

Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting
held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2025
(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Present	Vice Chair Vince Meredith (VM), Mr E Watts (EW), Ms Alison Inwood {AI}, Ms Zahra Sadry (ZS) Dorie Jones (Clerk)
In Attendance	Mr Trevor Jones,
1 Appoint Chair and Vice Chair	Chair - Matt Brandon was proposed by EW and seconded by AI. Vice Chair – Vince Meredith was proposed by ZS and seconded by EW. Acceptance of Office Forms. New forms not needed as no changes were made to the records. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms are required for SDC to record for any whose circumstances have changed. ZS form had not been acknowledged by SDC so these will be repeated.
2 Delegation of member's responsibilities	<p>The work of the Councillors has been defined under 5 main Business Areas. Each area is led by one councillor with support from the others. All related data and information will be stored in the corresponding folders on the new common shared drive. A new Log will be used to identify responsibilities and record progress against the Parish Council's business. It was agreed that the 5 councillors would consider the areas that they would like to lead and discuss this at the next teams meeting</p> <p>The Business Areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways - VM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ including footpaths ○ verge cutting ○ Grit bins 2. Planning - EW 3. External Services - AI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rubbish - Fly tipping ○ Rural Network Services ○ Police 4. Data - MB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management ○ Residents database ○ Emergency Plan ○ Standing Orders 5. Assets - ZS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Defibrillators ○ Notice Boards ○ War Memorial 6. Special Projects – All <p>Comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bridge – Trevor Jones ○ Website DJ <p>Finance - DJ</p>

4 Open Question Time	No questions
5 Declaration of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.
6 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 17th March 2025 were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by AI.
7 Matters Arising	Matters arising from the Minutes of 17 th March 2026 Mike Farmer had completed the Internal Audit. Severn Voice next meeting is being planned for 6 th August 2025 at Elmore Village Hall.
8 Finance	<p><i>i) Review of Parish Precept 2025/2026 The Parish Precept has remained unchanged at £2,472.00 There are no plans to change anything for the following financial year. It was suggested that Matt would be asked to check with other local parishes what their plans may be.</i></p> <p><i>ii) Account and Audit 2024/2025 Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</i></p> <p><i>iii) Forecast Expenditure 2025/2026. The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there has been an and could be a further increase in Verge Cutting Costs.</i></p> <p><i>iv) Community Based projects. There are no planned projects at the moment.</i></p> <p>v) Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 AUDIT The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vi) Accounting Statement for the Annual return 2024/25 AUDIT The Accounting Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vii) Audit- Certificate of Exemption. Figures for the Audit were agreed and the Chairman signed this Certificate ready to be submitted to Littlejohn, the External Auditors.</p>
9 County Councillor Stephen Davies Report	<p><i>On May 1st I was re-elected as your County Councillor, but the wider results mean that I am no longer Leader of the County Council.</i></p> <p><i>Peter Bungard our CEO also retired on the 2nd May and we have appointed Jo Walker, currently CEO of North Somerset, who will start in May.</i></p> <p><i>The good news is that your County Council is solvent, which is proving the exception and not the norm, and has passed a budget that sees</i></p>

investment of £53m in Adult and Children Services, as well as further investment in Highways. The County element of your Council Tax has increased by 5.99%. This is not an accident it is the result of hard work and attention to detail.

Highways have purchased new equipment and new systems, particularly “Fix my Street” which automate the reporting of potholes but also allows members of the public to track the progress of any resolution. Highways have also introduced “Find and fix” gangs as well as introducing the common sense policy of not only fixing the serious safety defect pothole but also those in close proximity that will need fixing shortly, known as “Pothole plus.” This has resulted in 90,000 potholes being fixed which is 10,000 more than last year, and twice the year before. We have also resurfaced over 100 miles of roads which is the correct long term solution to potholes and is part of our £100m additional investment in Highways.

On Climate Change the County has recently publish an update to its plan and is continuing an ambitious tree planting program having planted 500,000 trees. We have installed Solar Panels on Shire Hall, the Coroners Court and 6 schools with another 6 announced. Arle Court Transport Hub has been completed and we have secured £8m for Bus Improvements including Zero Emission Buses. This allows us to both improve the infrastructure but expand the Robin, dial a ride service.

Children’s Services have recently had an Inspection of our Care Leavers Program which was very positive and is evidence of their continued improvement.

Adult Social Care has had a CQC inspection, which is a new approach to inspection, and was found to be “Requires Improvement.” However there has been much progress since the Inspection last September and £57m announced for 3 new Care Homes that will focus on rehabilitation as well as accommodation for the elderly. This along with our focus on Tech Enabled Care will help people stay in their own homes which most people prefer.

The Government has asked all 2 Tier Councils to become a Unitary, and then to look to join a Combined Mayoral Authority with neighbouring Councils to oversee infrastructure development.

In a letter to the Minister Gloucestershire has outlined three options, a single Gloucestershire along the lines of the existing County Boundary (co-terminus with the Police and NHS,) a split into two Unitaries, East and West, which has a management overhead of £9m additional cost with no additional services. There has also been a suggestion of Greater Gloucester with a Doughnut around it, but it is difficult to see this progressing. These options will be submitted in more detail in

	<p><i>November to the Minister who will then make a decision.</i></p> <p><i>On completion of this process there will then be the opportunity to create a Combined Mayoral Authority, which could be Worcestershire / Herefordshire, Oxfordshire / Swindon or join the existing West of England Combined Authority. This decision is in the future.</i></p> <p><i>This is the legacy handed over to the Liberal Democrats..</i></p> <p><i>If you have any questions on any of these topics or any other questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch at</i> <i>Stephen.davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk or on 07802 595 307.</i></p>
<p><i>10 District Councillor Gill Oxley Report</i></p>	<p>Local Plan We have now had a second response from the inspectors saying that they recommend that Stroud District Council withdraws the plan and this was in response to SDC pleading with them and making threats to the inspectors to try and push this flawed plan through. What happens next will be that councillors at SDC will most likely need to take a vote on if we should withdraw or refuse to withdraw. I am told by senior officers that the recommendation will be to refuse withdrawal so that the inspectors will have to provide SDC with a very detailed report on the Local Plan, what is good, what is bad and what needs more work on. This report is wanted by SDC so that it will help form the basis of the next Draft Local Plan. If we just withdraw the plan, we will not get that report. We are not sure yet when we will be taking that vote, but I suspect an extraordinary meeting will need to be held as our May meeting is an AGM where there is no other business.</p> <p>Rural England Prosperity Fund DEFRA have awarded Stroud District Council £120k for 2025/2026 and applications for this funding will be open again imminently so please do check out the website for more details on application criteria and deadlines.</p> <p>Elections There has not been much change from the last meeting as we were in the regulated period for the Gloucestershire County Council elections and we now find ourselves back in the regulated period again as the District Council have a By-Election in the Severn Ward on 11th June due to sad death of Labour Cllr Richard Maisey back in April.</p> <p>AGM Thursday 22nd May we have our Annual General Meeting at SDC where all committee chairs, vice-chair and seats get decided for the next civic year along with the new Leader of Council as Green Cllr Catherine Braun has stepped down and will most likely be replaced with Cllr Chloe Turner. There will be no public or member questions and no motions as this meeting is for limited amount of business.</p>

<i>11 Highways</i>	<p>Fix My Street should be used to report Potholes on adopted highways. This includes the potholes leading up to Hockley from Haywicks Lane. VM reported that the new Bin was being installed on 30th May. Highways will do this without charge. SDC will empty it weekly. VM reported that Highway plan to clean out culverts where necessary.</p>
<i>12 Planning</i>	<p>14 Planning Update</p> <p><i>Hollow Farm has applied for a Certificate of Lawful Use, retrospectively. No comments to be made.</i></p> <p><i>Lake Street Cottage. Chris Newell submitted an application to SDC for a small extension to the front of the property. No comments to be made.</i></p> <p><i>Elm Farm dog paddock application had gone to appeal. No comments to be made.</i></p> <p><i>Haywicks Lane Barn. SDC closed this case early June 2025 as they consider the guidelines had been met.</i></p>
<i>13 External Services</i>	<p><i>Alison will check grit bin supplies with Jenni Hobbs. Orders for each following winter are usually placed during the summer.</i></p>
<i>14 Data</i>	<p><i>Matt will work with the Councillors who need to establish access the Google Drive</i></p>
<i>15 Assets</i>	<p>Defibrillator Management <i>ZS has checked both defibrillators. Reported some difficulty opening the Elmore Back cabinet. VM offered Trevor his can of silicone spray to try on the key pad lock.</i> <i>It was agreed that TJ could buy some paint to improve the outside of the cabinet at Elmore Back. TJ suggested he would obtain some silicone spray with the necessary paint and give it to ZS for on-going maintenance</i></p> <p>Defibrillator Training Dates <i>June 16th at 7 pm as been agreed and ZS will let the interested people know. This should be a 1 + session with St Johns' Ambulance are training. It is possible that that there will be no charge. However, we have available a grant from the 'Build Back Better Scheme' to cover it if there is a cost to pay.</i></p> <p>Fridge Magnets Decision <i>It was agreed that 50 would be ordered. DJ to do this.</i></p> <p>Notice Boards <i>OK for the moment.</i></p> <p>War Memorial – <i>nothing to report.</i></p>
<i>16 Special Projects</i>	<p><i>Investigate the idea of putting a notice on the River Bank reminding dog walkers to bag and take away dog fouling.</i></p>
<i>17 Parish Communications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: Kept up to date. • The Bridge: The 42nd Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this. Our thanks given to our

	<p><i>willing volunteers to deliver to our doors. Thanks offered and best wishes to Val Overton who has delivered the Bridge to Elmore Back since its first edition. She has now retired through ill health.</i></p> <p><i>Email: Addresses given to the Chairman to hold are kept strictly confidential to comply with Data Regulations Guidance.</i></p>
<i>18 Finance</i>	<i>Shown in item 8</i>
<i>19 Any other business</i>	<p><i>Alison suggested looking into the cost of getting a notice for the River Bank area reminding Dog Walker to bag and remove any dog mess.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Watts has asked if volunteers could be found to help with Church Yard Clearing and cutting grass.</i></p> <p><i>VM reported that he had been asked if a report of deaths for former Elmore residents could be posted in the Bridge. It was recalled that we used to publish Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths at Elmore Church. This was abandoned because of Data Protection Laws. However, if a family request a notice to go into the Bridge, that should be possible.</i></p>
<p>Date of Next Parish Council Meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 15th September 2025</p> <p>Monday 8th December 2025</p>	
The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm	
<p>Signed Date</p>	