

MINUTES of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 12th August 2019 at the Village Hall, Elvaston

Present:

Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), M Beadle, C Bennett and E Beech.

In Attendance: CCllr N Atkin, 41 parishioners and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.08.19: Apologies for absence Cllrs R Bullivant, G Dodson (holiday), S Spenser (recuperating), DCllr P Watson (at a Group Council Meeting) and DCllr D Corbin.

02.08.19. Variation of Order of Business to bring item 6 forward to item 4

03.08.19: Declaration of Members Interests None declared.

04.08.19: Elvaston Castle & Gardens Trust update

One of the two trustees present announced that the revised castle Masterplan would be published later this month. The Trust will have a stand at the Woodlands Festival in September where residents may make general enquiries. In addition open meetings will be introduced allowing residents to raise particular issues and for discussion. The chair of the EC Action Group, Sarah Leuenberger, asked of MACE's role; one trustee replied saying it has been appointed as a consultant. Sarah asked when the public will be informed of plans over the caravan park; the trustee said DCC is in charge of this within its management of the estate. The Trust is an independent charity that will manage the estate, a process to be gradually phased over 2-3 years. When asked whether the majority of trustees agree with the road and car park he replied to say it listens to the community and must consider all views although a compromise is preferable and needed.

A further discussion took place among all attendees highlighting concerns including the new access road, car park and the petitioning process conducted by the Action Group. The chairman asked residents to confine their questions and comments to the public speaking session.

05.08.19: Elvaston Castle Action Group update

Chairperson of the Group, Sarah Leuenberger, addressed attendees and sent a precis to the clerk as follows:

"I do not have any additional information to report to the parish council tonight but for accurate minute taking I will repeat the information given at the last meeting.

I would first ask that I am reported as Chair of the Elvaston Castle Action Group and that my name is given. I feel this is important as historical detail regarding which member of the group comments. At the last meeting I asked that the parish council be aware that all planning applications involving Elvaston Castle and the Country Park are considered as a whole, in their place within a Masterplan, not as separate issues so that council can be aware and recognise the selection criteria for screening Schedule 2 development.

The proposed new access road and car park that are planned by Derbyshire County Council and the company (trust is a misnomer) working alongside them might fall under Schedule 2, 10f - infrastructure such as roads exceeding 1 hectare. As such, South Derbyshire District Council Planning Authority should be requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment. It is a pity that Councillor Peter Watson is not here tonight as he is a member of the Planning Committee and might be able to advise.

However, I do feel the need to ask what the parish council is doing to safeguard the environmental importance of Elvaston Castle and the Country Park? Since the Localism Act of 2011 was introduced the council have had the legal opportunity to register Elvaston as an asset of community value. Why have you not done so? Where also are your Village Design Statement and Parish Plan - both useful tools in the fight against inappropriate development within the parish? Whilst you deliberate minor points the people of this parish who love the open green space that Elvaston Castle and Country Park provides are getting closer to witnessing environmental damage caused by a dual direction

access road across open parkland and a car park adjacent to a nature reserve.

10510 people signed a petition against the damaging aspects of the Masterplan, hundreds from your parish. I would like to request that as directors of the company implementing these plans attend parish council meetings that their meetings should be held in the public domain and their minutes freely available. Perhaps the parish council should request this whilst also pressing for disclosure of the name of the company awarded the caravan site tender. This tender was awarded last year and the company's business proposals and the impact this site will have in the community is of public interest. Thank you"

06.08.19: Response from SDDC over recent co-option events and upcoming election

The clerk began by reading an extract of an email reply from SDDC's Democratic Services (to Mr Birch's enquiry) explaining that the council did not act illegally in its co-option process. Clerk then read 2 passages from the letter he sent to SDDC's Monitoring Officer and the chief executive (Frank McArdle) on 28th July. The clerk finished by reading the Monitoring Officer's email advising that an election will be held on 3rd October to fill the 2 remaining vacancies on the council.

Earlier this day DCllr Watson sent a rebuttal statement to the clerk and chairman denying that he had accused council of acting illegally. Council categorically refute his explanation. The chairman stated that had DCllr Watson attended tonight he would have asked him to withdraw such allegations adding that he may have done irreparable damage and impugned council's reputation. He was disappointed that DCllr Watson had not attended tonight and will request this, and probably a public apology, of him in September's meeting.

07.08.19: Digital Derbyshire.

Mr Birch was pleased to announce the arrival of the new BT cabinet on Brook Road which should provide broadband speeds to Elvaston & Thulston of around 24 Mbps by the end of the month.

08.08.19: Councillor's Reports

Cllr Bennett observed that access to Field Lane Park is difficult, especially for the elderly. The chairman suggested this be a topic for the Persimmon meeting in September. He believes the brook needs to be dredged again, clerk to pursue.

Cllr Beech emailed the City Council for more information on the fixing of Armistice Day poppies to lamp-posts but without reply; clerk to pursue. She asked about the Wildlife Project on highway verges; clerk to chase Highways again to seek permission.

Cllr Beadle noted that some residents were subject to verbal abuse at the Food and Drink event on 21st July (see minute 18.08.19 below).

09.08.19: County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Neil Atkin

1. Cllr Atkin agreed with some residents that progress on the Castle Masterplan is slow but much depends on the recent application to the HLF for funding (the first application was rejected).
2. DCC is trying to deter a repeat of travellers camping on Colwell Drive although this is approach is to be co-ordinated through 3 councils (City, County & District).
3. The planning application for widening of Snelsmoor Lane (see minute 20.08.19 below) is reliant on s106 monies to be forthcoming from the developer. Once completed traffic calming measures and a decent pavement will be required to enhance safety, especially for school children.
4. Cllr Atkin received a complaint from a resident distraught over an unlit footpath on Bluebell Grange, Boulton Moor; a site visit will be conducted soon.

10.08.19: Elvaston Communities Group

Eve Wilson was pleased to announce that the jazz concert held on 26th July was a success; a Scottish band played and will probably be booked again next year. An 'Apple Day' will be held at the cricket club on 6th October and Eve asked for volunteers to assist. The Group will be cleaning and nurturing the churchyard later in August and planting wild flowers. Tending of the sensory garden continues. An Open Gardens day was held last Sunday which raised money for charity as will the upcoming 'Golden Gates gallop', details of which will appear on the website and Facebook page soon. The chairman thanked both Eve and the Group for their continued dedication.

11.08.19: Website maintenance.

The ex-councillor who created the new site has now rectified the accessibility issue and will continue to renew hosting and domain name for which council will reimburse him tonight. Cllr Beadle also holds the code and will maintain the site; she has uploaded minutes, agendas and policies and intends adding photos and a Facebook link soon. A contract with the ex-councillor has still to be drawn.

12.08.19: Public Speaking.

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

Boulton Moor:

Delayed opening of the primary school;

Footpath and pavement provision;

Waste bins and post boxes;

Shops and other amenities;

Bus services and routes;

Designated facilities for special needs children;

Community space(s) to accommodate a play group;

Access to Field Lane sports ground, especially important for children's health and exercise;

Speed limit on Snelsmoor Lane;

Dead trees not being replaced by Persimmon;

Persimmon Homes being unforthcoming with information;

Hedges on Sevenlands Drive that encroach onto the pavement (chairman asked the complainant for photos).

Castle (in addition to issues raised earlier):

A public vote over the intended new access road;

Traffic movement and volume in the area;

Comments both in favour and against the petitioning process;

Delay over a decision from HLF for funding.

The chairman thanked all residents for their comments and will raise the Boulton Moor questions at the Persimmon meeting in September.

13.08.19: County Councillor Atkin left at 9.20pm.

14.08.19: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th July 2019. 3 amendments were necessary (one at 12.07.19 (5), one at 13.07.19 and the other at 17.07.19). Once approved these were signed as a true record by the Chairman (pp Cllr Beadle seconded Cllr Beech).

15.08.19: Police Report. 7 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 21 in Boulton Moor in June. Details can be accessed at: <https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/SS03/crime/>

16.08.19: Flooding and Gravel. Kevin Birch believes a plan is needed to address any flooding issues in Elvaston and Ambaston; he kindly offered to produce one which could be posted on Facebook to which members **agreed**. Members considered Mr Birch's report of May 2019 and **agreed** that he can present this to the Quarry Liaison Meeting on 8th October. The chairman gave thanks to Kevin for his input.

17.08.19: Matters for Decision or Discussion

17.1 Parking issues. Cllr Beadle commented that parking restrictions required in the villages and due to be implemented by Highways is taking time. The Woodland Festival in September will benefit from a clearway being applied on roads which can be enforced by the police. The chairman politely asked Cllr Atkin if he would kindly ensure that Highways impose such measures, especially during the WF.

17.2 laying stones on the village green path. Clerk obtained 2 quotes for stoning of the path and has a third from another contractor. However, the 2 initial contractors have been asked for another quote to improve the 23m path that already exists. The 3rd contractor has provided a complete quote therefore clerk awaits a reply from the initial 2 contractors.

- 17.3 Revised NALC Model Financial Regulations 2019. **Resolved:** to be adopted (pp Cllr Beadle, seconded Cllr Beech).
- 17.4 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.
- 17.5 online banking. **Resolved:** Clerk and 2 members to meet soon to complete a new application with Unity Trust Bank, the previous having lapsed.
- 17.6 To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration. Discussed earlier at minute 08.08.19.
- 17.7 To consider the cost of, or contribution to, new clothing & boots for the lengthsman. **Resolved:** members agreed to fund in total.

18.08.19: Clerk's Report

- Cllr Bennett suggested placing a short welcome letter or poster on the notice boards. Members **agreed**, Cllr Bennett to arrange. He is also concerned about the lack of pavement on Selsmoor Lane. The chairman said this will be raised at the Persimmon meeting.
- Clerk received parish boundary maps from SDDC and sent them to lengthsman.
- Clerk wrote to 1 Yew Tree Lane regarding cutting their hedge that encroaches onto the Ball Lane pavement.
- The hitherto vacant allotment plot is now occupied.
- Simon Spenser sent thanks to everyone for their best wishes and now feels a lot better. The parking situation on Sunday 21st July, the day of the Food and Drink event at the Castle, was the worst ever and he, his wife and neighbours received verbal abuse from people parking illegally.
- Cllr Dodson is interested in First Aid course on 21st November which is prescribed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Members **agreed** to fund this at a cost of £95. Cllr Dodson is also interested in a Councillor Essentials training course to be held on 3rd December at a cost is £50. Those members present **agreed** council should fund it and wished to enrol too. Clerk to book and to ask Cllrs Bullivant and Spenser if they also wish to participate. Clerk to also ask DALC of the prospect of a s.106 course.
- Holt Way (Buttercup Leys Estate). SDDC is considering a resident's request for a fence at the woodland area opposite his house. District council is asking SNT to patrol the area while its planning department is assessing whether there is any responsibility on Persimmon Homes to erect boundary fencing.
- The lengthsman kindly provided a report on her activities and findings throughout July. Sarah Leuenberger congratulated Faye on her dutiful tidying of both wards and especially in light of her recent unfortunate accident. Council supported these comments and the chairman gave his special thanks to Faye.
- The village hall sign on Main Road is partly obscured; clerk to investigate.

19.08.19: Finance

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

Cheque No	Payee	£	VAT	Total
001340	J Irons – Clerk's salary to 2 nd July	491.63	-	491.63
001340	J Irons – clerk's expenses (see attached sheet) July	22.00	-	22.00
001340	J Irons – Clerk's salary to 30 th July (including repayment of overpaid tax thus far in 2019/20)	1064.83	-	1064.83
001340	J Irons – clerk's expenses (see attached sheet) August	18.00	-	18.00
001341	N Mansell - Lengthshman pay to 2 nd July	285.60	-	285.60
Stand order	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay to 2 nd July (rural ward)	285.60	-	285.60
Stand order	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay to 30 th July (rural ward)	285.60	-	285.60
001342	F Simnet - Lengthshman pay to 30 th July (BM ward)	229.80	-	229.80
-	HMRC – employees' tax July (nil due to overpaid tax – amount owed by HMRC which now totals £394.40)	-	-	-
001343	DCC – clerk's pension to 2 nd July	147.64	-	147.64
001343	DCC – clerk's pension to 30 th July	147.64	-	147.64
001344	Nunfield House – room hire for 15 th July meeting	45.00	-	45.00
001345	T Mansfield – website creation, hosting & domain	320.00	-	320.00
001346	Parish Council Websites – adding a plugin to the site	40.00	-	40.00
	TOTAL	3383.34	-	3383.34

(b) Income

- 1 allotment rent banked on 29th July £ 10.00

(c) Bank balance as at 5th August 2019 £36279.57

20.08.19: 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. ***This application itself expires on the 3rd September therefore no extension is permitted. If however for any reason the application is not determined by the 3 September, any comments provided prior to the determination of the application will be considered as part of the decision making process.*** Resolved: no objection

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. ***Expiry date for comments is the 16 September.***

Resolved: to hold discussion until both the Persimmon Homes meeting and the Ordinary meeting on 9th September.

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

22.08.19: Agenda items for the next meeting

- councillor training course and a s.106 course;
- Colwell Drive sign;
- To order lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration;
- Online banking;
- Contractor quotes to stone/ widen the path on the village green;
- Confirmation of the Persimmon meeting in September;
- Parish Plan and village development statement.

23.08.19: Date of next meeting is Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall (to be preceded by a Persimmon Homes liaison meeting).

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 10.10pm

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

24.08.19: 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.

25.08.19: 24. To discuss a matter of concern to be raised by the Clerk. **Resolved:** 3 items were discussed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.50pm

Signed

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)