

Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 9th December 2019 at the Village Hall, Elvaston

Present:

Cllrs P Bickerton (Chairman), C Bennett, E Beech and R Bullivant.

In Attendance: DCllrs Peter Watson, 12 parishioners and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

01.12.19: Apologies for absence Cllrs G Dodson (holiday) and S Spenser (work commitments), CClr N Atkin and DCllr D Corbin.

02.12.19: To consider the co-option of possible new members. Sarah Leuenberger expressed her interest in being co-opted. **Resolved:** members to consider her application and a decision and/ or possible interview to be held over to the next meeting.

03.12.19: Variation of Order of Business none

04.12.19: Declaration of Members Interests Cllrs Bennett and Bickerton declared an interest at agenda item 17.8. The chairman apologised for any confusion over the decision made in the last meeting. Both councillors altered their ROIs to reflect their interests which the clerk will send to SDDC.

05.11.19: District Councillor report.

DCllr Peter Watson.

1. DCllr Watson disagreed with 2 of the recorded statements of his report of the last meeting; clerk to amend the minutes. One of these confirmed that he has received an OCOR letter confirming its intentions on more defences and how these will affect the villages. DCllr Watson, Kevin Birch and 2 members of Shardlow's parish council will meet with OCOR soon.
2. Neighbourhood Plan; both the planning officer and the Community Partnership Officer are aware of our interest and can be contacted.
3. In light of recent flooding problems here and in other parishes a Flood Evacuation meeting will be held soon; a date has yet to be set. Although DCllr Watson had not been notified of any properties having been flooded in this area it was pointed out by residents that 4 properties were evacuated at the Lodge entrance.
4. The Fire Service is concerned over the numbering of new houses at Boulton Moor with some roads not being continuous in their house numbers. The chairman suggested that this be raised in the next Persimmon liaison meeting and in the meantime clerk to send a note to the operations manager.
5. SDDC proposes a change to the concurrent expenses system which will in most areas result in an increase in the grant given. The present system was last altered in 2008 and excluded single-occupied dwellings. The upcoming change will involve all properties and will be reviewed annually.

Cllr Bennett highlighted that he had spoken to Derby City council about the footbridge from BM to Field Lane, its suggestion being that a planning application can be submitted. DCllr Watson was sceptical but will speak to the SDDC planning officer; Cllr Bennett to send him details.

DCllr Watson wished everyone a happy festive season after which he left at 8.00pm.

06.12.19: Elvaston Castle Gardens Trust update

A trustee (Sarah Oakden-Nancarrow) reported that the Trust is still negotiating with HLF for funding. Business modelling is ongoing in accordance with the Masterplan and the Trust is developing the Coronation Meadow. Further drop-in sessions are planned next year where residents can glean information. The County Council is presently providing some funds to pay for renovation work. Celebratory events are also planned next year in light

of the park's 50th anniversary. Two parties have shown interest in utilising Home Farm for leisure facilities; this will cost around £1.5-2m

Two residents voiced concern over the Trust's apparent ambivalence regarding the Coronation Meadow's importance with both suggesting that more protections of it are needed (enforcing the absence of horses for example). One resident insisted that DCC should address the drainage issues which were exacerbated during recent bad weather adding that dredging the lake and streams was required. Another resident believed the Trust had little consideration for the environmental impact of the intended road layout. Sarah refuted these allegations replying that trustees that attend parish council meetings note any comments and concerns which they report to the Trust. All necessary assessments of the various issues raised will be conducted in time by experts and she appreciates that it is a slow process although it must conform to the communities' needs.

The chairman asked members if they wished to continue to receive both the Trust's report and the Action Group's report in the same parish meeting to which members **agreed** they did. Clerk to ask DCllr Watson whether parishioners and/or members were allowed to attend the upcoming Flood Evacuation meeting. A resident offered to post the council's flood plan on Facebook. The chairman thanked one particular resident who had checked on vulnerable properties and residents that fell victim to the flooding.

07.12.19: Elvaston Castle Action Group update

Sarah Leuenberger, Chair of Elvaston Castle Action Group noted the following points:

1. She received a letter from SDDC regarding the nomination of the Castle for the Asset of Community Value which in its present form is not valid. Council needs to obtain an amended plan from the Land Registry showing ownership boundaries; clerk to request.
2. Sarah is very concerned about the rural ward councillor vacancies and a particular member's lack of presence at Group meetings.
3. She stressed the importance of instigating a Parish Plan and village design statement and funding for a Neighbourhood Plan as quickly as possible. These would help protect Elvaston Castle and its nature reserve. The latter is approximately 0.85 hectares and a recent Derbyshire environmental study recommended at least 10 hectares of reserve should exist in this area.
4. Sarah asked whether the council had received the air pollution monitor tubes from Gradko; clerk replied saying these will be paid for tonight after which we expect delivery in about a week.

08.12.19: Digital Derbyshire.

Mr Birch stated that testing and upgrading of the infrastructure continues and should be complete in 2-3 months.

9.12.19: Councillor's Reports

Cllr Bennett mentioned the BM-Field Lane bridge earlier. He reported a fault with the Orchard Close pumping station to Severn Trent who sent an engineer to investigate. SDDC will collect the Mountfield Way bin and resite it on Colwell Drive. Cllr Bennett suggested members should carry business cards containing their contact details which was **agreed**. Cllr Bennett to source quotes for such cards and investigate the most appropriate method/provider of email addresses.

Cllr Beech suggested placing another bin at Sevenlands Drive (see minute 17.3 below).

The chairman thanked members for removing the Armistice Day commemoration poppies from lamp-posts.

10.12.19: Elvaston Communities Group

Eve Wilson was pleased to announce a successful year for the Group. The Christmas celebration will be held at the Harrington Arms on 15th December at 6.30pm, including a performance by Melbourne's brass band. The carol booklet is missing although more will be printed. Events being arranged for next year include the 'Apple Day', Bingo night, jazz night, village fete and the WW1 commemoration. A Parish Plan has been created which the committee is now considering; flyers will be printed for residents' awareness/ information and possible questions. An open day at the village hall will be held in the Spring to hear their views.

11.12.19: Parish/ Neighbourhood Plan update. Discussed above and to be an ongoing topic in the future.

12.12.19: Website management. Resolved: the ex-councillor who maintains and hosts the website will continue but it is dependent on him providing an instruction session with Cllr Bennett involving maintenance issues, log-in

details etc; and a bespoke contract being agreed between council and himself (pp Cllr Bennett, seconded Cllr Beech).

13.12.19: Public Speaking.

A BM resident rues the behaviour of errant car drivers and youths on bikes/ mopeds which has been reported to the police. The chairman explained that although inviting the local PCSO many times we still do not benefit from her attendance. Clerk to ask the PCSO's supervisor for an appearance in the next meeting and complain that this area gets short shrift in police patrolling and presence.

14.12.19: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th November 2019.

After 2 minor amendments were made these were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman (pp Cllr Bennett, seconded Cllr Beech).

15.12.19: Police Report. 4 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 17 in Boulton Moor in October. Details can be accessed at: <https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/SS03/crime/>.

16.12.19: Flooding and Gravel. Nothing further to report.

17.12.19: Matters for Decision or Discussion

- 17.1 Parking issues: nothing further and no additional volunteers for the Speed Watch campaign at present.
- 17.2 The village hall sign on Main Road. The contractor that supplied the BM sign can also provide a Highways compliant village hall sign. **Resolved:** clerk to obtain a quote for a sign that states village hall, cricket club and church.
- 17.3 Extra waste bins in Boulton Moor. Clerk has ordered a new bin to be placed on the lay-by on Main Road, Elvaston. **Resolved:** to order an additional bin to accompany the existing one at Sevenlands Drive.
- 17.4 Photos of members for insertion onto the website. **Resolved:** held over to the extraordinary meeting in January.
- 17.5 online banking. The Unity Trust bank account is now functional although funds have not yet been transferred from the Nat West bank owing to a mandate anomaly. Clerk visited the Nat West but was refused information as he is not a signatory. **Resolved:** Cllr Bickerton to visit the bank to obtain the necessary details and council to continue with the Nat West account in the interim. Also, to prepare against the possibility that this transfer will not be completed in time for the next meeting members agreed for a nominal transfer of funds from Nat West to Unity and for this to be sanctioned at the extraordinary meeting in January.
- 17.6 quotes for repair to the allotment gate. **Resolved:** Cllr Bullivant has spoken to a contractor about 2 new gates and will obtain a quote which will be considered by members before the next meeting. If agreed in principle the quote can be accepted and the gates may be fitted.
- 17.7 Tree planting in the area and Christmas tree on the village green. **Resolved:** former to be held over to the next meeting; latter to be considered around middle of next year.
- 17.8 recent ECG grant application and decision. The decision was discussed earlier (minute 04.12.19). **Resolved:** agreed to hold over to the next meeting.
- 17.9 possible repair to Sevenlands Drive notice board. **Resolved:** repair agreed.
- 17.10 budget review. **Resolved:** to hold an extraordinary meeting in early January to discuss both this and agenda item 24.
- 17.11 To consider a donation to the WI. **Resolved:** agreed (pp Cllr Beech, seconded Cllr Bullivant).

18.12.19: Clerk's Report

1. Reply from DCC over the footpath repair to the path at Sturges Lane: '*I inspected the public footpath and I'm afraid that our budget is fully committed this financial year, I will consider surfacing improvements on this path in the future if the funding is available*'. Item to be discussed in the next meeting.
2. Due to laptop screen problems clerk has ordered a new cable to allow a separate monitor to be used.
3. The Harrington Arms defibrillator needs a PAT test which should be conducted every 5 years; this is now due. Contractor will arrange a suitable date with the Harrington and then confirm.
4. Members **agreed** to sign the Armed Forces Covenant which commits council's support of serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families.

19.12.19: Finance:

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

| Chq no. | Payee | £ | VAT | Total |
|-------------|--|----------------|----------|----------------|
| 001358 | J Irons – Clerk’s salary 4 weeks to 19 th November | 606.23 | - | 606.23 |
| As above | J Irons – clerk’s expenses in October (home allowance) | 18.00 | - | 32.35 |
| As above | J Irons – payment of NEST direct debit 27 th Nov | 39.99 | - | 39.99 |
| Stand order | F Simnet - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 19 th November (rural ward); paid via Nat West Bank on 29 th November | 285.60 | - | 285.60 |
| 001362 | F Simnet - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 19 th November (BM ward) | 262.75 | - | 262.75 |
| - | HMRC – employees’ tax to 19 th November (nil due to overpaid tax –amount owed by HMRC now totals £416.80) | - | - | - |
| 001363 | DCC – clerk’s pension November | 147.64 | - | 147.64 |
| 001364 | Diane Malley – admin of NEST scheme 2019-20 | 36.00 | - | 36.00 |
| 001365 | LRS Landscapes – modification of village green paths | 1600.00 | - | 1600.00 |
| | TOTAL | 2996.21 | - | 2996.21 |

In the absence of the second cheque signatory (Cllr Spenser) members **agreed** to the clerk visiting him at home to obtain his signature.

(b) **Income** – none

(c) Bank balance as at 5th December 2019 £27860.41

20.12.19: To consider planning applications:

Derby City application: 04/13/00351 (amended plans & Environmental Statement Addendum): OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION - for up to 800 dwellings (Class C3) with all matters reserved except access; access to be fixed off Snelsmoor Lane and Field Lane, a sustainable drainage system of attenuation ponds/swales, new primary school (Class D1) with playing field, alongside open space including creation of country park (including footpath/cycleways, wildflower meadows, public orchard etc.) and Green Infrastructure network. FULL PLANNING APPLICATION - for 245 dwellings (Class C3) including site roads, Infrastructure, landscaping, attenuation ponds and play areas. | Land North Of Snelsmoor Lane Chellaston. **Resolved:** no objection.

DMOT/2019/1216 - The crown reduction of a whitebeam tree covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order no. 355 at Whitebeam, 2 Oak Road, Thulston. **Resolved:** no objection.

21.12.19: Items for information. No major items of interest were received; DALC updates have been circulated .

22.12.19: Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Parking and Community Speed-Watch Group;
- Neighbourhood/ Parish Plan;
- Tree planting in the area;
- Website contract & email addresses for members;
- Supply of business cards to members;
- Possible funding options for a repair to the footpath at Sturges Lane;
- Outcome of the recent Budget review meeting;
- Repair of the allotment gate;
- Hedge trimming of village green;
- To revisit the ECG grant application for the amount of £1475;
- To raise a cheque/transfer for the WI to the amount of £250.

23.12.19: The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

24.12.19 To consider an employment matter raised by the clerk. **Resolved:** held over to the extraordinary meeting in early January.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked attendees, wished everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 11.00pm

Signed
Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman)

Date.....

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