

## **Minutes of the ELVASTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 13th January 2020 at the Village Hall, Elvaston**

### **Present:**

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

**In Attendance:** DCllr Peter Watson, 11 parishioners and J Irons (clerk).

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

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

**01.01.20: Declaration of Members Interests** Cllrs Bennett and Bickerton declared an interest at agenda item 17.8 and left the room for 4 minutes.

**02.01.20: Apologies for absence** Cllr S Spenser (work commitments), CCllr N Atkin and DCllr D Corbin (both at a meeting at SDDC).

**03.01.20: To consider the co-option of possible new members. Resolved:** a resident once again expressed an interest in being co-opted. Cllr Dodson proposed the motion and the chairman seconded; however no show of hands among remaining councillors was forthcoming so the motion was not carried. A heated discussion ensued over this decision after which 4 parishioners left.

**04.01.20: Variation of Order of Business** none

### **05.01.20: District & County Councillor reports.**

#### **CCllr Neil Atkin.**

In his absence CCllr Atkin sent the following to the clerk prior to the meeting which the clerk read out. ' *As we have had the festive holiday there has been no business to report back to you all.*

*The only issue likely to arise for your information is the planned road closure on the A514 northbound (Swarkestone to Chellaston). The Southbound of the A514 Chellaston to Melbourne will remain open throughout. Works have started and will continue until end of February starting with 3 way temporary traffic lights and then in February the northbound will close to all traffic. This will result in traffic finding an alternative route.*

*School buses are diverting through Weston & Aston then the A6 to Chellaston school. This is not ideal and may be subject to change. I have asked for this to be discussed at the next round of the area Melbourne Forum'*

#### **DCllr Peter Watson.**

1. There is some confusion over whether the District or City own the bridge at Thulston Brook; DCllr Watson suggested a separate meeting with councillors to discuss with which the chairman agreed.
2. In addition to the above report he stated that an accident had occurred on the Swarkeston causeway and traffic is now being directed by traffic lights.
3. The next Area Forum will take place at the Melbourne Sporting Partnership on 5th February.
- 4 The next Flood Liason meeting will be held at Swadlincote on 6th February and he hopes that Kevin Birch will be able to attend.
5. DCllr Watson had recently received emails pertaining to recent parish council procedure.

A resident asked whether district council's waste collection service will operate 4-weekly. DCllr Watson replied saying that there seems to be a distortion of the facts in circulation and is unlikely to be passed at SDDC. A response from the latter is due by Thursday this week.

DCllr Watson left at 7.48pm.

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

Two trustees were present (Dr Andrew Durrant and David Ashton). David stated that 2 new trustees had recently been appointed, one being an architect who is already considering improvements to the shop and cafe. The Trust is presently working on the business plan to align with the Masterplan but stressed that the Trust is against residential development. It is also discussing non-business projects although these will not generate any revenue. Wildlife projects and events fall into this category while schools will also be involved for educational purposes. Restoration of the sunken gardens, boathouse, Italian garden, woodland play area, Pump House and walking routes is being planned and re-opening of the caravan park will take place. Another drop-in session will be held in March where residents can obtain information and raise questions.

David alluded to another trustee's recent request of the clerk of changes to the minutes of the previous meeting however members denied such changes.

Eve Wilson of the ECG mentioned that the Group had been developing the sensory garden and spent money doing so. David said this is fine and encouraged the Group to continue.

**07.01.20: Elvaston Castle Action Group update.** Nothing reported.

#### **08.01.20: Digital Derbyshire.**

Mr Birch stated that broadband infrastructure is complete and all households should be connected by 24th February.

#### **9.01.20: Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Bennett had spoken to Bellway Homes about the BM-Field Lane bridge and presented a plan of the site. The chairman suggested that this be discussed at the upcoming meeting with DCllr Watson concerning the Thulston Brook bridge. This meeting should include a Community Group member. After reporting the fault with the Orchard Close pumping station Severn Trent attended and cleaned the pumps. It was agreed in the last meeting that members should carry business cards containing their contact details. Cllr Bennett will create a draft of such a card to circulate to members for their perusal. He obtained a quote from a publisher for numerous cards with which council agreed. Cllr Bullivant sourced another quote for an allotment gate and will receive it tomorrow.

#### **10.01.20 Elvaston Communities Group**

Eve Wilson was pleased to announce that the Christmas carols event at the Harrington Arms on 15<sup>th</sup> December went well and £500 was raised for the Homestart charity. Missing song sheets were replaced with new. The Group will decide on which charities to support at its meeting tomorrow night. Preparation has begun on the forthcoming Fete event. There are now 7 members of the Group concentrating on the upgrading of the Parish Plan. Once finalised flyers for residents will be printed including information over the Plan and a questionnaire gleaning their views. Eve suggested an estimate of £350 for these plus a further amount for envelopes although council wondered if the latter are necessary (in light of environmental concerns). The Group will probably ask for a grant from council to cover this cost. Leaflets can be dropped off to a volunteer in both wards to distribute the leaflets. Once the questionnaires have been returned from residents workshops will be arranged to discuss findings and preferences with them. The information will be published via Facebook and some publications and through local groups.

She thanked Cllr Bullivant for the display of poppies at the war memorial, a comment echoed by the chairman.

**11.01.20: Parish/ Neighbourhood Plan update.** PP was discussed above, nothing reported on a NP.

**12.01.20: Website management. Resolved:** the clerk sent a draft hosting contract to the ex-councillor who maintains and hosts the website for his perusal and awaits his comments.

**13.01.20: Public Speaking.**

A resident asked a EGT trustee (Andrew Durrant) whether staffing levels will be increased at the Castle. Andrew replied saying that c£200k pa is spent on staff and any increase in workforce depends on work to be undertaken. Therefore it is difficult to estimate how many Rangers and gardeners will be needed and consequently the cost of such. The Trust wishes to increase staffing but much is reliant on funding. The resident also asked whether restoration of the Pump House includes the wheel. David Ashton said it is looking at details and costs at present. Volunteers from Rolls-Royce are a possibility when considering the requirements of the wheel-house but funding is needed for staff to supervise them which creates a vicious circle.

**14.01.20: To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and the extraordinary meeting held on 8th January 2020.**

These were approved by members and signed as a true record by the Chairman (pp Cllr Bennett, seconded Cllr Beech).

**15.01.20: Police Report.** 4 minor incidents were reported on the police website in the rural ward, 10 in Boulton Moor in November. Details can be accessed at:

<https://www.police.uk/derbyshire/SS03/crime/> .

**16.01.20: Flooding and Gravel.**

Kevin Birch confirmed that he will attend the Flood Liason Meeting at SDDC on 6th February. Following the recent flooding around 8th November the emergency services responded to Ambaston with boats to prepare to evacuate the hamlet. The roads into Ambaston were impassable due to fast flowing, deep flood waters and had been for some hours before a Flood Warning was issued. The subject of evacuation was of specific concern at the Interagency Group Meeting that took place on 12 November in the Village Hall. At that meeting the practical difficulties of evacuation and subsequent safety of evacuees identified the lack of specific information about medical and mobility needs and, importantly, who would wish to be evacuated. Hence Stephen Peace (Emergency Planner) drafted a questionnaire for residents to complete in order to gauge initial views about who might wish to be evacuated and those wishing to remain. Council had perused the questionnaire ahead of tonight's meeting and **agreed** its content. Kevin will now kindly relay this to Emergency Planning at DCC so that it can reproduce the questionnaire on letter-headed paper.

Although DCC will send this directly to residents Mr Birch is concerned that any advice sought of him from residents may leave him vulnerable to litigation should an evacuation/ flood problem arise. Therefore clerk to investigate the possibility of either including him in its public liability insurance cover or providing similar bespoke cover.

**17.01.20: Matters for Decision or Discussion**

17.1 Parking issues: nothing further and no additional volunteers for the Speed Watch campaign have come forward at present.

17.2 The village hall sign on Main Road. The contractor that supplied the BM sign has provided a quote for a Highways compliant sign with which members **agreed**.

17.3 Extra waste bins in Boulton Moor. Clerk received an offer from Gill Forester at the Castle of 6 unused waste bins which council accepted. Hence the clerk has cancelled an order from SDDC for a

new bin at the lay-by on Main Road, Elvaston and an additional bin to accompany the existing one at Sevenlands Drive. Two of the donated bins may be used for these sites.

17.4 Photos of members for insertion onto the website. **Resolved:** held over to the next meeting.

17.5 online banking. clerk sent an interim Nat West cheque to Unity Trust bank before Christmas to add funds (£2k) to its account. However, this is now to be increased and clerk to send another cheque to the amount of £20k. The remaining c£1500 in the Nat West account will gradually dissipate in standing orders to the lengthsman (see minute 19 (a))resulting in the eventual closure of this account.

17.6 quotes for repair to the allotment gate. **Resolved:** discussed earlier. Clerk to create a council contact poster for placing on the gate.

17.7 Tree planting in the area. **Resolved:** to be held over to the next meeting.

17.8 recent ECG grant application. Cllrs Bickerton and Bennett left the room due to their interest after which the matter was discussed by remaining members. **Resolved:** to grant the application (pp Cllr Dodson, seconded Cllr Bullivant).

17.9 trimming of the hedge around the war memorial and hedge trimming of village green.**Resolved:** to ask an ex-councillor to trim the former and and a contractor to trim the latter.

17.10 Possible funding options for a repair to the footpath at Sturges Lane. DCC will not undertake this due to lack of funds. **Resolved:** clerk to ask DCC the cost of this after which council will consider paying for it.

17.11 outcomes from the recent extraordinary meeting (budget review etc) and to sign the Form A precept request **Resolved:** clerk gave a brief explanation of revenue and expenditure for both this and next year. The Form A precept request (unchanged from last year) was duly signed by chairman and clerk. Clerk added that the budget will be posted on the website at the end of this week.

#### 18.01.20: Clerk's Report

1. SDDC will increase the concurrent functions grant next year by £5472 (current c£7200) to reflect the increase in properties across the district since the last review. The basis of the allocation will change from Band D properties to the *total number of properties*.

2. Due to laptop screen problems throughout the past 3 weeks clerk has now ordered a new screen (£120). Has tried a separate cable and monitor over the festive period (kindly provided by Cllr Bennett) but while this worked for a time eventually the data did not transmit to the monitor screen.

3. Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer, SDDC supplied the following details: Grants of up to £100,000 Available for Community Facilities (England) to include the following:

Registered Charities, churches, Parish Councils, Local Authorities and CASC registered sports clubs can apply for grants of between £2,000 and £100,000 for the provision, maintenance or improvement of community facilities.

4. Contractor has fitted a new door to the damaged notice board Sevenlands Drive.

#### 19.01.20: Finance:

(a) Accounts for Payment – online payments to be approved and authorised:

| Unity Ref   | Payee   | £      | VAT | Total  |
|-------------|---|--------|-----|--------|
| 14th Jan    | J Irons – Clerk's salary 4 weeks to 17 <sup>th</sup> December   | 606.43 | -   | 606.43 |
| As above    | J Irons – clerk's expenses in December (home allowance etc)   | 294.59 | -   | 294.59 |
| Stand order | F Simnet - Lengthsman pay 4 weeks to 17 <sup>th</sup> December (rural ward); paid via <i>Nat West Bank</i> on 27 <sup>th</sup> December | 548.35 | -   | 548.35 |
| -           | HMRC – employees' tax to 19 <sup>th</sup> November ( <b>nil</b> due to overpaid tax –amount owed by HMRC now totals £408.60)            | -      | -   | -      |
| 14th Jan    | DCC – clerk's pension December  | 147.64 | -   | 147.64 |

|                  |   |                |   |                |
|------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| d/debit<br>Unity | NEST: I/man's pension contribution on 6th Dec<br>(Nov cont)       | 39.99          | - | 39.99          |
| Unity            | NEST: I/man's pension cont. (employee) on 24 <sup>th</sup><br>Dec | 79.97          | - | 79.97          |
| d/debit<br>Unity | NEST: I/man's pension cont. (employee) on 31 <sup>st</sup><br>Dec | 39.98          | - | 39.98          |
| 14th Jan         | DALC – councillor training (4 in August, 1 in<br>December)        | 250.00         | - | 250.00         |
| 14th Jan         | Elvaston WI - donation under s137                                 | 250.00         | - | 250.00         |
|                  | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>2256.95</b> | - | <b>2256.95</b> |

(b) **Income** – none

(c) Bank balance as at 3rd January 2020 £23559.58

As mentioned above the chairman and clerk deemed it essential that following the recent cheque of £2000 transferred from Nat West Bank to the Unity Trust Bank (now successfully deposited) a further amount of £20k should also be transferred with which members **agreed**. In the absence of the second cheque signatory (Cllr Spenser) members **agreed** to the clerk visiting him at home to obtain his signature on this additional cheque.

**20.01.20: To consider planning applications:**

DMPA/2019/1369 - The demolition of attached garage and the erection of extensions and detached garage at 27 Mountfield Way, Boulton Moor. **Resolved:** no objection.

**21.01.20: Items for information.** No major items of interest were received; DALC updates have been circulated . A card from the RBL was received by the clerk thanking council for its donations to the Poppy Appeal in November.

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

- Parking and Community Speed-Watch Group;
- Neighbourhood/ Parish Plan;
- Tree planting in the area;
- Website contract;
- Reply from DCC over the cost of repair to the footpath at Sturges Lane (if any);
- business cards for members;
- New allotment gate;
- To raise a payment to ECG for the amount of £1475 (grant application).

**23.01.20:** The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

**There being no further business the Chairman thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 9.06pm**

**Signed** .....

**Date**.....

Cllr P Bickerton (Chairman).