

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

Elmore Village Hall on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.00 pm

Present Parish Councillors: Mr M Brandon (MB) Chair, Mr V Meredith, (VM) Vice Chair, Mr E Watts (EW), Zahra Sadry (ZS) Mrs D Jones (Clerk)		
In attendance Cllr Steven Davies Cllr Gill Oxley, Jane Hill Trevor Jones, Michael Watts, John Garrett, John Tooth		
1 Apologies Cllr Alison Innwood, Mr John Field		
2 Open Question Time	Michael Watts opened up the issue of funding for maintenance of our Burial Ground at the Church. Volunteers have worked hard to keep up its appearance. However, more volunteers are needed or help with paying for contractors to do the work. It was highlighted that burials are not just for local church going residents. The PC is being asked for help with costs. Options will be looked at by the Council. It was suggested that Elmore Court might like to contribute.	
3 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items	No declarations.	
4 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 20 th May 2025	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 20 th May were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by EW,	
5 Matters arising from the Minutes of 20 th May 2025	Most topics are included in the Agenda for this meeting. Except EW reported that the Rural Prosperity Fund was not available for Ponds work. MB said that the Precept and Severn Voice would be discussed later.	
6. County Councillor's Report from Cllr Stephen Davies	• Children Services have been ranked "Good" by Ofsted. This has been a long journey from "Inadequate" in 2017 and "Requires Improvement" in 2021. • A new guide to Adult Social Care has been published. • Trading standards have: ○ Prosecuted someone for selling but not delivering Wood burners ○ A builder taking deposits but not completing the work. ○ Took part in a Secret Shopper exercise for underage Vapes and Alcohol with the Police. • GCC wrote to all Parishes asking them to express an interest in 20 mph speed limits. This is a good initiative although the additional £300,000 so far allocated to this may not be sufficient. • GCC Highways have launched a "Clean Sweep" initiative to clean and repair Road Signs. If there are any that require this please report them on "Fix my Streets."	

	• Mental Health Social Work, \occupational Therapy and Mental Health Support have been brought in house to improve quality. • Libraries have received £95,000 in a project to capture Gloucestershire's heritage. • £8m is being invested to create 360 new School places in Lydney and Brockworth. • Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service are no longer in special measures from His Majesty's Inspectorate. They also won the British Firefighter Challenge again. • There will be an announcement of a £20,000 Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund available over the next 2 years. Details to follow but if you have any local requirements let me know. • We had a sad case of a Reform Councillor expressing Racist Views at the last Council. • The work to repair the Bridge on Castle Lane has been further delayed due to another brood of Swallows. Unfortunately GCC would face fines if they went ahead. The work is funded and should start in October.	
7 District Councillor's Report Cllr Gill Oxley	Opened a discussion about the overuse of local lanes and roads as a result of the multiple road works. She stressed how difficult it was for Pound Lane residents. In response it was pointed out that we are feeling the strain and frustration of moving out of Elmore. If there is anything I can help with please contact me on 07546464405 or via the SDC website.	
8 Finance Update	<u>Account update: FY 2025/2026</u> The account remains in a healthy state with a balance on 14th August 2025 of £5,773.74 with funds available of £3,871. 68.	
9 Report from Severn Voice Meeting in August	MB reported that there was ongoing discussion about the funding from Highways for our Verge Cutting Contract.. SV are setting up a Flood Risk Working Group. Our reps are Ed Watts, Matt Brandon and Nicky Yeoman. SV reported the growing number of solar farms around the SV parishes.	
10 Highways Update	VM reported that the Bin is installed at Kenton Green and is now being emptied weekly. There was discussion about fly tipping ad overflowing rubbish around both bins. Ideas to put fly tippers off were given. However, before bins was installed rubbish was just left in the laybys. Now at least the bins do get filled up.	VM
11 Planning Update	No new applications and no new outstanding issues. ZS reported that she has to further prove the case for regularised arrangements at Hollow Farm. It was reported that the Common Room / Livery planning has been advertised for sale. This area does not have planning consent for a dwelling.	EW

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12 External Services		AI
13 Data	MB referred to the shared data drive.	MB
14 Assets	Both defibrillators are in order. However, the one at Elmore Back has significant corrosion to the cabinet. Cllrs will look at the option of finding another site for it in Elmore Back. Further training was being organised by ZS for 27 th or 28 th October. A grant from the Build Back Better Fund is being arranged through funds from Cllr Davies. War Memorial – no change.	ZS
15 Communications	Website is up to date The Bridge will be ready for delivery in mid October.	
16 Special Projects	First aid training.	
17 Parish Councillors future	More parish councillors are needed. Alison is leaving the Council and Vince is hoping to soon because of heavy work commitments. WhatsApp and the Bridge will advertise this. Also a notice on the Village Notice Board.	
18 Any Other Business	A Remembrance Day Wreath will be ordered for Matt to represent the Parish Council.	
The proposed dates for 2026 Parish Council meetings are available and can be confirmed with JH at the Village Hall Date of the next Parish Council Meetings - Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.00 pm <u>2025 Meeting Dates for discussion</u> Monday 16 March 2026 Tuesday 18 May 2026 (Annual Meetings) Monday 14 September 2026 Monday 7 December 2026		
The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.		
Signed..... Date		