

**Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at
Elmore Village Hall on Monday 26th September 2016**

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| Present | Parish Councillors Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs P Turner (PT), Clerk Mrs D Jones | |
| In attendance | Cllr Antony Blackburn (TB), Cllr Gill Oxley, Mr Chris Camm, Mrs Louise Ford | |
| 1 Apologies | Cllr D Mossman, Cllr N Meek | |
| 2 Open Question Time | Louise expressed concern at the lack of a police report. JF stated that he had already written to the Police and Crime Commissioner to ask about this and had received a 'no-committal' reply stating that budget cuts were to blame. TB agreed to follow-up on the matter with the Commissioner. | TB |
| 3 Police Report | No report was received and no officers attended the meeting. JF said that the 3 burglaries in 2 months in the village showed an increase in daylight crime. Properties without alarms appear to have been targeted. JF proposed to follow up on how to reinstate a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. TJ seconded this. | JF |
| 4 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items | Nothing was declared by the Councillors. | |
| 5 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 17 th May 2016 | The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2016 were proposed as a true record by TJ and seconded by PT. | |
| 6 Matters arising from the Minutes of 17 th May 2016 | From the Annual Parish Meeting i5 Defibrillator inspection and password changes have all been resolved. i17 Winter Action Plan. JH agreed to continue to be Snow Warden for central Elmore. TJ agreed to check the salt bins. From the Annual Parish Council Meeting i7 NM to investigate VETS alternative. To be reported later in this meeting i7 EVH Car Parking. JF to report later in this meeting. | TJ |
| 7 County Councillor's Report | Cllr A Blackburn reported: installation of a number plate camera to record speeding on the A38. The cost of this is £12,000. Parliamentary Boundary Commissions changes have affected the political balance with conservative holding 25/52 seats : GCC Council tax had risen by 2%. The report from the Environment Scrutiny committee on flood risk management showed that Elmore was recorded as being in a 'low risk of flood' area. This has now been changed to a Medium/Low risk flood area. JF asked TB what this means. The Wetland plan for this area plan has been dropped and the new draft plan is for 3 years not 20 years ahead. TB referred to his earlier email about help with household insurance in flood risk areas where people were experiencing | |

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| | <p>problems.</p> <p>TB referred to the C&RT Sandfield Bridge Pilot report. He agreed that consultation was needed before work on yellow line parking restriction begins on all canal bridges. The cost should not be met by ratepayers but from the Highways budget. JF said that alternative parking should be set up before this was done and that unless enforcement of parking on yellow lines happened, this scheme would not work. Top priority is for Emergency Access across Canal bridges before canal users on roads or water. TJ proposed that there should be a change of priority for crossing Sellars Bridge. TB agreed to approach Highways Dan Tiffany to give Amey instructions to do this.</p> | |
| 8 District Councillor's Report | <p>Cllr Gill Oxley reported that as a new councillor she had not yet been designated any specific roles in the District. However, she reported on community licensing: The Youth Grant Funding Programme: New taxi contracts. The new home waste collection was reiterated as well as meetings about the new incinerator.</p> <p>JF asked about the licensing of events in the District and felt that for events in Elmore there had been a lack of information and no enforcement officer visit to events.</p> | |
| 9 Finance | <p>Accounts and Audit: The annual audit of EPC accounts had been completed and offered for public inspection on 16 August 2016.</p> <p>Financial Forecast 2016/17: Based on the most recent bank statement the Balance before the meeting was £5,666.60. Taking into account the ring fenced funds for contingency, ponds and defibrillator the forecast shows £4,000.60 could be available.</p> <p>Elmore Village Hall Car Park: Health and Safety aspects have made the development of the car park too expensive to engage a contractor and too technically challenging for a DIY project. Other options will now be explored by the EVH Committee.</p> <p>Pond Clearance: Mr M Watts arranged for clearance of 2 ponds in August. The PC agreed to share the bill. The Elmore charity have also agreed to contribute towards the cost. The original price quoted was £30 per hour. JF proposed that up to £250 should be used from our available funds. PT seconded this proposal</p> <p>Union Flag: A new flag has been purchased at a cost of £71.22. It will be flown on appropriate occasions.</p> <p>Request for a contribution to SDC Warden's Scheme: the PC had received a request to contribute towards this scheme. TJ proposed no contribution. JF seconded this proposal. The committee felt that it would be better to spend money on reinstating our own Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.</p> | |
| 10 Highways | <p>Potholes: JF reported that big potholes have been improved but lots of small potholes remain. JH felt that these were</p> | |

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| | <p>dangerous for cyclists.</p> <p>Speeding vehicles: JF had been asked by one parishioner about installing speed restriction signs and road bumps. TJ reminded us that a previous speed survey showed not much speeding was going on. The committee discussed the value of speed restriction signs and thought that any would have to be ‘discreet’ so as to maintain the rural ambiance of our village. It was proposed that NM could approach Highways to find out what options for speed control are available. JH seconded this proposal.</p> <p>Canal Bridge approaches: Parking restrictions: as part of the C&RT scheme to mechanise the canal bridges there will be restriction on parking on the bridge approaches. As Elmore was not included in the consultation, JF contacted GCC but no reply has been received. JF said that any parking restrictions must be enforced otherwise they are worthless and that adequate parking needs to be provided for boat owners and canal users.</p> | NM |
| 11 Elmore Emergency Plan update - VETS alternative | <p>NM sent a report about alternative call systems based on smart phones owned by Elmore residents. These cost free systems would need the smart phones in appropriate operating systems. NM suggested that we should do some trials to see what is possible in Elmore. TJ suggested that we could also promote a ‘homespun’ approach through the Bridge. Encouraging residents to talk to neighbours and friends about quick contact in an emergency.</p> <p>The committee felt that we should pursue more training to boost confidence in the value of defibrillators. It was thought that some confidence training might be undertaken by local medically trained people.</p> | NM |
| 12 Broadband & Telephone update | JF reported that there has been no change since the last meeting in May. He continues to pursue all avenues with the hope of improved broadband speeds in the Village. | |
| 13 Licensed events in Elmore | JF suggested that the council should be kept fully informed of licensed events proposed within the village. Some events had caused more disturbance and disruption than others. It was proposed that a request to SDC should be copied to Cllr Gill Oxley. | |
| 14 Severn Voice Meeting 12 th October 2016 in Saul Village Hall | The Agenda for the Severn Voice Meeting has been circulated. JF planned to attend this meeting, where C&RT and Broadband issues would be discussed. Neil Carmichael MP should be there. | |
| 15 Parish Communications | <p>Website: It was agreed that this is all OK but that more good photos would improve it. JF was asked to take a new picture of Elmore Village Hall.</p> <p>The Bridge: TJ said that the next edition was due for printed by 21 October.</p> <p>TJ discussed whether we should use The Bridge to let the</p> | JF |

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| | <p>parish know what the Parish Council had achieved in recent years. This might encourage people to volunteer to be elected onto the council. It was agreed to publish some brief bullet points showing what a councilor can contribute to benefit the community. This will be included in the Bridge in 2017.</p> <p>E-mail database: one more resident had been added.</p> | TJ |
| 16 Any Other Business | Chairman JF thanked Chris Camm for his continuing contribution to tasks in Elmore. | |
| 17 Date of next Parish Council Meeting | Monday 12 th December 2016 | |
| The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 am. | | |
| Signed | Date | |