

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

Elmore Village Hall on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present Parish Councillors: Mr M Brandon (MB) Chair, Mr V Meredith, (VM) Vice Chair, Mr E Watts (EW), Mr A Leach (AL) M Hodge (MH), Mrs D Jones (Clerk)		
In attendance Alison Inwood, Zahra Sadry, Trevor Jones		
1 Apologies Cllr Steve Davies. Cllr Gill Oxley		
2 Open Question Time	No questions	
3 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items	No declarations were made	
4 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 16 th September 2024	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 16 th September were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by AL.	
5 Matters arising from the Minutes of 16 th September 2024	Most topics are included in the Agenda for this meeting. Ponds – the PC has established that it does not own any land in Elmore, including land with ponds. However, MB will check with Cllr Steve Davies for sources of money to fund pond tidy up projects. Winter Action Plan. EW will pursue access to this with SDC.	
6.County Councillor's Report from Cllr Stephen Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Council has published its budget which recognises that the Council is solvent and able to invest over £32m in Highways, Special Education Need, Schools and Special Schools as well recycling services and the Fire Service. Consultation is open until 10th January. The Christmas Holiday Activity Fund has been launched. A man has been fined £6,000 for selling illegal vapes. Our Foster Team have been involved in producing a Film "Everything...." Encouraging people to become Foster parents. Gloucestershire Fire Service has recognised Fire Service members with 20 years service. It has also received a critical report on historic racism charges. There has been a positive response to the Merrywalks Bus hub in Stroud's revamp in consultation. GCC have joined the NHS, Police and Voluntary Sector in signing a "One Plan" for the Children of Gloucestershire. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Panels have been installed on the roof of the Coroners Court. • GCC have launched a "Pedal Eazy" scheme where people can lease an Electric Bike to try it and contribute the lease fee to any future purchase. • Highways are prepared for winter with 29 gritters and enough salt to fill 114 Salt Cellars. We are also working on extensive gully cleaning. • Gloucestershire Libraries have seen an 11 % increase in footfall. • The County's "Preparation for Adulthood" programme has been recognised for a National Award. 	
7 District Councillor's Report	<p>Cllr Gill Oxley Feedback needed on the draft council plan. SDC has e mailed out to 6,348 residents and businesses. Closes today.</p> <p>2.Museum in the Park -Annual Report 23-24 available on SDC website</p> <p>3. YOU SAID: we did residents survey 2023. The results will be available on the SDC website from mid December.</p> <p>If anyone has any questions or anything I can help with, please contact me on 07546464405</p>	
8 Parish Council Resignation and co-option of new Councillor	<p>AL officially resigned from the Council with warm words of thanks to all for their support and wished us all well for the future. AL said that he would be available to step in again if needed. Register of Member Interest and Acceptance of Office forms were completed for 2 new Cllrs. Alison Inwood and Zahra Sadry.</p>	
9 Special roles of Parish Council since May	<p>These roles will be discussed following this meeting. Currently they are MB – Data VM – Highways AL – Planning EW – External Services MH - Assets</p>	
10 Finance Update	<p><u>Account update: FY 2024/2025</u> The account remains in a healthy state with a balance on 20th November 2024 of £7,778.53</p>	
11 Report from Severn Voice Meeting	<p><u>Insurance</u> – Roger Godwin to pursue a joint insurance quote to attempt a discount. <u>Canal and Rivers Trust</u> – A Vole pond to be dug at Whitminster. Project is underway to open the canal from Whitminster to Saul Junction with widening the footpath from Fromebridge to M5. Value of using a .Gov website was discussed. <u>EDF Salt marsh proposal at Arlingham.</u> This is being opposed with SV writing to the Secretary of State.</p>	

	<p><u>EA Shoreline Management Plan</u>. Discussed the options which have been put forward.</p> <p><u>New Community at Sharpness Vale</u>. A very large development with a huge loss of farmland.</p> <p><u>School Admissions and Transport</u>. Discussed problems of bus services</p> <p><u>Gigaclear</u> should now be available within our parishes.</p> <p><u>Ditches</u> should be cleared by land owners to avoid contributing to localised road flooding.</p>	
12 Highways Update	<p>VM</p> <p>The 'S' Bend sign at Kenton Green has disappeared. VM will report this to Highways.</p> <p>MB and VM discussed the re surfacing work in Elmore Back. This was to be followed up.</p> <p>VM. Highways cannot add more signage to Elmore Lane West.</p>	VM
13 Planning Update	<p>The Firewood Production business application was refused in May 2024 but they have now appealed this decision to the Secretary of State. A company Heal Planning and Developments has submitted a 34 page report. This can be read on the SDC planning website and any public objections reported. Cllrs will follow this to see if a decision has been made.</p> <p>The enforcement notice situation on Haywicks Barn and Hollow Farm Common Room planning decisions will be followed up by . A question was asked about a 4 year old planning application changing the status of it.</p> <p>MB agreed to follow up with planning enforcement with Cllr Gill Oxley and SDC Planning.</p>	All
14 External Services	<p>Rural Crime contact is Sharon Vaughan who is our Community Warden. Cllrs raised questions about local hare coursing and would look into Security Marking of farm vehicles.</p> <p>Layby bin is being used correctly and emptied each week. The question of installing one in Kenton Green was raised. The purchase cost of the Layby Bin was £388 with free installation by Highways. VM agreed to follow this with his contacts in Highways. Cllrs agreed unanimously to fund this project.</p> <p>EW agreed to follow up the winter Salt/grit situation.</p>	<p>EW</p> <p>VM</p> <p>EW</p>
15 Data	<p>A google drive is used for storing and sharing PC documents. TL and EW will be given links to this drive.</p> <p>It was agreed that both new cllrs would get access to this drive.</p> <p>Another request had been posted in The Bridge suggesting names and email addresses could be updated.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>EW</p>

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16 Assets	<p><u>Both defibrillators have been checked regularly and are working correctly.</u></p> <p>In the short term EW will be checking the Phone Box defibrillator and MB will check the Elmore Back defibrillator. A new set of pads had been purchased and fitted to the Elmore Back defibrillator.</p> <p>TJ agreed to ask Gloucester Locksmiths if there was a better way to lubricate the key pad lock as it often sticks and to repaint the EB Box.</p> <p>TJ agreed to look up the supply of fridge magnets with the code to the 2 defibrillators.</p> <p>First Aid to teach defibrillator training was to be assessed to see if parishioners would attend.</p>	<p>EW MB</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>MB</p>
17 Communications	Copy date for Bridge items is 12 January 2025	
18 Special Projects	No new project planned. The Cllrs voted unanimously to purchase a bin for the Kenton Green layby.	
19 Any Other Business	PC Zoom meeting will be held on 13 January 2025.	
<p>Date of the next Parish Council Meetings - Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.00 pm</p> <p><u>2025 Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>Monday 19 May 2025 (Annual Meetings)</p> <p>Monday 15 September 2025</p> <p>Monday 8 December 2025</p>		
The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.		
<p>Signed..... Date</p>		