

## Minutes of The Parish Council of Elmore Meeting

**Held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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| Present   | Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Clerk Mrs D Jones (DJ)  |  |
| In Attendance   | Gloucester County Councillor Anthony Blackburn<br>Stroud District Councillor David Mossman  |  |
| 1.Apologies   | Mr A Nash, Mr N Meek and Police representatives   |  |
| 2.Open Question Time  | No parishioners were present  |  |
| 3.Police Report   | PC Jennifer Frazer sent an email with "No reported crimes" recorded.  |  |
| 4.Declaration of member's Interest in Agenda Items                            | Nothing was declared by Councillors.  |  |
| 5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2015. | The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2015 were proposed as a true record by JH and seconded by TJ.   |  |
| 6.Matters Arising from the previous minutes                                   | JF reported that all actions proposed at the previous meeting had been completed.   |  |
| 7.County Councillor's Report  | Cllr Blackburn reported that road work on Lake Street and Castle Street was complete. A fatal RTA had occurred on the A38.<br>Cllr Blackburn reported his findings about C & RT. He reported that the results of the survey to ask who wanted bridges automated was 68% of road users and 28% of canal users did not want bridge automation.  |  |
| 8.District Councillor's Report  | Cllr Mossman reported on the new rubbish collection arrangements for the Stroud District that includes charges for bulk rubbish collection of £15 for up to 3 items + £5 for each extra item. JF raised the question of the likely increase of fly tipping. Cllr Mossman said that this would be monitored. 2016 changes to rubbish collection included black bin waste collected every 2 weeks with a new weekly food waste collection.<br>Cllr Mossman reported that: the Javelin Park building work will be starting in early 2016 and completed 2019: a new surgery for Hunts Grove is likely to be in South Kingsway: a new school will be completed by September 2017 but in the meantime pupils will go to the Waterwells Academy in Kingsway. |  |
| 9.Finance   | <u>Audit Report</u> External audit was successful. The 'hidden' council tax support grant of £69 included in our precept figure had to be shown separately. The word 'restated' had to be written in box 9 for fixed assets. The future for external auditing is that from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 small councils with a turnover of less  |  |

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|                                    | <p>than £25000 will be exempt. Introduction of the transparency code will enable electors to access relevant information about accounts and governance.</p> <p><u>Forecast Expenditure 2015/16</u> JF reported that although we anticipated that the second defibrillator would be funded by public donation, we were prepared to make up the difference from EPC funds. This has been done as an interim measure and the second one was purchased ready for installation.</p> <p>The forecast bank balance for the end of September is £3,704. This is after paying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> defibrillator but with some more funds still expected. A healthy forecast bank balance for the end of this financial year is £4,257.</p> <p><u>The Parish Precept 2016/17</u> – No change was thought to be necessary and will remain unchanged at £2400.</p>   |          |
| 10. Defibrillator fund and update  | <p>JF reported that the refurbished and repainted phone box was ready to receive the second defibrillator and cabinet. Thanks were recorded to the volunteer helpers. TJ reported that £1330 had been donated and that more donations were anticipated. A training date was organised for Community Heartbeat Trust, Martin Fagan, at the Village Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7 pm. A flyer to notify parishioners will be written and hand delivered.</p> <p>The VETS system (Village Emergency Telephone System) was discussed. VETS is a community run system, which enables up to 10 neighbours/helpers to assist pending the arrival of the emergency services. The system can be used for any emergency where additional help is required, whether for Cardiac Arrest or not. The ongoing cost of £100 per year was discussed and thought to be essential. JF proposed that EPC funds should be allocated for this starting after the initial free 12 month was over.</p> <p>JF recorded his thanks to TJ and DJ for their work towards setting up the Defibrillators. JF discussed the idea of personalised thanks to the known fund donators and a public vote of thanks to all including the anonymous donations.</p> | TJ/JF/DJ |
| 11. Highways                       | <p>Resurfacing of Lake Street appears to have been successful. JH said that adequate stocks of salt for the winter were still in bags at Barhouse Farm. The overturned salt bin opposite Elmore Court needed to be put upright.</p>   |          |
| 12. Elmore Emergency Plan update   | <p>No recent changes have been made to the Emergency Plan. JF proposed that we should go ahead and publish it, to include the comments so far, and keep it as a living document which can be edited as and when required.</p>   |          |
| 13. Broadband and Telephone update | <p>JF had several e-mails from Fastershire on the progress of our new Broadband system. The latest information is that riggers have been booked to erect the dishes on the transmitting and receiving poles and this should take place in early October. Once this has been completed we will be notified that the</p>  |          |

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|   | <p>system is up and running and orders can be placed for anyone wanting to receive super-fast Broadband. Although we will all probably see an improvement in our Broadband download speeds, the idea that we will get superfast Broadband is some way off as the fibre-optic cables have not yet been laid into Elmore, nor have the intermediate junction boxes been installed and even when the cables do get laid they are unlikely to proceed beyond the Village Hall. Now this is not the end of the world for those of us who live west of EVH because we have been assured that there will be a significant improvement in the signal within 1.5kms of the last junction box. JF guessed that it could be mid 2016 for this last stage to happen.</p>  |                     |
| <p>14.Parish Communications</p>                   | <p><u>Elmore Parish Council Website</u> Since our last meeting, our website has been destroyed by 'Hacking'. We have to start again and are applying for help from the Government's 'Transparency Fund' to achieve this. EPC proposed allocating up to £500 to get the process started.</p> <p><u>The Bridge:</u> JF reported that the 5 issues of The Bridge on a trial basis had been a success. Thanks to TJ's efforts were recorded. More funding was proposed for the Editor in order to give him the flexibility to increase the size when required was discussed. At the moment The Bridge costs in region of £135 per annum. JF proposed to give the editor the flexibility by increasing the allotted funding to £200 per annum, or £50 a quarter. The Editor's role post 2016 was discussed. TJ discussed the value of making public the copy dates for receipt of articles for issues well in advance. This was agreed and will be published in the next Bridge.</p> <p>Issue February 2016 – copy to TJ by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016<br/> Issue May 2016 – copy to TJ by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016<br/> Issue August 2016 – copy to TJ by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016<br/> Issue November 2016 – copy to TJ by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016</p> | <p>DJ</p> <p>TJ</p> |
| <p>15.Canal and River Trust Automated Bridges</p> | <p>C&amp;RT consultation has ended.</p> <p>The PC sent in 15 questions and received a reply , but not an answer, to 3 of them.</p> <p>C&amp;RT have published the comments and their responses from the Consultation in the form of a Report which does not actually provide us with any more answers.</p> <p>JF and TJ attended a presentation at Shire Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept and basically the CEO read out his Report. Three of the Severn Voice Parishes were permitted to speak briefly highlighting a key issue.</p> <p>JF spoke about the fact that C&amp;RT would establish protocols for each bridge based on the traffic census BUT as far as we were aware Sellars Bridge had not been included.</p> <p>C&amp;RT claimed that the data does exist but only after Cllr Dave Mossman chased Glos Highways did the data on Sellars Bridge</p>  |                     |

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|                                       | <p>emerge.</p> <p>However, on checking back JF found that we were NOT sent the data and only 6 bridges were included in the June survey of which Sellars Bridge was not one! Some items had been taken up by C &amp; RT, eg Parking for bridges on land owned by C &amp; RT. Comments from this EPC included:</p> <p>Sellars Bridge is the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest on the canal after the big A38 swing bridge:</p> <p>avoid boat users having cart blanche to open bridges as they wish:</p> <p>push for some bridges to remain unmanned e.g. Fretherne and Sellars keep manned:</p> <p>oppose the proposal now and make concessions later:</p> <p>keep alternative manual control at each automated bridge in case of emergency:</p> <p>does the GCC actually have a say or power in the decision made:</p> <p>if C&amp;RT cannot afford to man bridges, then charge boaters more and keep the men on bridges:</p> <p>The Severn Voice Task Group, from the flooding days, has now produced a paper to present to GCC and this paper was circulated by our Clerk to all Councillors last week – JF asked for any comments/input so that the paper can be refined and presented to the next Severn Voice Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>Conclusion from this discussion was that the Severn Voice group proposals should be circulated and if they is no positive response, we should ‘go public’.</p> <p>Cllr DM agreed to talk to our MP about this issue.</p> |         |
| 16. Transparency Code                 | <p>The transparency code is to enable electors to access relevant information about Parish Council accounts and governance. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 small councils, like ours, with an annual turnover of less than £25000 will be exempt from external audit. There is government funding available to help small parishes to publish information on their own websites. We are making an application for help with the design and hosting of our replacement website. The first deadline for application to fund is 14<sup>th</sup> Oct '15.</p>  | DJ / JH |
| 17. Any Other Business (Elmore Court) | <p><u>Elmore Court</u> – Anselm Guise invited the PC to the Court for a briefing on his future plans. TJ and JF attended and JF circulated an e-mail after the event. At that stage the main idea was to renovate the Victorian kitchens and bring the catering in-house rather than have outside caterers provide the food from their base in Bristol.</p> <p>The idea is that work would take place in Jan/Feb of 2017. His suggestions all made practical sense.</p> <p>However, since the visit a further e-mail told us that it will not</p>  |         |

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|                           | <p>be possible to convert the Victorian kitchens as the restrictions imposed by the Conservation officials doesn't make it a practical option. The intention now is to replace the existing marquee style serving kitchen with a permanent structure. Outline details only available so the PC will await the application.</p> <p><u>Community Day</u> In the last copy of The Bridge, it was suggested that there would be a further Community Day to cut withies in anticipation of a Spring planting. It was proposed that Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 should be advertised in the next copy of the Bridge. JF identified one area to tackle, in the Spring, on the river bank between Elmore Back and Weir Green. JH offered to provide string on the day and find storage at Barhouse Farm.</p> <p><u>Council elections in 2016</u> May 2016. There could be a Parish Council election out of sequence to tie in with new SDC schedule.</p> |                                  | TJ/JH |
| 18.Dates for 2016         | March 2016  | Monday 7 March '16               |       |
|                           | May 2016  | Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May '16 |       |
|                           | September 2016  | Monday 26 Sept'16                |       |
|                           | December 2016   | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec '16  |       |
| 19.Date of next meeting – | Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2015   |                                  |       |
|                           | The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.36 pm.  |                                  |       |
|                           | Signed  | Date                             |       |