

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at

Elmore Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2026 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), Mr Will Lovell (WL) Mrs D Jones (Clerk)		
In attendance Trevor Jones, John Field		
1 Apologies Cllr Gill Oxley and Cllr Stephen Davies		
2 Open Question Time	None	
3 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items	No declarations.	
4 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 12 th January 2026	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 12 th January 2026 were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by EW	
5 Matters arising from the Minutes of 12 th January 2026	Most topics are included in the Agenda for this meeting. .	
6. County Councillor's Report from Cllr Stephen Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reversal of the cancellation of Cheltenham Borough Council elections in May seems to be a legal issue rather than a change in the Government position on Local Government Reform, which the Government is currently consulting on. • Gloucestershire County Council approved it's budget at the last Full Council. It sees further investment in Highways by borrowing an additional £15m over 3 years. Sadly they have reduced "Highways local" to £10k from £30k despite protests from the Conservative Group. • One of Gloucestershire's Care experienced young people Craigson Palmer has written a novel, "Deepfaded." • Gloucestershire County Council welcomes the Governments announcements on SEND reform particularly the commitment to address the Financial crisis this has created. We await the detail. • 6,635 places have been awarded for Secondary School places in September. 83% achieved their 1st preference and 93% got one of their preferences. • The Easter Holiday Activity Fund Program opens for bookings on the 16th March • The Gloucestershire County Council Climate Strategy Report has been published and shows 11% reduction in Carbon and zero emissions from Electricity due to use of renewables. • Central Government has provided £3.8m to support "Best start" for young people via the Family Hub initiative. • Central Government have provided £5.7m annually for 3 years for the "Crisis and Resilience fund" to help those most in need. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Government have provided £28.4m over the next 4 years to support the Local Bus infrastructure including Home to School transport. 	
7 District Councillor's Report Cllr Gill Oxley	<p>Updates for Elmore</p> <p>1 Griff Bunce has been appointed as the new Chief Planning Officer Stroud District Council. Griff was the acting interim Chief Planning Officer prior to his permanent selection at interview.</p> <p>2. The latest response from the planning inspector is now available in the examination library for the local plan.</p> <p>There will be further limited written consultation following capacity assessment of March 2026. Given the technical nature of this only National Highways, Gloucestershire County Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Stroud District Council will respond with written comments. If the inspectors feel further consultation is needed there will be an oral hearing.</p> <p>3. Stroud District Council next funding round open. A crowdfunding platform that helps community-driven ideas gain support and funding. Ideally for projects that need between £5000-£150000.</p> <p>www.spacehive.com/movement/stroud/about</p> <p>If there are any issues please contact me on 07546464405</p>	
8 Parish Councillors	Specific roles of Councillors to be followed up before the May Meeting	MB
9 Finance Update	<p><u>Account update: FY 2025/2026</u></p> <p>The account remains in a healthy state with a balance on 16th February 2026 of £8,115.09 with funds available of £6,290.97</p> <p>PRECEPT for 2026 remained unchanged</p> <p>GAPTC Annual subscription to rise to £100. MB said that we could check whether there was a statutory requirement to belong to an organisation such as GAPTC and what benefits we as a council get from it.</p> <p>In preparation for the Annual Audit, we have new conditions to meet. These include having a gov.uk email address for the Clerk's official business and consider the need/value of having the Website changed to a Gov.uk site using our existing Website hosts. The Cllrs all agreed to this.</p>	DJ
10 Report from Severn Voice Meeting in August	<p>There was a lower turnout than usual at the Severn Voice meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 where members discussed the ongoing consultation regarding Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire. As you will be aware, the government is seeking views on potential changes to the structure of local government in the county, including</p> <p>the possibility of moving to either a single unitary authority for Gloucestershire or a two-authority model covering East and West Gloucestershire.</p> <p>During our discussion, representatives felt that it was important that individual parishes submit their own responses to the consultation where possible, so that the views of local communities along the Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal are clearly represented. Those present at the meeting expressed a general view that a single unitary authority for Gloucestershire may provide the</p>	

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	<p>most effective option in terms of financial efficiency and clarity of representation for local communities. However, it was also recognised that each parish may wish to consider and submit its own view.</p> <p>In addition to encouraging parishes to respond individually, it was agreed that Severn Voice should also submit a collective response to the consultation.</p> <p>Unless significant amendments are requested, the intention is to submit the Severn Voice response following feedback from member parishes. Your input is greatly appreciated to ensure the collective views of our communities are properly represented.</p> <p>Please can I have a prompt response to the draft response as the deadline for submissions is the 21st March.</p> <p>Verge Cutting Contract. There will be no uplift in the rate paid to Parish Councils from Highways. A new contract is expected from Highways in 2027</p>	
11 Highways Update	‘No Fly Tipping’ notices have been installed in the laybys.	VM
12 Planning Update	EW – no new applications to discuss.	EW
13 External Services	Grit Bins all appear to be full.	
14 Data	MB is already in the process of writing an IT policy for the Council	MB
15 Assets	<p>Defibrillators</p> <p>Elmore Back Farm. TJ gave a printed sheet to ZS taken from a website showing the cost of a plastic box which might replace the rusting metal one. MB said he would ask Sophie Round if there was another location for it. There was discussion on alternative ways to protect the defibrillator cabinet.</p> <p>Village Hall- power supply remains temporarily disconnected. Defibrillator is OK but no light or , ‘frost free’ function there. It has an unmetered connection via Yew Tree House.</p>	ZS MB
16 Communications	<p>Website is up to date. WEBSITE COMPLIANCE Discussion about the requirement for WCAG in the context of our small local parish council.</p> <p>New email address clerk@elmore.gov.uk</p> <p>We would be unhappy to repeat the cost of designing / building a new website. We paid £666 in 2016 for our website and it would involve lots of work. However, it is possible that the Website can be changed to a Gov.uk site using our existing Website hosts. This would involve a modest nominal cost. The Cllrs all agreed to this.</p> <p>The Bridge will be ready for delivery in late May.</p>	
17 Special Projects	Churchyard question to be followed up.	
18 Any Other Business	None	
<p><u>2026 Meeting Dates</u></p> <p>Tuesday 18 May 2026 (Annual Meetings)</p> <p>Monday 14 September 2026</p> <p>Monday 7 December 2026</p>		
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8 pm.</p>		
<p>Signed..... Date</p>		