



Minutes of the meeting of Elvaston Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2020
Online meeting facility via Zoom – Meeting ID 885-7244-3691

PRESENT: Cllr S Leuenberger (Chairman), Cllr P Bickerton (Vice Chairman), Cllr G Dodson, Cllr B Slater, Cllr C Bennett, District Cllr D Corbin, District Cllr P Watson, Clerk, F Stanbrook (Minutes) and 5 members of public

Reference	Agenda Item		Action
131/2020-21	Apologies for Absence	DCllr N Atkin, there were some broadband issues and both Cllr Dodson and Cllr Mansfield were present intermittently throughout the duration of the meeting.	
132/2020-21	Declaration of Interest	Cllr Leuenberger and Cllr Slater for Elvaston Castle Action Group – related to agenda item 12 ECCP Cllr Mansfield for the website agenda item 13.	
133/2020-21	Variation of Order of Business	Item 16 requested to be discussed after District and County Cllr reports – this was accepted.	
134/2020-21	Public Participation	A member of public attended to raise 2 issues: regarding poppy installation and the Remembrance Day civic ceremony. Both items were discussed briefly and advised they would be covered in more detail by their agenda item. A resident attended to speak about Sturges Lane footpath, and detailed a map from the 1800s which confirms the original boundaries. This information was noted.	
135/2020-21	Reports from outside bodies	DCllr D Corbin – reported he has received a request for information regarding the parish demographic to support the Parish Plan. He has passed this request to the correct person and will respond as soon as he has received a response. Sturges Lane grant application was turned down due to land ownership issues which have now been updated and clarified – hopefully this will be resolved and the grant will be awarded very soon. The level of award was just over 95k out of a potential 275k which means the grant can be rolled to a second year. There is encouragement for all applications to be made to SDDC and the criteria for match funding has been waived. All ideas can be submitted to Ian Hey and DCllr Corbin to ensure they hit the criteria and it is important to note it is not just community orientated; but environmental too. DCllr P Watson – thanks given to Chairman and Clerk for making the meetings so accessible for all who wish to attend. DCllr Watson consolidated what DCllr Corbin had said regarding grants and again gave encouragement to all areas of the community and the various groups to apply for funding if they have a suitable project. DCllr Watson advised there is a dedicated footpaths officer at SDDC if in any doubt with regard to any footpaths. DCllr Watson also spoke regarding the Derbyshire County Council website, which features the proposals regarding the Elvaston	



		Castle Master Plan, with the access road detailed. There are two contentious planning applications in the parish, one in Thulston and one in Ambaston. DCllr Watson has already requested a decision regarding the Ambaston application is to be bought before the committee as it is an over development of the site. If the parish have a strong feeling and it is brought to the committee, it will be presented to the committee and a report will be delivered in bullet point format. The bi-annual visit to Persimmon Homes for liaison group meetings has been postponed due to Covid19 restrictions however, there have been no major issues reported during this time. If any issues do become prevalent, they can be communicated to DCllr Watson directly who will deal with this.	
136/2020-21	Parish Plan	Rachel Scott of RMS Consultants attended to give an update and overview resulting from the Steering Group meeting held on 24 th August. A decision was made regarding the format of the pop-up events and the first one last Saturday on Thulston Green saw a steady trickle of people all day filling in postcards. Following the pop-ups, the intention is to deliver something to each household across the parish with regard to the questionnaire – it is yet to be decided whether this will be an online questionnaire or a hard copy. All member Cllrs were asked to think about suggestions for the questionnaires, specifically highlighting the importance of volunteering in the community, highlighting the difference between parish, district and county responsibilities and some information from Keep Britain Tidy. Cllr Mansfield asked for an interim meeting prior to the next steering group and it was RESOLVED to receive an update following all the pop-up events at an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 5 th October at 7.30pm via Zoom - any subsequent decisions made at this meeting can then be rolled out at the steering group meeting on 26 th October 2020.	
137/2020-21	Councillor Reports	Nothing to report	
138/2020-21	Minutes of meeting 10th August 2020	The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 10 th August 2020 were recorded as an accurate representation of the meeting having previously been circulated to all member Councillors by the Clerk. The minutes will be signed as a true and accurate copy by Cllr S Leuenberger when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. Proposed by Cllr Bickerton and Seconded by Cllr Beech. One amendment to be made as follows: Item 123/2020-21 the cutting of a tree on the village green – it is not an oak tree, it is a horse chestnut tree.	
139/2020-21	Clerk's Report	It's been another busy month for the Parish Council with lots of planning work and behind the scenes work ready for the pop-up events to take place for the Parish Plan consultation to commence. I have been keeping a close eye on all Covid19 restrictions and was hopeful that we may be able to look at a return to face to face meetings in October 2020, however, with the latest restrictions of just 6 people being able to meet, we are forced to continue to hold our meetings virtually using Zoom. The Covid19 restrictions do not currently affect the running of the consultation events as they are work related, not social, and will adhere to all social distancing guidelines at all times.	



		<p>Covid19 restrictions also mean we are unable to organise a formal litter pick in the parish, however residents and parishioners can still pledge to pick via the Keep Britain Tidy website. There have been no further complaints regarding the play area being used on Boulton Moor, there have, however been complaints regarding the Buttercup Leys building site – specifically the traffic lights which were moved and reinstalled over a junction. The traffic lights needed to be 3-way and were originally only installed as 2-way, which resulted in some near-miss accidents.</p> <p>In late August I received a final email from Frank McArdle, Chief Executive of SDDC. Previously, in June, I made a formal complaint to our District and County Councillors with regard to the way the Parish Council has been run previously. This was largely in regard to the accounts, and the fact that there remains a year of missing accounts – there are no electronic or paper records to support any financial transactions during the period 2013/14. Unfortunately, SDDC have no powers at their disposal to investigate this further, and the CEO has stated there is nothing they can do in relation to the allegations of financial irregularities – and whilst they have every sympathy for the position this puts the Parish Council in, and despite the fact it is public money, there is nothing further they can do. As the Clerk and Proper Officer for this Parish Council, it is my intention to state and minute that I have raised concerns regarding the previous accounts; and the way the council has previously been administered under the former Clerk and Chairman/Vice Chairman at the time. I raised concerns regarding improper and illegal meetings, lack of transparency and clarity for budget setting and payment of invoices. As the proper officer, I can do no more in relation to this and make this statement to formally absolve myself of any responsibility for any transacted business related to the Parish Council prior to my appointment as locum Clerk on 10th February 2020, and latterly as permanent Clerk from 11th May 2020.</p>	
<p>140/2020-21</p>	<p>Chairman’s Report</p>	<p>I have received a personal reply from Severn Trent Water following their investigation into water quality in Thulston. An area investigation was completed and found that during times of high demand there is a change in the constituents of the water supply and chlorine can be more noticeable. However, the checks concluded that the water supply meets the required standard. Also, a reminder that from today for the next 5 nights, the A6 Alvaston bypass is closed between 8pm and 6am for roadworks. A further report of an investigation and water quality in Castle Donington caused by Amazon polluting the water supply was made and this will be investigated, the Clerk will write to Severn Trent in the first instance.</p>	
<p>141/2020-21</p>	<p>Lengthsman Report</p>	<p>The lengthsman provided a report prior to the meeting and reported a huge fly tip which was witnessed by police late last week. An address was also found within the rubbish which was fly-tipped and it is hopeful that a prosecution will result from this. Cars continue to be parked at the ECCP gates early in the morning, despite requests for ECCP to lengthen the opening times for the car park. There have been a few larger fly-tips on Ambaston Lane which were</p>	



		collected swiftly by the clean team and the drains continue to be reported. There was a discussion and it was RESOLVED to give consideration for CCTV provision along Ambaston Lane.	
142/2020-21	Reports from Other Community Groups	Nothing to report	
143/2020-21	Elvaston Castle Country Park	Cllr Leuenberger gave an update on the latest announcements following the DCC Cabinet meeting and the Elvaston Castle Master Plan, which is now in the public domain. There was a discussion, and all member Cllrs had an opportunity to share their opinions on the master plan. It was subsequently RESOLVED to make an objection, supported unanimously by all member Cllrs, in the strongest terms against the proposals of the master plan. It was RESOLVED Cllr Leuenberger will begin to write the objection from Elvaston Parish Council.	
144/2020-21	Website Review	There are ongoing problems with the website and the best we can do currently is keep it updated with news items, agendas and minutes. It was RESOLVED to build the costings for a new website into the budget for 2021/22. The Clerk requested that Cllr Mansfield provide a final bill for web hosting for this year and continue to keep the website up to date until such time that a new website is ready. Proposed by Cllr Leuenberger, seconded by Cllr Beech.	
145/2020-21	Keep Britain Tidy - September	Current Covid restrictions now prevent us from organising a litter pick but individuals can do this and pledge their support via www.keepbritain.tidy.org	
146/2020-21	First Aid Training	It was RESOLVED to carry forward to the next financial year and place back on the agenda in May 2021.	
147/2020-21	Poppy Installation	It was RESOLVED Cllr Bickerton will return all poppies to the Clerk who will arrange the even distribution of the poppies across the Parish. It was RESOLVED to install the poppies on Sunday 11 th October 2020 and the Clerk will organise the member Cllrs who are willing to be involved in this task. There was a discussion regarding the Remembrance Service which is held at the church and the subsequent refreshments which have traditionally been served. The Clerk advised that in light of current Covid19 restrictions, it would be unwise to arrange a social event to mark the occasion and the best we can hope for at this time is a private wreath laying ceremony carried out by the Chairman. It was RESOLVED to purchase a wreath from RBL at a cost of £150, proposed by Paul Bickerton, Seconded by Emma Beech. The Clerk will action this.	
148/2020-21	Christmas Tree Lights & Switch On event	Carried forward to October where a final decision will need to be made regarding a switch on event. The purchase and installation of lights will also be decided at the next meeting.	



149/2020-21	Sturges Lane Footpath	The land ownership issues should now be resolved and we are awaiting information back from SDDC as it is hoped this grant will now be approved.
150/2020-21	Assets of Community Value	There is no further update regarding the nomination for ECCP – the deadline for this is 24 th November 2020, so it hoped an update will be provided at the meeting in December. There was a discussion and it was RESOLVED to begin the process of registering the village green as an ACV along with the lower green, via the Open Spaces Society, which will allow the green to be registered to the Parish Council. Proposed by Colin Bennett, Seconded by Cllr Leuenberger.
151/2020-21	Trees Survey for TPOs	Information has been received from some member Cllrs and members of the public, this will now be collated and passed to SDDC with a request for TPO to be considered for all identified trees. It was RESOLVED the Clerk will have this information ready to present to SDDC on 5 th October, so any late information regarding trees should be forwarded to the Clerk prior to this date.
152/2020-21	War Memorial/Hedge Maintenance	With many thanks to some residents, member Cllrs and our lengthsman, the War Memorial is now looking much better and well-cared for. It was RESOLVED to revisit this in October prior to the wreath laying for Remembrance Day.
153/2020-21	Correspondence	Correspondence was discussed as per the schedule provided prior to the meeting.
154/2020-21	Joint working with neighbouring parishes	Cllr Leuenberger requested the Clerk contact neighbouring parishes with a view to seeking support on vital items including the ECCP Master Plan, matters which may arise as part of the Parish Plan consultation, cross parish funding opportunities etc. It was RESOLVED to ask neighbouring parishes to commit to a ward parish group with representation from all 4 parishes in the Aston Ward.
155/2020-21	Planning Consultation	The email sent to all on 12 th August 2020 regarding the planning consultation information was discussed. The consultation details the removal of planning safeguards that we understand currently with regard to green spaces and the restrictions on what we can currently do with and without planning permission. The deadline to reply to DALC is midnight 15 th September, but nationally is 5 th October. Clerk advised a blanket objection to DALC and a more detailed response to NALC. It was RESOLVED the Clerk will action a response to DALC prior to the deadline.
156/2020-21	Planning Applications & Decisions	New applications as at 7th September 2020 DMPA/2020/0751 – demolition of existing bungalow and outbuilding and construction of detached bungalow and car port and the creation of additional access at The Croft, 4 Main Street, Ambaston (consultation on this application ends on 10 th September) – Elvaston Parish Council have raised an objection via the planning portal. Pending applications as at 7th September 2020



		DMPA/2019/1323 – Demolition of existing garage and erection of a detached dwelling with associated parking and garden on land to the side of 33 Grove Close, Thulston Approved applications as at 7th September 2020 DMPA/2020/0732 – conversion of the garage into living accommodation at 32 Sevenlands Drive, Boulton Moor DMPA/2020/0474 – conversion of the garage into living accommodation at 33 Sevenlands Drive, Boulton Moor	
157/2020-21	Finance	The payments and receipts as shown in the finance schedule were deemed correct and approved for payment. The payments will be entered and authorised on Unity Trust and the Chairman will sign the finance schedule when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. It was RESOLVED to accept the NJC Pay scales for 2020/21 to be backdated to 1 st April 2020	
158/2020-21	Budget Review meeting	It was RESOLVED the finance committee will meet 5 th October 2020 at 6.30pm via Zoom.	
159/2020-21	Date, time of the next meeting:	The next meeting will be an extraordinary meeting held on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm and the next ordinary meeting will be on Monday 12th October 2020 at 7.30pm via an online link using the Zoom platform. The links to both meetings will be notified by agenda.	

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 21.50pm

Signed _____ Chairman / Vice Chairman

