discussed earlier.

13.02.19 Flooding and Gravel:

Kevin Birch considers that the Avenue of trees at the Castle should be retained as a heritage feature and as such be opened as a 'concessionary/permissive way' and not a footpath. He recently drafted and circulated a letter to members and the clerk that he believed should be considered and, if agreed, sent to Tarmac. Members **agreed** its content, clerk to send to Tarmac. The chairman thanked Kevin for his contribution.

14.02.19 Police Report: December – 8 reports of minor incidents in Boulton Moor and 4 in the rural ward. Details are found at: <https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/SS03/crime/>.

15.02.19 Chairman's Report: none

16.02.19 Matters for Decision or Discussion:

1. Car parking issues. We await DCC's decision over painting yellow lines on roads around the village.
2. Update on bridge between Pool Close and Field Lane (if any). **Resolved:** DCllr Watson has been unsuccessful in progressing this; the chairman suggested this be raised at the Persimmon liaison meeting in March.
3. To consider the quotes for installing steps on the village green. SDDC's contractors need sufficient room (6 feet) for their grass mowers to access the green and is unwilling to consider gaining access from the footpath at Grove Close. **Resolved:** Cllrs Russell and Strand to view the site soon and revert.
4. To consider quotes for trimming of the green and removal of the hawthorn tree. **Resolved:** clerk to obtain 2 further quotes for removing the tree.
5. New 'welcome' sign at Colwell Drive. Clerk has reminded and awaits County Council's inspectors' further assessment of the site.
6. To discuss the possibility of online banking. **Resolved:** to begin Nat West's service (pp Cllr Strand, seconded Cllr Beadle). Those members present completed the bank mandate; clerk to obtain the absent members' signatures soon.
7. To consider receipts (if any) for reimbursement from the Elvaston Castle Action Group. **Resolved:** Sarah to forward her receipts to the clerk for reimbursement in the next meeting.
8. Outcome of the creation of a cricket club committee. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.
9. Training courses for both existing and new members including a bespoke course on s106 matters. **Resolved:** clerk booked 5 members on the Councillor Training session scheduled on 3rd June; and will chase DALC in arranging a bespoke s106 course.
10. To sign the s136 concurrent functions request form for 2018-19. **Resolved:** duly signed by the chairman and clerk.

17.02.19 Clerk's Report:

1. Clerk received no reply from Royal Mail over installing post boxes at Boulton Moor so will remind. However, a resident added that it will only install once roads have been adopted by the county council.

2. Since reminding Highways last month about the damaged road sign at the junction of the A6 and Broad Lane it has now been straightened.

18.02.19 Finance:

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001307	J Irons – Clerk’s salary January - February	519.80	-	519.80
001307	J Irons – home allowance January - February	18.00	-	18.00
Stand Order	N Mansell - Lengthsman pay January	285.60	-	285.60
001308	HMRC – clerk’s tax January	67.80	-	67.80
001309	DCC – clerk’s pension January	141.15	-	141.15
001310	Community Heartbeat Trust – pads for village hall defibrillator	38.00	7.60	45.60
	TOTAL	1070.35	7.60	1077.95

(b) **Income** – contribution from SFPC towards laptop hard drive £100

(c) **Bank balance as at 5th February 2019** £ 25826.18

19.02.19 To consider planning applications:

9/2019/0015 - THE PRUNING OF TREES AFFECTED BY TPO No 9 AT 6 GROVE COURT THULSTON. **Resolved:** no objection.
 9/2019/0131 - THE ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AT 28 GROVE CLOSE THULSTON. **Resolved:** no objection.

20.02.19 Items for Information: no major items of interest had been received. The latest DALC Circulars had been sent to members.

21.02.19 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- update on car parking issues (if any);
- update on booking of the s.106 course;
- update over quotes for installing steps on the village green (if any);
- update on Colwell Drive signage issue (if any);
- Outcome of the creation of a cricket club committee.

22.02.19 Date of next meeting: the next Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm (to be preceded by a Persimmon liaison meeting at 6.15pm).

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

23.02.19. To move the following resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960): *‘that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw’.*

24.02.19. Outcome of the chairman’s meeting with the lengthsman (if held) and to address a clause(s) in the clerk’s contract. **Resolved:** the meeting with the lengthsman was not held although the chairman is confident that Neil is unable to work more hours. Clerk to send contact details of another lengthsman to the chairman. A clause in the clerk’s contract was supplemented with an addition. Clerk had circulated the H&S policy and a newly drafted Equal Opportunity policy prior to the meeting. Members **agreed** to adopt the latter while confirming that all policies will be renewed in May.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

Signed

Cllr Paul Bickerton (Chairman)