

**Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at Elmore Village Hall on
12th December 2011 at 7.45pm**

Subject Heading		Action
Present	Mr J Field - Chairman – (JF), Mr A Nash – Vice Chairman – (AN), Mr T Jones – (TJ), Mrs J Hobbs – (JH) & Mrs C Stewart - (CS), Mrs J Smeaton – (JS).	
In Attendance	Those present: Mr Graham Littleton (District Councillor): PCSO Lucy Kay.(LK)	
1 Apologies	Tony Blackburn (County Councillor) and PC Fraser Mackie.	
	John Field opened the meeting at 7.45.p.m. and welcomed those attending.	
2 Police Report	PC Mackie had asked PC Lucy Kay to attend in his absence. She explained that there have been no crimes, incidents or anti-social behaviour issues to report. CS brought up the issue of a white van that has been seen around at the time of reported break-ins around Elmore, Longney and Epney; however Fraser had reported to JF that it was a coincidence that they all happened within a few miles of each other. GL asked what to do as suspicious people have been looking at farms in Longney where horses are kept. LK stated that there is a programme running called Horse Watch. This involved horses being micro-chipped. LK would get PC Mackie to send all relevant information out regarding Horse Watch. We were told that Fraser doesn't work evenings anymore, so from now on we will be seeing a lot more of LK.	
3 Open Question Time	There were no questions from the floor.	
4 Declarations of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	There were no declarations of interest in any agenda item.	
5 Minutes of Previous Parish Council Meeting	The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 th September 2011 were proposed by JH and seconded by CS as a true record and agreed by all Councillors. At the end of the meeting they were signed off by the Chairman.	
6 Matters Arising	CS mentioned that Severn Trent had done a magnificent job with getting the water leak at Farley's end fixed within 4 days. It was also mentioned that Gloucester Highways postponed the repair works to Lake Street as a funeral was taking place, this was very much appreciated. JF had written to John Kay to express thanks for the co-operation. JS to enter the pc and printer part of the property book.	JS
7 County Councillor's Report	Cllr Tony Blackburn was unable to attend the meeting so no County Councillor's report took place.	
8 District Councillor's Report	Cllr Graham Littleton (SDC) attended the meeting and gave a short brief on topical matters at the Council as well as his work with the IDB. The Chair then gave a summary of the Parish Forum meeting that he and the Clerk had attended at Ebley Mill. Key points were: <u>Housing Policy:</u> SDC currently receives £21m in rent from their housing stock but have to pay £7m levy to Central Govt. Within the Localism Bill (which has already received Royal Assent) there is a plan which enables local government to remove this levy. However, this entails 'buying' some of the Government Debt. This amounted to buying £22.2m of the debt. But the special interest rate currently on offer is only	

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0.8% so the payback will only be £3.2m/year instead of the £7m. SDC intend to spend £23m over the next 5 years on non-scheduled repairs and maintenance to the Council House stock; e.g. putting in new bathrooms and kitchens. This plan would hopefully re-generate the local economy. There is also a plan to build new council houses to meet the demand. Questions were raised about the 'Right to Buy' legislation and whether it was wise to build new properties which tenants could then buy at a discount. Thus making a financial loss for the District. This was acknowledged and was categorised as 'management of the risk'

Enhancing Recycling Services:

SDC currently have 35 different bulk collection sites around the District (i.e. Tesco – larger drive-in sites).

A new system of collection will be introduced in about July 2012 which will mean that, in addition to the current items being collected, the following items now be recycled as part of the normal 2-weekly collections:

- Cardboard
- All plastics incl yoghurt pots & brown bottles
- All plastic food trays
- Tetra-packs

When this new system is introduced, there will only be a need to separate paper from the remainder of recycled items. All the rest would go into one bin. Therefore, 'Whellie Bins' will be issued to all households but those where it is impractical to use bins because of access, storage etc, see-through sacks will be issued in lieu.

Garden waste will not be collected separately. Green sacks are available for garden waste but they will be collected with the normal rubbish and still go into landfill sites.

SDC will be encouraging home composting to alleviate the pressure on landfill sites.

SDC currently collect 36,000 tons of waste /year, of which 24% is recycled (9,000 tons). SDC are in the top 20% in the country.

Car Parking:

A review of car parking charges has been carried out after considerable protest by residents of Stroud, Nailsworth, Stonehouse.

There will be a reduction in charges across the board

The Free multi-storey parking after 3pm currently operating in Stroud will continue. Next review of car parking charges would be in 8 mths.

Localism Act:

The Localism Act has been published in a 496 page document. Of note to us is Part 6 which deals with Planning with the introduction of Pre-Application Consultation as a requirement rather than an option.

A Standards Committee to be abolished – Standards Board for England from 31 March. The Code of Conduct for people holding public office will go but there will be some form of new code introduced. The Annual Register of Interest will remain.

Council Tax benefit will no longer be a 'benefit. It will be called a 'discount' which will be managed under a local scheme. This could mean that if the stigma of getting benefits is removed there may be more applications which will increase the financial load.

There will be a Review of Business Rates for people working at home. Cuts and the Recession.

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	SDC are facing cuts across the board so any decrease in budget they receive may be passed on to all of us in the form of a an increase in Council Tax. But this is not yet certain and will be subject to a review.	
9 Flooding – Update on the Environment Agency’s Proposals	JF reported the current position on EA Flooding Proposals. A meeting was held on 22 nd February at Longney School with the EA and The Severn Voice Group to be briefed on the proposals and rationale behind them. This turned out not to be a discussion and the EA were unable to answer any questions. A meeting was to be held on the 14 th September with the Richard Benyon, the Minister responsible for the EA to put across the Severn Voice case. JF proposed that the request from Severn Voice to maintain pressure on the EA and other agencies was adopted. (See attached for details) CS/TF/AN/JH all voted for the way forward. JF to circulate the letter and brief that was sent to Richard Benyon.	JF
10 Highways, potholes and salt/grit bins	GL is the nominated snow warden for this area; he mentioned that the snow plough was owned by Roger Godwin of Longney who kept the main roads clear. Lake Street was cleared by the owner of Elmore Back Farm in order to provide access for the milk tankers and other heavy delivery trucks. They will see how the roads bear up if it snows this winter. It was mentioned that there is one bad pot hole along the road to Elmore Back, JF said he would ask John Kay if this was missed by accident. The salt/grit bins were now in place and full. TJ plans to keep an eye on them and refill as required.	JF TJ
11 War Memorial Repairs	TJ has accepted a quote for the repairs of the war memorial. He is in the process of applying for a grant from the War Memorials Trust. We could receive up to 50% off. TJ is filling in an application with a lot of questions; he is going to speak to Pauline Ellis as they need to know who designed it and who built it. Michael Watts has explained that Elmore Charity would be willing to contribute towards the repairs, hopefully leaving the cost of repairs to a minimal. The topic of plaques was raised, AN had an idea of buying plastic signs that could be put on the war memorial, if these were to deteriorate over time, we could replace at a minimal cost. It was also mentioned about not having names on the war memorial, however JH and AN objected against this, they believe that the names should appear on the war memorial. TJ to look into sealant for the war memorial.	TJ
12 Severn Voice School Admissions Paper	A paper had been proposed by Arlingham which hoped to remove the current problem of school allocation based on how near children were to a school. Currently this meant that for example, a child living in Eastington had a choice of six schools but this could mean the Whitminster school being filled before the children in Arlingham had been allocated. This would mean that the Arlingham children would be allocated to schools as far away as Stonehouse, Berkeley or even the other side of the river. People living in this area were therefore at a dis-advantage. JF would write to GCC and the local school to ask them to support the idea of a ‘prime area of responsibility’. It was agreed that we would support the school admissions paper, JH proposed this and AN seconded.	JF
13 Planning Applications: Wind Turbine; Land near Velthouse farm;	a. <u>Wind Turbine on Land South of Velthouse Farm:</u> An application had been considered by the Parish Council for a 27m Wind Turbine to be sited on land owned by Mr Littleton to the south of Velthouse Farm. The Parish Council discussed the proposal and had some serious reservations about it as follows:	

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<p>The Barn at Farley's End;</p> <p>The small extension at Velthouse farm;</p> <p>Solar Panels at Lake Street Farm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doubt about its exact location as there were several different grid references listed in the Planning Submission. - Its proximity to residential properties, namely Velthouse Farm @ 330m and Monks Hill Cottage @ 228m. - The lack of any technical data to justify the selection of the proposed site - The lack of a noise report in accordance with current regulations. <p>A full copy of the PC's formal comments can be found on the Stroud District Council Website under the reference S.11/0602/FUL.</p> <p>b. <u>The Barn at Farley's End.</u> The Parish Council were pleased to note that the renovation of the Barn at Farley's End was proceeding but were concerned that the two changes to the plan might impinge on the privacy of its neighbours, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The positioning of the skylights on the southern side of the roof. - The introduction of a plain glass window above the new entrance to Barn. <p>These comments have been formally submitted to SDC.</p> <p>c. <u>The construction of small extension at Velthouse farm.</u> The PC had no objection to this proposal.</p> <p>d. <u>The Solar Panels on a barn at Lake Street Farm.</u> This planning application had not been submitted by the owners of Lake Street Farm but had been done so by a contractor without the knowledge of the owner. No further action was required at this stage.</p>	
<p>14 Localism Act 2011</p>	<p>A short brief on the Localism Bill was given by AN, who then handed out a written summary, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.</p>	
<p>15 Dates of meetings in 2012</p>	<p>The dates of the meetings to be held in 2012 are as follows: Monday 5th March 2012 - Small room. Monday 14th May 2012 – Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council Meeting. Monday 23rd July 2012 Monday 17th September 2012 – Small room. Monday 17th December 2012.</p>	
	<p>Chairman.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	

Attachment to these Minutes:
An Introduction to the Localism Act.