

Minutes of The Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting

held at Elmore Village Hall on Tuesday 19th May 2015

(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Present	Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr A Nash (AN) Vice Chair, Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mr N Meek (NM), Clerk Mrs D Jones (DJ)	
In Attendance	Collin Ellis and Graham Littleton	
1 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair	Nomination of Chairman. TJ nominated JF. AN seconded. JF agreed to serve as Chair for a further 12 months. Nomination of Vice Chair. NM proposed AN. TJ seconded. AN agreed to serve as Vice Chair for a further 12 months. Both JF and AN will be issued with the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms to be signed. Thanks are recorded to both JF and AN for the amount of work done for the Parish Council.	
2 Delegation of member's responsibilities	Flooding issues, Severn River issues, Ponds - JF (Chair) Planning sub committee - AN (Vice Chair) Highways and Notice Board - NM Snow Warden, RSN, Website – JH Bridge, Defibrillators – TJ	
3 Police Report*	<i>Not in attendance and no report received.</i>	
4 Open Question Time	None	
5 Declaration of Members' interest in Agenda items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.	
6 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council held on 2 nd March 2015 were proposed as a true record by TJ and seconded by AN.	
7 Matters arising from the Minutes of 2 nd March 2015	JH reported that work to remove overgrowth around the pond opposite to Barhouse Farm had already been completed by her. She requested that the next time that this is done that a claim on the ponds maintenance fund would be made.	
8 Finance*	<u><i>The Parish Precept for 2015/16</i></u> <i>In line with our healthy financial state we decided not to increase the Parish Precept for the 5th year in a row. The Precept remains at £2,400 per annum which is divided on a pro-rata basis amongst all parishioners based on their respective Property Valuation Band.</i> <u><i>Account and Audit</i></u> <i>Parish Council finances remained healthy throughout the year. The bank balance at the end of the FY was £5,855.62. When allocated spending and the ring-fenced contingency fund and the pond maintenance fund are taken off there will be £2,369.01 funds available at the end of May 2015.</i> <i>The financial records were agreed by Councillors at the meeting held</i>	

	<p>2nd March 2015 and the Annual Return for external audit has been signed by JF.</p> <p><u>Forecast Expenditure for 2015/16</u></p> <p>Over and above our regular expenditure for insurance, The Bridge, Clerk's Salary, Village Hall donations our forecast shows a healthy forecast bank balance with a contingency fund of £1500 and pond maintenance fund of £600.</p>	
9 County Councillor's Report*	<p>Cllr A Blackburn sent his apologies as he could not attend this meeting. He reported that he had no new items to pass on to EPC other than developments with the Canal and River Trust (CRT). CRT plan to change the way in which our canal bridges currently operate.</p>	
10 District Councillor's Report*	<p>Cllr D Mossman reported on the SDC plan for Housing. Strategic sites for development have been identified but these do not affect Elmore as none of these sites are on the west side of the Canal.</p> <p>Supermarket site planning is under discussion in Stroud.</p> <p>It was reported that the organisation of the SDC planning is changing and that this might affect our communication with SDC planning.</p> <p>In discussion it was recorded that Parish Council elections will take place in 2016 and then 2020 in line with other local elections.</p>	
11 Highways*	<p>Improvements to Lake Street and Potholes</p> <p>NM reported having site meetings with the Highways Dept. It was agreed that the poor pothole state of Lake Street has had temporary repairs and that more major 'overlay' work is still planned for this financial year. This is most likely to be in October 2015 and will cover 930 m of road.</p>	
12 Elmore Emergency Plan update*	<p>JF reported that some 24 months ago we embarked on a major project to ensure the safety of all parishioners. This has involved the writing of a draft Community Emergency Plan which encompasses an outline plan of what we, as a community, would do in a given emergency - in conjunction with the statutory Emergency Services.</p> <p>Not every possible emergency has been covered in our plan but we have considered the likely risks and threats that we might face and top of the list is of course – flooding.</p> <p>The very nature of such a document means that it is quite bulky and earlier this year we circulated a paper copy of this document around the village to a selected group of individuals for their personal comment while also posted a copy on the Parish Website.</p> <p>Disappointingly, the document itself seems to have vanished after only one or two people had seen it and its current whereabouts is still a mystery ☹</p> <p>Nevertheless, we will continue to seek input to the draft to ensure that we have not missed anything and that the plan is actually workable.</p> <p>Part of the plan covers health emergencies and we have already started to implement this aspect with the purchase of two Defibrillators – the first of these is already installed.</p> <p>Trevor Jones has led the acquisition of the Defibrillator. TJ reported that the first defib had been paid for by EPC and sited at Elmore Back Farm. James Tooth had been employed to do the electrical work & TJ has now fixed up the signage.</p> <p>Nick Meek masterminded the recent training session for the</p>	

	<p><i>Defibrillator located at Elmore Back Farm and reported that the session had been a great success and that about 12 people, all but one from Elmore Back, had been trained. Thanks due to Sophie Round who hosted the session.</i></p> <p><i>TJ asked NM to find out if the trained people would mind their contact details being made public in The Bridge.</i></p> <p><i>Barry Overton had volunteered to do the regular checks on the machine at Elmore Back. He had also pointed out at the training session that if CPR was being carried out, a third person is needed to fetch the defibrillator.</i></p> <p><i>There was some suggestion that CHT could set up an automatic dialing system which would carry on through up to 10 names until a trained person responded. TJ agreed to investigate this.</i></p> <p><i>There was some discussion about how to raise the money for the second defib. Finally it was decided that EPC would fund up to 50%, the other 50 + % to be raised by public subscription. JF set an acquisition date of October 2015 for the second defib and stated that fund raising should start as soon as the Church 700 Celebrations were over and certainly by September 2015. It was decided to contact everyone in the village by letter and ask for a donation. Donation envelopes would be attached to the letter and a date for collection of these would be published. TJ agreed to contact the Land Charity to ask for the £300 they have granted the project. DJ will be able to claim back the VAT on the first defib and other items from June 2015.</i></p>	
<p><i>13 Broadband & Telephone update*</i></p>	<p><i>JF reported that we have kept up the pressure on BT and Openreach to finish the planned upgrade of the telephone and Broadband links to both Elmore and Longney. There are no longer any shared lines but there are 2 issues to solve. The new Fibre Optic distribution box has been installed this side of the Pilot Pub but it has not yet been connected to the Hardwicke exchange as a new box is to be located on the other side of the canal. The new build of 187 houses at Sellars Farm has also complicated matters. The extra long poles to carry the transmitters and receivers of the Back Haul system were installed in January but the actual equipment has not yet been fitted to the poles nor has a power supply been fitted. Fastershire have a target date for this work for September 2015.</i></p>	
<p><i>14 Parish Communications</i></p>	<p><u>Website</u> <i>The website was set up as a trial in early 2014. It continues to be developed. Thanks to JH for running it and DJ for updating information. A 'hit counter' is being used to see how often the website is being visited.</i></p> <p><u>The Bridge</u> <i>It was agreed: that the next issue would be published in July/August and include the Chairman's Annual statement: to emphasise some notices with borders, including our fund raising for the second defibrillator.</i></p> <p><u>E-mail to Elmore Residents</u> <i>JF emphasised the value of having as many people as possible on our email contact list. This means that we can pass important messages and keep everyone informed of events. This is also a vital component of the Emergency Plan as the passage of vital information will be a key to not</i></p>	

	<i>only prompt action but also possibly the saving of lives. JF discussed a personal mail-shot to all those not on the list to encourage participation.</i>	
<i>15 Any Other Business*</i>	<p><i>Canal and River Trust</i></p> <p><i>JF reported that The CRT is the body that took over responsibility from British Waterways for our national rivers and canals. It is proposing to automate all the bridges along the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal. The aim is to save money on manpower, some £500,00, but there are some serious implications for all those living on the west of the Canal. All be bridges would be converted to allow them to be opened remotely rather than the hand cranked system currently in use. This process would cost £2 million.</i></p> <p><i>The idea would be that each boat owner would be given an App for a smartphone which would allow them to open the bridges as they progress along the Canal.</i></p> <p><i>CCTV cameras would be installed on every bridge to monitor the safety of bridge users.</i></p> <p><i>There would not be any regulation as to how many times the bridge would be allowed to open in any given period, so in effect it could open every time a boat user wants it open, i.e. with priority over road users. The CCTV cameras would not be used to monitor the build-up of traffic queuing to cross, so in effect the bridge could be opened several times while the traffic waits for boats to pass.</i></p> <p><i>We have been assured that if an ambulance wished to cross the canal they would be directed to the best bridge by the CRT Control Centre. However, there are one or two positive aspects to this plan, the first being security. The CCTV on every bridge would monitor traffic across the canal and could be used by the police to detect criminals, fly-tippers and anti-social behaviour.</i></p>	
<i>16 Date of next Meeting</i>	<i>The date for the next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 28th September 2015</i>	
	<i>The Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.</i>	
	<i>SignedDate</i>	