

**Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at Elmore Village Hall on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.45pm**

| <b>Subject Heading</b>  | <b>ITEM</b>  | <b>Action</b>  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Present</b>  | Parish Councillors:<br>Mr J Field - Chair – (JF), Mr A Nash – Vice Chair – (AN), Clare Stewart (CS), Mrs J Hobbs – (JH) & Mr T Jones – (TJ).<br>Clerk: Mrs J Smeaton – (JS). Minutes: Mrs D Jones  |  |
| <b>In Attendance</b>  | Those present: Mr Graham Littleton (GL) (District Councillor – Hardwicke Ward), Mr Tony Blackburn (TB) (Gloucester County Councillor).<br>Parishioners: Michael Carter   |  |
| <b>1. Apologies</b>   | Mrs J Field, PCSO Sam Jones  |  |
|   | John Field opened the meeting at 7.45pm and welcomed those attending.  |  |
| <b>2. Open Question Time</b>  | No questions were asked by those attending. Anselm Guise (by email) referred to the Incinerator Project. JF had already replied indicating that EPC had closely followed its history over several years but had not formally made any comments.  |  |
| <b>3. Police Report</b>   | No police attended and report had been presented. JF stated that he had reported a fly tipping incident. The vehicle's registration and marked business name had been passed to the police. No outcome so far.   |  |
| <b>4. Declaration of Member's Interest in Agenda items</b>                            | There were no declarations of interest in any agenda item.   |  |
| <b>5. Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012</b> | The minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2012 were proposed by AN and seconded by CS.<br>The Minutes were duly signed by the Chair.  |  |
| <b>6. Matters arising</b>   | Police Contact Details – sent by JS but now changed as PCSO Emma McDonald appears to have moved to another area.<br>Standing Orders – JF to forward proposed amendment to AN<br>Speeding Farm Vehicles – no new reports<br>Broadband etc – on this agenda (i13)<br>Meetings for 2013 – on this agenda<br>Code of Conduct – on this agenda (i12)<br>Finance Statement and Audit – done and on this agenda (i9)<br>Land Registry – JF yet to visit<br>Notice Board and War Memorial – on this agenda (i11)<br>Flooding – on this agenda (i14)<br>SV Meeting – on this agenda (i14 and i16)<br>PAYE – on this agenda (i10)<br>AOB – Jubilee Oak Tree – on this agenda (i18) | <b>JF</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>JF</b> |
| <b>7 County Councillor's Report</b>   | TB reported:<br>- that he had been assisting parents with School/Academies admissions issues;<br>- the GCC Scrutiny Meeting expressed concern that the Javelin Park contract should not have been signed before planning consent was approved at the December meeting;<br>- the EA's reply to the Scrutiny Committee's letter was not satisfactory.  |  |
| <b>8. District Councillor's Report</b>  | GL reported:<br>- full reports from planning meetings were all in the public domain;<br>- Dog Control Orders are difficult to enforce in rural areas. Local problems appear to be solved by GL directing a specific dog owner to exercise only on his land;<br>- the new SDC recycling scheme has received no detrimental comments in  |  |

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|   | <p>this area. Quantity of recycling is rising and the quantity of landfill refuse is falling. TJ reported that in certain narrow roads (e.g. Weir Lane) residents had been issued with recycling bags rather than wheelie bins. He said that the bags were too small and asked GL to pass this information on to the relevant department. Maybe two bags could be provided?</p> <p>- The SDC requirements for affordable housing have been met to some extent in the Whitminster area. Elmore is not likely to be asked to provide any housing as we do not have a Settlement Boundary.</p>  |  |
| <b>9. Financial Statement &amp; Audit Results</b>                   | <p>JS gave a short brief on the Financial Statement.</p> <p>JF interpreted the published Finance forecast sheet for the meeting. A 'healthy' balance of £2,318.28 is shown for the end of September.</p> <p>Projected figures show expected income from VAT refunds, grants and precept. The council unanimously voted in favour of maintaining the existing precept with no increase.</p> <p>JS to submit the necessary form to SDC.</p>  | <b>JS</b>                                      |
| <b>10. PAYE</b>   | <p>JF reported that he had spoken to HMRC and that they had confirmed that Elmore PC does not have to pay PAYE on the Clerk's wages as the wages do not exceed the limits in the Guidelines (approx £150pw or £8000 pa). A reference number for this confirmation is on record.</p>  |  |
| <b>11. New Village Notice Board and War Memorial repairs update</b> | <p>TJ reported that both the new Notice Board and War Memorial repairs are complete. TJ proposed that the Council apply for 'Listing' for the War Memorial with SDC. AN seconded this. TJ had been in contact with the Conservation Officer at SDC (Kate Russell) who has offered to expedite the listing process for us. TJ proposed to refurbish the old Notice Board to place it in the Elmore Back area.</p> <p>A vote of thanks to TJ for this work was proposed. A vote of thanks to John Hardisty and Michael Watts for help with erecting the new Notice Board was also recorded.</p>  | <b>TJ</b>                                      |
| <b>12. Code of Conduct - update</b>                                 | <p>AN reported that the model Code of Conduct offered by GAPTC should be adopted as a living document. This was formally adopted with an opportunity for minor 'tweaks' to this document to be added later. The Monitoring Officer of SDC will hold this document on our behalf.</p>   | <b>AN</b>                                      |
| <b>13. Telephone and Broadband links to Elmore - update</b>         | <p>JF reported that his communications with BT/Open Reach on the issue of improving telephone and Broadband reception in Elmore had produced little positive hope of change in the near future. Problems for BT/OR included apparent lack of money and technical difficulties.</p> <p>Michael Carter explained the continued need for fibre optic cables to be in place before 4G could operate here.</p> <p>AN agreed to investigate why an existing culvert under the Canal could not be utilised, despite JF's letter highlighting this possibility to BT.</p> <p>TB commented that existing Government funds should be available for BT/OR to use and that he would investigate this with GCC.</p> <p>JF handed TB copies of recent correspondence between himself BT and Open Reach. TB promised to follow-up the matter.</p> | <b>AN</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>TB</b> |
| <b>14. Flooding Issues: Update on EA's Proposals</b>                | <p>JF reported that EA have agreed to maintain flood defences for the 'foreseeable future', BUT only as long as funds last.</p> <p>JF has prepared a 'brief' to explain the current situation to Elmore residents. It is proposed that this information would enable the community to have a meaningful debate at future Severn Voice meetings. JF asked that Michael Carter could read this brief to consider how well local residents</p>  |  |

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|  | <p>could interpret the information provided. GL agreed to provide hard data of flooding and overtopping events in the last 20 years.</p> <p>TJ suggested that the Hydrological Research Unit at Wallingford, where they had a model of the River Severn, might be able to provide data.</p> <p>AN acknowledged JF's hard work on this issue.</p>   | <b>MC</b><br><b>GL</b> |
| <b>15. Pond Maintenance &amp; Highways</b>                               | <p>Highways - JF reporting that the pot-holing work had been done. CS said there is still a problem on the corner turning down to Elmore Back opposite Church Farm yard entrance. Water is pooling there and forcing the Longney-bound traffic onto the wrong side of the road, right on the bend where it is most dangerous from a sighting point of view. An even worse situation will exist when it freezes. JF had already reported the issue to Glos Highways.</p> <p>JH reported that she has ordered another delivery of road salt. TJ reported that he would use another bin to replace the one missing from opposite to the Elmore Court entrance.</p> <p>Ponds – JH said that pond water levels were unusually high. JF suggested that if they did overflow, water would flow away naturally.</p>                          | <b>TJ</b>              |
| <b>16. Hosting of the Severn Voice Meeting</b>                           | <p>JF reported that the next meeting should be held in Elmore. However, as there is no Severn Voice Clerk to organise the event, we should await further developments.</p>   |                        |
| <b>17. Emergency Plan - update</b>                                       | <p>JF reported that he had compiled an extensive draft folder of information. JF attended a meeting with SDC the previous week to find if there was any funding available for our Plan; no direct funding will be forthcoming. However, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Training can be carried out free of charge by the Red Cross.</p> <p>This Emergency Plan is for local use. Traditionally Elmore has been self-sufficient for snow clearing to enable milk collections from farms. CS noted that we have a diminishing number of farmers &amp; their machines for future crises. At the moment GL is the nominated Snow Warden and Roger Godwin has the snow clearing machinery.</p> <p>JH proposed preparing a website for Elmore Parish information which could be used for crisis communication too. JH plans to investigate a site.</p> | <b>JH</b>              |
| <b>18. The Jubilee Oak Tree</b>  | <p>Our donated Jubilee Tree is not thriving and may be planted in the Spring if it looks viable.</p> <p>AN reported that there are lots of unclaimed Jubilee trees at SDC offices and would see if there was a healthier one that we could use instead.</p>  | <b>AN</b>              |
| <b>19. Stroud District Economic Assessment and Employment Land Study</b> | <p>This document is designed to encourage local employment and to protect areas against unwanted development. Much of the document does not appear to be relevant to our community. TJ pointed out that faster broadband would help foster economic development.</p>   |                        |
| <b>20. Planning Applications</b>   | <p><b>Elmore Court</b> – Wedding Venue - The Function Room facility and the Bio-mass boiler building applications have been approved by SDC.</p> <p>GL reported that the SDC planning committee were unanimously in favour of the application. SDC had found the EPC comments useful.</p> <p><b>Wind Turbine</b> - application withdrawn</p> <p><b>Solar Panels</b> – application for PV panels has been made by GL at Bridgemacote Farm .</p>   |                        |

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| <b>21. Date of next meeting</b>  | The date for the next Elmore Parish Meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 7.45pm.  | <b>JS</b>     |
|  | Chairman.....<br><br>Date.....   |               |
| <b>2013 Parish Council Meetings</b><br><br><b>ANY PARISHIONER IS WELCOME TO ATTEND</b> | The meetings for 2013 were announced and this list was to placed on the new notice board by the Clerk:<br><br>Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2013 - EPC Meeting<br><br>Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 - Annual EPC Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting<br><br>Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2013 - EPC Meeting<br><br>Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 - EPC Meeting<br><br>Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 - EPC Meeting |               |