

# Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Village Hall, Elvaston

## Present:

Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), E Beech, S Spenser, R Bullivant and G Dodson.

In Attendance: DCllr Peter Watson, CCllr Neil Atkin, 5 parishioners and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## **PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

**01.10.19: Apologies for absence** Cllr C Bennett (prior engagement).

### **02.10.19: Election of a Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Bennett was proposed by Cllr Beech and seconded by Cllr Bullivant. **Resolved:** Cllr Bennett was elected and will sign his declaration of acceptance of office form in the next meeting.

### **03.10.19: to consider co-option of possible new members**

Clerk confirmed that the seat vacated by Mel Beadle may now be advertised for co-option. Clerk awaits SDDC's confirmation regarding the remaining 2 vacant seats. Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mel for her dedication as a member of 6 years standing.

**04.10.19: Variation of Order of Business** to move item 10 to item 6.

**05.10.19: Declaration of Members Interests** None declared.

### **6.10.19: District Councillor's Report – DCllr Peter Watson.**

1. The recent Persimmon Homes liaison meeting went well and included a site visit. PH has paid the £4m owed to DCC as its contribution towards the new primary school. Generally no problems arise with roads or land ownership apart from a ransom strip which needs to be agreed. It is now due to open in 2021.
2. He was pleased to see Mr Birch at the gravel liaison meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October considering Kevin's recent health issue. Clerk to write to Kevin thanking him for his continued input to various issues and to wish him a speedy recovery.
3. The Environmental Health Officer inspected the crematorium at Aston in September in response to complaints over emissions. The report has been sent to Aston and is available on request from DCllr Watson.
4. Alluding to item 17.12 DCllr Watson suggested that a Neighbourhood Plan is preferable to a Parish Plan, not least because finance is available for its implementation. The chairman asked DCllr Watson to investigate which he will do.
5. He requested that district & county councillor reports to be brought forward on future agendas (as tonight's has been) to which the chairman agreed.

### **County Councillor's Report – CCllr Neil Atkin**

1. Adding to point 4 above CCllr Atkin noted that several parishes had completed a Neighbourhood Plan which tie into SDDC plans. Grants are available if the plan fits set criteria.
2. Adding to point 1 above he explained that the Spenser Academy will run the primary school. The Academy has applied to run the secondary school at Lowes Farm, Infinity Park and waits to see if it has been successful; this is reliant on the DofE's involvement.

Both district and county councillors left at 7.50pm.

### **07.10.19: Elvaston Castle Gardens Trust update**

In her absence Sarah Oakden, one of the trustees, sent the following to the clerk prior to the meeting:

- We have successfully obtained charitable status and can now raise funds as an established UK registered charity.
- We are holding a drop-in session for people wanting to hear/ understand more about the Masterplan and the Trust on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome. This will be an informal session with most trustees present. Parking will be in the staff car park and the event will take place in the Gothic Hall.

#### **08.10.19: Elvaston Castle Action Group update**

Sarah Leuenberger, Chair of Elvaston Castle Action Group kindly sent a precis of her report to the clerk which reads:

*"I would like to thank Parish Councillors Paul Bickerton and Colin Bennett for attending the last Elvaston Castle Action Group Meeting and for confirming the Elvaston Parish Council's continued support of the action group and its alternative proposal for Elvaston Castle and Country Park.*

*Our next meeting is on Monday, 21st October and I would like to invite any interested parish councillors to attend. It will be held at 57 Grove Close, Thulston at 7.30pm.*

*I would now like to refer to page 12 of DCC's Masterplan Version 7, now approved for implementation by the Elvaston Castle and Gardens Trust. Point 4 on page 12 concerns woodland and reads as follows: All woodland will be managed to ensure its health and biodiversity. However, as yet, there is no mention of any tree planting schemes to offset the environmental damage and tree loss that will be caused by the new access road and car parks.*

*I would like to ask the parish council to read and consider the following statement from the Director General of the National Trust which relates to a national requirement to plant an additional 180,000 hectares of woodland in the United Kingdom in an effort to increase the percentage of woodland in this country from 10% to 12%. A percentage which is still much lower than other European countries which average 30% woodland.*

*Could the parish council please consider a parish based tree planting scheme where pockets of land can be identified with landowners who are prepared to allow tree planting and then apply to the Woodland Trust and their community based scheme. The parish council would be able to apply for up to 420 saplings free of charge and there are funding schemes available to assist with the planting cost. I will give a copy of the information to the clerk. Thank you."*

Sarah had prepared a nomination form to have the Castle listed as an Asset of Community Value with SDDC to which members **agreed**. The chairman duly signed the form which the clerk will return to Sarah.

The chairman asserted council's continued support to the Group and believes a separate meeting is necessary to discuss the Parish Plan. He thanked the Group for its continued dedication and Sarah & Rachel Scott for their input during the last few months.

#### **09.10.19: Digital Derbyshire.**

Mr Birch had kindly advised the clerk before the meeting that Fibre connections within Thulston & Elvaston are in place, work is now being undertaken to connect Ambaston residents; this could be offered 'very soon' and hopefully before Christmas.

#### **10.10.19: Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Bullivant obtained 2 quotes for repair of the allotment gate and awaits a third.

Cllr Beech noted that the PH flyer distributed by her and Cllr Bennett was well-received by residents.

Cllr Bickerton is pleased to say that lamp-post poppies for the Armistice Day commemoration will be displayed soon; members to discuss.

Cllr Spenser was dismayed that 2 youths were seen shooting an air rifle in Ambaston recently. Police were called resulting in one arrest. It seems a domestic cat was shot, footage of which was captured on cctv. The chairman asked Cllr Spenser to keep him informed.

Cllr Dodson suggested providing a gift to Kevin Birch for his input and support in several issues. Members **agreed** and will consider for the next meeting.

#### **11.10.19: Elvaston Communities Group**

Referring to earlier discussion Eve Wilson announced that the Group's remit is to oversee a Parish Plan although added that it was created 10 years ago and needs updating. The chairman believes that the issue requires a specific meeting (as mentioned above) on a Saturday morning in which to consider a Parish Plan/ Neighbourhood

Plan and village development statement. This can be advertised to invite residents. He asked the clerk to invite Alan Graves from Derby City Council to the next parish meeting.

Eve is pleased to report that 2 new committee members have been appointed, bringing a total of 7; one vacant seat remains. The intended 'Apple Day' was cancelled due to rain (rendering it unfair to both attendees and volunteers). It will now be held at the village hall on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Referring to tree planting she confirmed that saplings are available from the Group. Volunteers are needed for the Remembrance Sunday commemoration events. The chairman suggested that future meetings should hear separate reports from the Communities Group and a Parish Plan Group.

#### **12.10.19: Website management.**

Ex-Cllr Beadle is kindly updating the site with minutes, agendas and policies. A Facebook link will be added soon once she has arranged this with the ex-councillor who created the new site. Members' details and photos will be inserted soon. A contract with the ex-councillor has still not been forthcoming therefore the clerk will create a contract for approval. The chairman remarked that photos of members should be taken in the next meeting

#### **13.10.19: Public Speaking.**

A resident once again complained of the Sturges Lane footpath that shows signs of limestone chipping and tree roots uplifting the tarmac; clerk has asked DCC to repair and will remind. He was pleased to announce the replacement of the bus shelter to replace the missing one on Shardlow Road.

Another resident complained in July of missing road markings in Grove Close over which the clerk contacted Highways. As nothing has been done the clerk will remind.

#### **14.10.19: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September and the Extraordinary meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.**

Once approved these were signed as a true record by the Chairman (former - pp Cllr Bullivant, seconded Cllr Beech; latter vice-versa).

**15.10.19: Police Report.** 8 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 13 in Boulton Moor in August. Details can be accessed at: <https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/SS03/crime/>. Cllr Dodson highlighted that empty cannabis bags had been found at the Golden Gates and the Castle; clerk to ask the PCSO to investigate.

#### **16.10.19: Flooding and Gravel.** Kevin Birch sent comments the clerk which reads:

1. STWA has over the past year or so been involved in relieving blockages in the village sewer system. Last year it seemed that there was a blockage that engineers thought may have emanated from the pumping station in Shardlow but after a week or so dealing with it within Ambaston it seemed to have been resolved. Engineers have made repeated visits to the Ambaston pumping station, presumably to monitor/maintain the system. You will be aware of villagers concerns about flooding and the volatility of the weather systems. Obviously, flooding within the flood defences will impact on the sewer system.

Could you ask STWA to comment on the following:

- a. A current update on existing problems within Ambaston
- b. The current sewer/pumping link between Ambaston and Shardlow
- c. The likelihood of sewer water leaking into river flood water in the event of the Derwent overtopping the flood bank.

d. Does STWA have a contingency plan to manage sewer water in the event of a flood within the village.

Clerk sent this to his contact at SDDC who liaises with STW.

*Reply from SDDC: I advise that the resident either writes into Severn Trent directly or emails via their web site link <https://www.stwater.co.uk/get-in-touch/contact-us/>*

*Also the District Council has an annual meetings open to all Parish Councils usually in November, as of yet I'm not aware of a schedule date, however I will advise when I have one. Representatives from all agencies attend including Severn Trent which specifically addressing flooding in the district.*

Mr Birch also complained of the state of the road surface on Ambaston Lane which continues to deteriorate; clerk has sent the comments to Mike Ashworth, Strategic Director, Economy, Transport & Communities, Derbyshire County Council.

### 17.10.19: Matters for Decision or Discussion

17.1 Parking issues: nothing further.

17.2 The village hall sign on Main Road. Clerk asked the church council if it could trim the hedge that partly obscures the signpost to the church and village hall on Main Road. This has been done although council now wish to install new sign; clerk to ask Highways.

17.3 Extra waste bins in Boulton Moor. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

17.4 Photos to be taken of members for insertion to the website. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting when these will be taken.

17.5 update on the intended Colwell Drive sign. Invoice to be paid tonight; once received the contractor will manufacture and fit the sign next month.

17.6 online banking. The requisite application forms were signed by Cllrs Bickerton & Spenser and the clerk who can now submit the application (along with the cheque at minute 20.10.19)

17.7 quotes for repair to the allotment gate; discussed earlier.

17.8 Refuse Freighter visit schedule. Clerk provided the SDDC website link that displays dates for collections (<https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/our-services/recycling-bins-and-waste/saturday-refuse-freighter>).

The next collection is on 18th January. Clerk to send this link to the chairman and lengthsman for insertion onto Facebook.

17.9 monitoring by SDDC of air pollution levels in the area. Clerk read SDDC's response as follows: *'It may take up to a few months for the first set of results to be available, as the diffusion tube is deployed for a month and then it has to be sent to a laboratory for them to be analysed to extract the result. It is worth noting that datasets usually have to be considered over an extended period, say 12 months, before reliable assessments can be made.*

Sarah Leuenberger kindly suggested that such diffusion tubes may be bought (at a cost of £8) and sent for analysis, the results of which are received much faster than that described above. Members **agreed** to buy 10 tubes; Sarah offered to send the details to the clerk.

17.10 to sign the NEST Pension direct debit form. **Resolved:** duly signed by the chairman.

17.11 to consider a contribution under s137 for the RBL poppy appeal. **Resolved:** to contribute £150.

17.12 To consider the creation of a Parish Plan & village development statement. Discussed earlier.

**18.10.19:** Cllr Spenser left at 9.30pm

### 19.10.19: Clerk's Report

1. 1. SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2019: The Derby 10mile road race is taking place and part of its route is through Elvaston Castle grounds and perimeter path between:10:24 and 11:42 hours. During these times there will be runners on the paths around the Castle Grounds.

2. Renovation and laying of the path at the village green will commence on Monday 4th November.

3. Solicitor confirmed that Derbyshire County Council is progressing the application to register the village green in the council's ownership albeit slowly. Unfortunately the DCC representative was unable to provide a timescale of when this will be completed.

4. In her role at the council ex-councillor Russell checked the Defibrillators and has now asked that a present member do this. Cllr Bennett has already agreed and clerk will update him in the next meeting.

5. The WI asked for a financial contribution to help pay for its events. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

6. Our lengthsman wishes to create a poster for the notice boards explaining the process of litter picking and collection of the green sacks; she placed a post on Facebook some months ago but feels the notice boards also need the information. Members **agreed**. Also she witnessed a man moving the full sacks and placing them out of sight. The chairman will speak to her about this issue.

### 20.10.19: Finance:

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

| Cheque No   | Payee   | £      | VAT | Total  |
|-------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
| 001351      | J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 24 <sup>th</sup> September                | 606.23 | -   | 606.23 |
| 001351      | J Irons – clerk's expenses in August (home allowance)                         | 18.00  | -   | 18.00  |
| Stand order | F Simnet - Lengthshman pay 4 weeks to 24 <sup>th</sup> September (rural ward) | 285.60 | -   | 285.60 |
| 001352      | F Simnet - Lengthshman pay 4 weeks to 24 <sup>th</sup> September (BM ward)    | 285.60 | -   | 228.80 |

|        |  |                |               |                |
|--------|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 001352 | F Simnet – tax refund due to tax code change   | 112.60         | -             | 112.60         |
| -      | HMRC – employees’ tax August ( <b>nil</b> due to overpaid tax –amount owed by HMRC now totals £433.40) | -              | -             | -              |
| 001353 | DCC – clerk’s pension September  | 147.64         | -             | 147.64         |
| 001354 | RBL – poppies & windmills for Armistice Day  | 480.00         | -             | 480.00         |
| 001355 | Elvaston PC – deposit for council’s Unity Bank account   | 500.00         | -             | 500.00         |
| 001356 | Viewtec Signs Ltd – new village sign at Colwell Drive  | 683.01         | 136.60        | 819.61         |
| 001357 | Cllr C Bennett – reimbursement for Persimmon flyers  | 55.00          | -             | 55.00          |
|        | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>3173.68</b> | <b>136.60</b> | <b>3310.28</b> |

As Cllr Spenser left at 9.30pm his signature was not obtained. Therefore members **agreed** to the clerk visiting him for cheque signing (having already sanctioned the amounts above).

(b) **Income** – none

(c) Bank balance as at 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 £31416.25

**21.10.19: To consider planning applications:**

Ref. No: DMPA/2019/1041 - Listed Building Consent for the conversion of a single dwelling, garages, workshop, swimming pool and offices to provide 6 individual dwellings with courtyard parking with associated internal and external alterations at The Steading, Main Road, Elvaston. NB: council submitted objection comments last month when previous application DMPA/2019/0887 was received. **Resolved:** no objection.

DMPA/2019/1119 - Approval of reserved matters for access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of outline permission ref. 9/2015/0998 on LAND AT SK4031 4970, The Triangle, Boulton Moor. *NB: outline permission was granted on 31-Jul-2017.* **Resolved:** no objection.

DMPA/2019/1102 - The erection of extensions at 6 Hanslynn, Thulston. **Resolved:** Cllr Dodson to peruse the site and circulate her views to members.

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

**23.10.19: Agenda items for the next meeting:**

- Extra waste bins in the parish;
- Parking and Community Speed-watch Group;
- Defibrillator checks;
- The village hall sign on Main Road;
- Photos to be taken and details of members created for insertion to the website;
- Tree planting in the area;
- To consider a donation to the WI;
- Online banking;
- Repair to the allotment gate;
- The village hall sign on Main Road;
- To raise a cheque under s 137 for the RBL poppy appeal for £150.
- Outcome of the Parish Plan & village development statement meeting (if held).
- To consider a gift to Kevin Birch for his continued service and support of the council;
- Christmas tree on the village green.

**24.10.19:** Date of next meeting is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

**There being no further business the Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 9.45pm**

Signed .....  
Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)

Date.....