

## Minutes of The Parish Council of Elmore Meeting

**Held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Present	Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mr N Meek (NM) Mr A Nash (AN) Clerk Mrs D Jones (DJ)	
In Attendance	Mr John Hardisty	
1.Apologies	Gloucester County Councillor Anthony Blackburn Stroud District Councillor David Mossman	
2.Open Question Time	Mr John Hardisty raised the question of parking on the land opposite to the Elmore Village Hall. This discussion is written up in the Any Other Business section of these minutes.	
3.Police Report	No report was received	
4.Declaration of member's Interest in Agenda Items	Nothing was declared by Councillors.	
5. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2015 were proposed as a true record by TJ and seconded by JH.	
6.Matters Arising from the previous minutes	(i9) Defibrillator maintenance 3 year plan to be covered by TJ (i10) Training date to be discussed (i11) Lake Street NM reported ruts on roadside have been filled (i17) Councillors to send documents and photos be added to website (i18) Severn Voice Meeting on 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 in EVH. (i21) Community Day for pollarding to be covered in AOB	
7. County Councillor's report	<b>From Cllr A Blackburn's report:</b>  1.GCC has increased the Council Tax rate by approx. 3.98%. This decision followed consultation with the public and parishes after Government grant cuts. The rise is for 1.99% overall and another 1.99% for the old and vulnerable. The increase will be approx £43.51 for a Band D (average) house. This does not include SDC or the Police Commissioner's element of your total bill. GCC has been able to raise the adult services spend plus £2m for children in care. An extra £2.4m has come from the Government which will be spent on roads 2. Correction to the media headline "Councillors all vote to put up their salaries by £900. "The independent review body recommended a rise to £10,000 pa but the Conservative Councillors all voted that councillors' allowances should be frozen at £8100 for the whole period of the current council as a pledge of our commitment to keep costs down . The Labour, Lib/Dem, UKIP and Green councillors voted for the rise even though most of them have opposed all the savings which have	

	<p>been introduced! Cllr Blackburn is proud of the Conservative record of £114m saved with no rate rise for over 6 years.</p> <p>3. Cllr Blackburn has taken up with GCC the concerns of Severn Voice for Hardwicke, Elmore, Arlingham as to the C&amp;RT proposal to abolish bridge keepers and bring in remote control on the Canal bridges. Further information at the next Severn Voice meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>4. Roads – More Government money for 2016/17. GCC will get £30,000- (up from £22,500) for road schemes. The A38. Your Stroud DC councillors David Mossman, Haydn Jones and John Jones and I are pressing the GCC and the Police for road safety measures on the A38. Please let us know of any incidents and support us. The disgracefully poor resurfacing work in 2015 is going to be made good by Amey or their subcontractors in the spring (at their cost).</p>	
<p>8. District Councillor's report</p>	<p><b>From Cllr D Mossman's report:</b></p> <p>1. <u>Council Tax increase:</u>  SDC Council tax will increase by 1.99%  GCC Council Tax will increase by 1.99%  GCC elderly care budget will increase by 2%  Police Budget will increase by 1.2%</p> <p>2. <u>Persons claiming Job Seekers Allowance</u> - an indicator of how well Stroud is doing in the employment area;  Stroud is doing very well here and we are well below both the County and GB average and in the period Jan 15 to Dec 15 the figure has dropped from 0.9% to 0.5%.  Also in the 18 to 24 age group again Stroud has fallen from 2.1% in Dec 14 to 0.9% in Dec 15.</p> <p>3. <u>Incinerator:</u>  Still going ahead anticipated start date mid 2016 with 3 year construction cycle</p> <p>4. Rumours in the press about SDC selling off assets like the subscription rooms in Stroud are unfounded.</p> <p>5 . The garden waste collections started on 02 Feb 16 and are on a two week cycle from that date.</p> <p>6 After the election there may be a meeting called of all the parish councils in the NEW Hardwicke Ward with Carlos of Open Spaces to discuss if the parishes wish to take over functions that are presently handled by SDC- e.g. litter picking, grass cutting etc- this is due to a discussion at the last town and Parish meeting at SDC in Dec 15 when some councillors thought it may be advantageous. <i>(Chair's note: No litter picking or grass cutting is carried out in Elmore by SDC !)</i></p>	

	<p><b>7. Devolution</b>  As Cotswolds have just announced they are leaving Gloucestershire County and setting up with Oxford then this has thrown a total spanner in the devolution bid, but worse than that it will affect GCC badly, i.e. Cotswold will no longer pay for services of Highways, Police, Fire, Elderly Care etc.  etc.. so our taxes could rise if this goes through. <i>(Chair's note: this has major implications for the County yet not mentioned in GCC report!!)</i></p>	
9.Finance	<p><b><u>Forecast Expenditure:</u></b>  By the end of this FY 2015/16 we are forecast to spend some £6,495.94 which is £1,056.98 above our income (or 19.4%). This higher than normal figure was the result of the purchase of the 2 defibrillators and their installation – accounting for £4,269. Notwithstanding this major expenditure our bank balance remains healthy and by the end of March will be £4,798.64. The significant items for ongoing expenditure for the next FY will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insurance: £254</li> <li>- Clerk's Salary: +/- £800</li> <li>- Website: £60</li> <li>- GAPTC Subs: £49</li> <li>- Donation to EVH: £200</li> <li>- Printing costs for The Bridge: £150</li> <li>- Defibrillator maintenance: £160</li> </ul> <p>Total of some: £1,673 (some £727 or 30% below our estimated income from the Precept)</p> <p><b><u>Review of EPC Contingency Fund:</u></b>  Currently our Contingency Fund stands at £1,500  This covers the possible expenditure on the unlikely situation of us having to fund our own election, as well as any unforeseen emergency that will involve expenditure.  Defibrillator Maintenance costs may need to be included on the contingency fund. This will be discussed in item 10.</p> <p><b><u>The Precept for FY 2016/17:</u></b>  This is unchanged at £2400. We have noted from the SDC Report that our individual Council Tax Bill will rise by approx 2%. In my own case this will amount to an extra £50 but will vary for each household depending on their Tax Band.  We are not yet out of the so-called 'recession' and some 5 years ago we pledged to work within our current funding until such time as the economy was showing a more positive rate of growth. JF proposed that we review the Precept for FY 2017/18 before January 2017. JF also proposed that this could be reviewed at the Public meeting in May. These proposals were accepted.</p>	TJ

	The Financial record was agreed by the council as a true record for audit.																																				
10. Defibrillator fund and update:	<p><b>Defibrillators and VETS scheme update:</b></p> <p>TJ reported that the pads are dated and have a two year life. Replacement is of two pairs of pads, one active and one spare. Replacement date is printed on the pads. Each pair of pads cost £30 +VAT (reclaimable) so we are looking at £60 +VAT for each defib. The batteries have a 4 year life and their replacement costs £195 +VAT</p> <p>Delivery charges also apply (about £3)</p> <p>On this basis the breakdown of expected costs at today's prices are  <i>DEB = Defibrillator at Elmore Back</i>  <i>DPB = Defibrillator in the Phone Box</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Defib</th> <th>Item</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Costs</th> <th>Financial Yr</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DEB</td> <td>pads</td> <td>Sept 2017</td> <td>£60</td> <td>17/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DPB</td> <td>do.</td> <td>March 2018</td> <td>£60</td> <td>17/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEB</td> <td>do.</td> <td>c Sept 2019*</td> <td>£60</td> <td>19/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DPB</td> <td>do.</td> <td>c March 2020*</td> <td>£60</td> <td>19/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DEB</td> <td>battery</td> <td>June 2019</td> <td>£195</td> <td>19/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DPB</td> <td>battery</td> <td>Nov 2019</td> <td>£195</td> <td>19/20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Over the next 4 financial years (16/17 - 19/20) we will have to spend approximately £630 + VAT an average of about £160 pa.</p> <p>TJ Proposed that the Council should add £160 pa to the financial forecast to accumulate to meet the larger expenses expected in 2019/2020. This proposal was accepted.</p> <p>An additional expense for retraining in the use of Defibrillators was discussed. The Council agreed to stretch the training interval from 1 to 3 years and to look for an alternative, low cost, alternative to CHT training.</p> <p>VETS (Village Emergency Telephone System) was discussed. A training date for this was planned for May. However, DJ agreed to check the set up and ongoing costs involved before going ahead. The Council discussed alternative ways of calling for help without VETS for getting the defibrillator to where it is needed. Suggestions included handing out a list of volunteer phone numbers within the village and looking at phone technology for our own 'ring round' system. It was agreed that we could register with VETS and benefit from a free first 12 months of membership while we set up an alternative.</p>	Defib	Item	Date	Costs	Financial Yr	DEB	pads	Sept 2017	£60	17/18	DPB	do.	March 2018	£60	17/18	DEB	do.	c Sept 2019*	£60	19/20	DPB	do.	c March 2020*	£60	19/20	DEB	battery	June 2019	£195	19/20	DPB	battery	Nov 2019	£195	19/20	Clerk
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11. Highways	<p><b>Highways: Salt/grit bins &amp; Snow Wardens:</b></p> <p>NM reported that recurring potholes were being filled in regularly.</p>	NM																																			

	Roadside flooding in the Hollow Lane area was reported. Severn Trent have been working on this for some time without solving the problem. JF agreed to contact Severn Trent to discuss this.	JF
12.Elmore Emergency Plan	<b>Elmore Emergency Plan – update</b> JF has the Draft Plan having completed its travels. When the various comments have been incorporated it will be republished – initially the unrestricted version. Then work on the restricted version which will be held on a need to know basis as it will contain a lot of individuals’ contact information. An electronic copy will be sent to DJ so that it can be published on the website and also send a copy to SDC for the record. This should be done by the next meeting.	JF  DJ
13. Planning	<b>Planning: Elmore Court plans for the future</b> JF reported that the Council were all aware of the plans and that there were no problems with the proposed development.	
14. Broadband and Telephone update	<b>Broadband and Telephone - update.</b> JF reported that all Councillors have been kept in the loop with the various bits of correspondence regarding the appalling situation that BT has dropped us in. JF received a very non-committal letter from Paul Coles of BT which basically stated that others would be replying to my e-mail to him! No reply received up to 7 <sup>th</sup> March. Of the 4 formal letters sent to The Minister, GCC and SDC only SDC has responded and that on the day they received my letter. JF also sent a copy of the letter to the Minister Neil Carmichael. This was acknowledged. <u>JF proposed the following:</u> A further letter to BT asking for a response to the issues raised; Publishing all letters on our website for everyone to see. A follow-up e-mail to GCC asking for a response to our letter. Copying in SDC and Neil Carmichael. JF reported that if we did not hear anything within a month, proposed that we involve the local press. Cllrs suggested Radio Gloucestershire to publicise this as well as contacting OFCOM.  JF had also applied via Fastershire for the grant for a satellite connection, but this too seems to have fallen on stony ground. A reply was that they were waiting for VBT to provide them with capacity of the lines so that my application can be ratified!	
15. Parish Communications	TJ reported that the latest issue of The Bridge ran to 20 pages for the first time. It included a piece from Neil Carmichael MP and it was agreed to let this continue as a regular feature as long as the content did not become political. It was useful to have an open conduit to out MP.	
16. Canal and River Trust Automated Bridges	<b>Canal and River Trust Automated Bridges – update</b> JF reported that Severn Voice had a meeting with the leader of GCC and others to discuss the issues. They then put together a	

	<p>short paper outlining the key points and submitted them to GCC rather hoping that they would follow-up with C&amp;RT on our behalf.</p> <p>GCC had just forwarded our list to C&amp;RT for comment. C&amp;RT then answered each point in turn with the same non-committal reply that we received to our letter last year.</p> <p>Therefore we are no further forward.</p> <p>The matter is on the Agenda for the SBV Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March and we'll see what the consensus of the parishes is regarding further action.</p>	
17 Transparency Code	<p><b>New Website</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk">www.elmoreparish.co.uk</a> was 'live' in mid January. More information and photos should be added by sending them to the Clerk. The invoice has been received and this will be paid for using the grant received from GPTAC.</p>	All
18 Severn Voice Meeting Elmore	<p>The next SV meeting will be held in Elmore Village Hall and JF will be in the Chair. The Agenda has been sent to all Councillors and the support of any would be appreciated.</p>	Clerk
19. District and Parish Elections 2016	<p><b>District and Parish Elections in May 2016.</b></p> <p>Nomination Paper packs were handed to each of the Councillors. For those wishing to stand for election, these must be complete and delivered by hand to Stroud District Council by 4pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.</p> <p>If no more than 5 candidates are registered, then all will be deemed elected on the day of election without any formal votes being cast.</p> <p>Some Councillors expressed a wish to stand down from re-election.</p> <p>If anyone is known to be keen to be a Councillor, they should contact Chairman, John Field who can brief them on what would be involved. JF agreed to send an email message to those on our village database asking if a potential Councillor would contact him.</p>	JF
20. Any Other Business	<p><b><u>Elmore Village Hall Parking</u></b></p> <p>On behalf on the Village Hall, John Hardisty addressed the meeting concerning the repair/making of a more resilient parking area across the road from EVH as well as the area adjacent to the existing car park. The EPC was asked to take the lead on this matter. As EVH is very much a 'village asset', this was agreed. It was agreed that a discussion document should be in place for the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Issues included,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of parking spaces needed and how many could be provided</li> <li>• ownership of land and willingness of the owner to allow this work to be done</li> <li>• the engineering structure of the work</li> <li>• the cost of work to see if it is achievable</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how money can be raised to pay for it</li> </ul> <p>AN agreed to check his link with the Planning Dept in SDC and perhaps Mr Troughton to see if Highways have a claim or interest in how the job is done.</p> <p>TJ suggested Graham Taylor could be asked to give a 'ball park' figure as they are a specialist ground works company. JF agreed to do this.</p> <p>NM agreed to talk to Dan Tiffany (Highways)</p> <p>JF thought funds may be raised through, EVH, EPC and possibly the Elmore Charity.</p> <p><u>Licence Applications</u></p> <p>It has come to the notice of the Parish Council that two farms in Elmore have applied for an entertainment licence. We have received no direct notification from SDC on these licence applications. Lake Street Farm in April with music from 11 pm to 4 am. Hollow Farm in August and September for two day commercial events. No objections had been received from parishioners but like the Parish Council, may not have known about these applications. It was agreed that no objections could be raised without any representations being made to the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Community Day to harvest withies for the river bank repairs.</u></p> <p>Discussion about where willow wood could be taken included looking at the Lake Street trees. Also, Mr M Watts phoned the Clerk to suggest that the willows at Weir Green needed to be pollarded. AN believed that the Weir Green trees were on 'Common Land' which belonged the Elmore Court. TJ had spoken to Anselm Guise, who was quite happy for any wood to be removed from the willows as it was not needed for the biomass boiler at The Court. However, there was no decision possible without more information about how such a big job could be undertaken.</p> <p>TJ and JF agreed to find a date for a Community Day for river work later in the year.</p>	JF/TJ/AN /NM
22. Date of Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45 in Elmore Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Elmore Parish Meeting followed by</li> <li>• The Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting</li> </ul>	
	The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.	
	Signed .....Date .....	