

Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.45 pm

Present	Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr A Nash (AN) Vice Chair, Mr T Jones(TJ), Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mr N Meek (NM), Clerk Mrs D Jones (DJ)	
In Attendance	Mr Anselm Guise, Mr Gordon Davis, Cllr A Blackburn	
1 Apologies	Police Officer Toni Fisher	
2 Open Question Time	<p>Mr Anselm Guise (AG) addressed the meeting on the matter of the Elmore Court application to vary the Planning Conditions. AG said that he has not applied to change the Licence but wants to enable some music 'outside'. He is thoughtful of the community and would welcome a village representative to OK any requests made for 'a temporary event notice' to SDC for occasional extension of hours.</p> <p>AG is applying to extend staff leaving time by 1 hour from 01.00 to 02.00.</p> <p>AG wants permission to use judgement and consultation to achieve best results. He guaranteed no change.</p> <p>JF replied that he had found a submission from David Jackson, Environmental Protection Officer, SDC to Holly Simkiss, Planning, SDC, which already sets out recommendations for consent to conditions following a site visit to Elmore Court. The letter was submitted after the deadline date of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015.</p> <p>Mr Gordon Davis addressed the meeting to say that he thought that planning laws had been breached and asked for a return to the original planning regulations. He asked for information about restriction of numbers at events.</p> <p>JF replied that numbers were already restricted and reminded the meeting that Elmore Parish Council are not the enforcement or decision makers, just a consultee. Comments from EPC are for decision makers to use.</p> <p>Re Elmore Court</p> <p>AG said that David Jackson had visited Elmore Court during his (AG's) absence and after the Public Meeting held in EVH.</p> <p>JF said that the feeling from the Public Meeting had been put into a letter to SDC. This reflected the views of the village and included good compromises such as use of the Cedar Lawn for outdoor music. He described live music as something that AG has organised and people pay for.</p> <p>JF proposed that the democratic process should take its course based on all evidence and comments. To achieve this he asked that a 'call in' be requested for a committee to hear all information rather than a delegated officer making a decision. The Council were all in favour of this.</p> <p>NM had asked if all comments already submitted would be considered by an officer.</p>	

	<p>JH said that as we had done our job already following the public meeting could we not just write to SDC rather than asking for a 'call in'.</p> <p>JF replied that he had been told by Holly Simkiss that SDC will follow David Jackson's report. AN agreed to draft a response to SDC planning.</p>	
<p>3 Police Report</p>	<p>'Reported crimes for the period of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 against the same period of the previous year. The previous year there were 7 crimes reported – these consisted of non-dwelling burglaries and Thefts.</p> <p>However there has only been one crime reported in the same period this year which referred to a theft but the property in question was recovered shortly after.'</p> <p><u>Reminder from the Police</u></p> <p>As spring is fast approaching and the nice weather is making an appearance, people may be opening windows and doors to make the most of it, Please can we re-iterate the importance of making sure all your doors and windows are shut and locked when leaving your property for any length of time and please do not leave valuables on display.</p> <p>Survey fencing and rear garden making sure all is in good repair. Don't leave any garden tools or furniture outside as they can be used to gain entry to your property.</p> <p>It has recently been highlighted around the county, regarding being vigilant when it comes to your Dogs and dog Thefts. Although not common, dogs do get stolen under a variety of circumstances. Owners should always be vigilant and follow basic security advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure your pet is micro-chipped</li> <li>- If your dog runs off and it is found, you can be easily traced as its owner.</li> <li>- If your dog is stolen, when it is taken to the vets, they will discover that the dog is chipped and you will be identified as its rightful owner.</li> <li>• Don't leave dogs unattended in the street.</li> <li>• Don't leave them alone in a car - particularly when the weather starts to warm up</li> <li>• Ensure your garden is secure and don't leave them alone for long periods of time</li> <li>• If you keep them outside, make sure your property and kennels are secure</li> <li>• Always keep them on a lead when walking near roads</li> <li>• Ensure your dog is fully trained to come back to you before you let it off the lead</li> <li>• Don't allow your dog to run free near roads or in built up areas</li> <li>• Don't allow it to run free near farm animals</li> <li>• Don't let it become a nuisance or danger to other people or animals</li> </ul> <p>If you need advice on safe-guarding your premises and your property, please contact your local police, either by calling 101 or by emailing <a href="mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk">101@gloucestershire.police.uk</a></p> <p>If you see any suspicious activity, vehicles or people please call the</p>	

	<p>police on 101 If you see a crime in progress, always dial 999. Stray dogs should be reported to your local council's dog warden.</p>	
4 Declaration of Member's Interest in Agenda items	Mr A Nash declared that he is a senior officer at SDC, but with no direct professional link to any Agenda items.	
5 Minutes of the previous meeting	The Minutes of Elmore Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 were proposed as a true record by TJ and seconded by JH.	
6 Matters Arising	<p>Raising the contingency fund from £1300 to £1500 has been done Adoption of the phone box – to be covered in item 14. Purchase of Defibrillator – to be covered in item 14. Communications – notice for The Bridge – to be covered in i. 15.</p>	
7 County Councillor's Report	<p>Cllr Blackburn reported that the County Council budgets had been agreed and that there would be no increase in Council Tax. Javelin Park incinerator. Despite opposition, an agreement to build has been passed. Contractors Balfour Beatty have offered a Community Trust Fund of £25,000 per year for local projects. Flooding issues. County Council have submitted requests to the EA for clarification of funding and a programme of work. A38 road surfacing work has not been done well and contractors, Amey, are being asked to redo this work. AB agreed to a request to submit his report in writing in future</p>	
8 District Councillor's Report	Cllr D Mossman and Cllr R Miles did not attend this meeting.	
9 Highways - Lake Street. Potholes and resurfacing update	<p>Nick Meek reported that some pot holes had been filled in although not adequately done. Daniel Tiffney has agreed that more filling is needed as this work was just a temporary fix. The planned highway overlay will be completed during the 2015/16 financial year. A water leak and deep pothole around it was reported in the road near to 'Dahlia's', Farleys End. It was agreed to report this to Severn Trent.</p>	?
10 Finance – Forecast expenditure	<p>JF reported that after all anticipated spending has been taken into account up to the end of the Financial Year, our bank balance will stand at £3755.62. Our contingency fund now stands at £1500 and the Ponds Maintenance fund is £600. Therefore our available funds stand at £1655.62. <u>Forecast expenditure for the Financial Year 2015/16</u>, over and above the standing orders (insurance, newsletter, Clerk's salary etc) is, at the moment only for a second Defibrillator at approx. £2,000. The plan to raise this money outside of the budget of the PC is covered later in the agenda.</p>	

	<p>However, we still have the fallback position of our own funds should we fail to raise enough, using the contingency fund which was established to meet unforeseen expenditure.  <u>Parish Precept 2015/16</u>. It was proposed that we retain the existing amount of £2,400 from SDC. This figure remains unchanged for the last 5 years. This was proposed by TJ and seconded by AN.</p> <p>The Financial record was agreed by the council as ready for audit. It was agreed that these could be submitted to Mike Farmer for internal audit prior to submission for external audit in April.</p> <p>JH referred to the contingency fund for Ponds maintenance. Work is needed in the 2 ponds close to Barhouse Farm. JF asked JH for a quote for tree pruning to tidy these areas.</p>	<p>DJ</p> <p>JH</p>
<p>11 Chairmans' update on SDC Parish Forum</p>	<p>JF attended the Annual Parish Forum at SDC on 19 February and reported:</p> <p>GRCC: is keen to emphasise that they are available to help Parish Councils with advice on Village Design Statements. They co-ordinate the Village and Community agents and JF suggested that we could invite our local Agent to give a short talk at the Annual Parish meeting in May. There are grants available to help to prepare Village Design Statements.</p> <p>CAB: the Citizens Advice Bureau reported a need for more funds to continue their work. 25% of their time is now devoted giving financial advice to individuals and another 25% is devoted to giving advice on Benefits. The CAB has been awarded a contract by the Government to deliver advice on pensions. This advice will only be available from specific centres; the nearest one to us will be in Wiltshire or Taunton. The local CAB are looking for a new Treasurer.</p> <p>SD Local Plan is now available for comments on the changes and the Inspector's report is expected by November and then approved by the end of the year. EPC has no comments to make as we are not directly affected.</p> <p>Boundary review: the Commission has recommended that the number of District Councillors remains at 51 but with some adjustments as to how many Councillors will represent each Ward. E.g. Hardwick Ward will have 3 rather the present 2 Councillors. The consequence of this change is that when the local elections are held in May 2016 the Parish Council elections will be held alongside the DC elections and again in 2020 but after this the Parish Elections are likely to be held out of sequence with the District or national Elections which could result in some quite high expenditure on our part to hold such an election.</p> <p>District Budget: Council House rents have been increased by 3%.</p>	<p>DJ</p>

	<p>Plans are in train to build 150 new Council Houses at a cost of £21M.</p> <p>AN discussed the Housing Revenue Budget mechanism to cap discounts and avoid the 'Right to Buy', to keep the housing stock.</p> <p>Local Government Subsidy: Further cuts to the subsidy provided by central government to local Councils is expected to result in cuts to some local services.</p>	
12 Broadband and Telephone lines update including current broadband issues	<p>JF reported that the new post to carry the Back Haul equipment has been erected but in doing so the BT contractor has uprooted the Elmore village notice and replaced it incorrectly. JF reported this to Fastershire on 21<sup>st</sup> January. There is no firm date for improvement to broadband but there is a Government commitment to achieve this by the end of 2015.</p>	
13 Elmore Village Emergency Plan	<p>JF reported that the draft plan is still on circulation within the Village. This draft plan is also on the EPC website. JF plans to deliver a report to the Annual Meeting in May.</p>	JF
14 Phone Box Adoption and Defibrillator	<p>TJ reported that we are waiting to hear the result of our application for a grant from the GCF for £1700 towards our second Defibrillator to be placed in the phone box.</p> <p>The defibrillator to be placed at Elmore Back is to be ordered from S W Ambulance. The location at Elmore Back farm has been agreed and plans for the electrical work have been made. It was agreed to ask for separate training events for each defibrillator as it was installed. TJ has obtained 2 quotes for the electrical work involved and it was agreed to accept the lower quote (from Mr J Tooth for £195).</p> <p>The proposed plan is to install the first defibrillator at Elmore Back by the EPC Annual meetings in May and the second defibrillator in the phone box before the EPC meeting in September.</p> <p>JF reported that Mark Turner has offered his business defibrillator as a backup for village use.</p>	TJ
15 Communications	<p><u>The Bridge</u></p> <p>It was suggested that an invitation to Defibrillator training should be included. It was agreed to increase the number of printed copies to 110. It was noted that all were pleased to see the reinstatement of the Community Newsletter from the Church..</p> <p><u>EPC Website.</u> It was confirmed that information shown on the website was up to date.</p>	
16 Any Other Business	<p>Affordable Rural Housing. JF reported that affordable housing is no longer a requirement where a development of new houses is of 10 houses or less.</p> <p>Re Elmore Court</p> <p>AG said that David Jackson had visited Elmore Court during his absence and after the Public Meeting.</p>	

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<p>17 Date of next meetings</p>	<p>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elmore Parish Meeting followed by</li> <li>• The Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting</li> </ul> <p>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 30 pm</p>	
	<p>Signed..... Date .....</p>	