

Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting

held at Elmore Village Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2016

(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

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| Present | Parish Councillors Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr N Meek (NM), Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs P Turner (PT), Clerk Mrs D Jones | |
| Apologies | Cllr A Blackburn | |
| 1 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair. | Nomination of Chairman: TJ nominated JF. NM seconded. JF agreed to serve as Chair for a further 12 months. Nomination of Vice Chair. JH nominated NM. TJ seconded. NM agreed to serve as Vice Chair for 12 months. JF and NM signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms for these posts. All Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as a member of Elmore Parish Council. | |
| 2 Delegation of member's responsibilities | Flood issues, Severn River Issues, Ponds – JF (Chair) Highways, Notice Board, Vets alternative – NM Snow Warden, RSN – JH Bridge, Defibrillators – TJ VETS alternative – PT Website – all Cllrs to contribute | |
| 3 Police Report* | <i>March to May reports. A motorbike nearly hit police car along Elmore Lane East - erratic driving</i> <i>Joyriding in Elmore Court car park. Only 1 call so possibly a one off.</i> <i>Burglary Elmore Lane East – patio doors smashed to gain entry whilst occupiers were away for the night.</i> <i>Police remind everyone that with hotter and lighter nights coming, please be more vigilant in locking all doors and windows when left unattended. House or shed alarms to be set also. Be aware of any suspicious vehicles possibly looking at empty houses.</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 held on 7 th March 2016 | The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 7 th March 2016 were proposed as a true record by TJ and seconded by NM. | |
| 7 Matters arising from the Minutes of 7 th March 2016 | VETS – the scheme to call for local assistance had proved to be much more expensive than planned. An alternative method for seeking help was agreed using the 4 geographical areas identified in the Emergency Plan. NM knew of emergency call apps for smart phones and suggested that a plan to use these free apps could be used. NM agreed to draw up lists of volunteers from our defibrillator training lists. DJ to email her list of names to NM. JF asked PT to liaise with NM on this task. Defibrillator on going Training – The Council discussed who could offer follow up training. It was suggested that local residents with medical | NM PT DJ |

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| | <p>training might do this. It was also agreed to ask Carol Novoth if training could come from her department as part of our First Aid Training for the community. TJ agreed to do this.</p> <p>Car Parking – No progress was possible with the plan to help refurbish the parking area opposite to the village hall. It was felt that there were legal implications for work done that did not meet existing highway standards and that our offer of funds would not be sufficient to meet the hi spec engineering needs of this area. An alternative suggestion was that car parking within the grounds of the village hall could be used more fully, taking in garden area and changing the railing system and putting in white lines to indicate parking spaces. JF agreed to contact John Hardisty with the Council’s suggestions.</p> <p>JH reported that white lines, marking junctions, have all but disappeared from the village. This is a road safety issue and that these lines should be re-instated.</p> | <p>TJ</p> <p>JF</p> |
| <p>8 Finance*</p> | <p><i>The Parish Precept for 2017/18:</i> We think the time is right to raise the Precept by a small margin. The Precept for this year remains at the level pegged for the last 5 years. There seems to be a general consensus so I propose that we bid for the Precept with a rise of 3% for the next FY. About 3 years ago there was a change in the way the Precept was paid to Parishes and anyone on Band D or below and who is claiming what used to be called Housing Benefit, is not required to pay their share. Although we still ask for £2,400 from Stroud District Council the amount each household pays towards the Precept may change from year to year depending on how many people in the village are exempt. On average this probably mean an annual increase of just above or below £1.50 per year.</p> <p><i>Account and Audit:</i> The system of auditing has changed over the last year and links in with our website. As a small parish with a turnover of less than £10,000 we are required to publish our accounts for audit on our website. In the future, all invoices over £100 have also to published on our website. Therefore, we are now ‘required’ to have a website rather than just wanting one . Audit documents were signed for submission.</p> <p><i>Forecast Expenditure for 2016/17:</i> Currently we only have one major project in the pipeline and that is the possible construction of a proper car park opposite this hall. This project would be done in conjunction with the Village Hall Committee and we have currently earmarked some £1,000 as our contribution but this may not be enough.</p> | |
| <p>9 County Councillor’s Report*</p> | <p><i>Cllr Blackburn’s report</i></p> <p>The GCC year has just concluded. Gloucestershire council is still a hung council with no overall majority. Conservatives are continuing their administration with 23 councillors (44%). There are 14 Lib/Dem, 9 Labour and 6 others.</p> <p>The number of ‘Cabinet members’ Chief Officers and Councillors has been cut, saving £114m over the last 7 years thus keeping ‘the rate’ down. No increase in Council tax over this period. Now, with no Government</p> | |

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| | <p><i>grant we have had to raise the GCC element of your Council tax by 1.99% plus another approx. 2% on old people's services. This results in a total bill to households with SDC and Police rises of plus 2-4%</i></p> <p><i>The latest matters exercising the GCC are better broadband, devolution, putting in a bid for more money and powers with DC's and resisting Cotswold DC's odd idea of joining west Oxfordshire.</i></p> <p><i>Potholes: In addition to our own £43m on Highways, GCC has recently got another £3m from Government for roads. Tony has £30,000 to spend in his division (9,400 voters) plus another £1500 "lengthman's scheme" i.e. where repair of one pothole could lead to several others being filled on that bit of road.</i></p> <p><i>Under a GCC/SDC arrangement he had £5000 for Yough projects in 2016/17.</i></p> <p><i>The number one priority is road safety; specifically measures along the A38 where there have now been 3 fatalities in separate accidents in 6 months.</i></p> | |
| <p>10 District Councillor's Report*</p> | <p><i>Cllr Mossman's Report</i></p> <p><i>As you can imagine it has been relatively quiet in the election period. The results of the election in the Hardwicke Ward were that David Mossman, Gill Oxley Tom Skinner all conservatives were elected as SDC Councillors for the Hardwicke Ward for the period 2016 to 2020</i></p> <p><i>Hunts Grove is now progressing forward, and the Super Surgery has been confirmed, it will be sited next to the Dance Studios near the Nass Lane roundabout close to the Park and Ride bus terminal, it is anticipated that the surgery will be in operation early in 2018, and a presentation will be arranged by the Doctors who will be running the surgery in the near future for the public. This Surgery will support Kingsway and Hunts Grove, and take a large number of patients from Rose Bank/Seven Vale surgeries which are badly overloaded.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to this I am starting discussions with the NHS and Rose Bank re a satellite surgery to assist with the 750 homes in Hunts Grove on the last Phase of this development.</i></p> <p><i>Food Waste collection will start later this year and bins will be provided by SDC- further information will be circulated closer to the start of these collections.</i></p> <p><i>I am now a member of the Road Safety Group run by GCC and SDC and will be organising a demonstration of the ANPR camera's with to begin with Hardwicke, Moreton Vallence, and Whitminster Parish Councils to look at speeding/safety problems on the A38 .</i></p> <p><i>Incinerator is progressing forward and some activity will start on site in June, but main construction is about to start in September. I am chairing the Community Liaison Group, with Local Parishes/District Councillors/County Councillors/UBB/SDC/GCC to ensure that any disruption during construction is kept to a minimum and the public are informed in advance of anything that may affect their daily lives, also we are just completing the investigation into methods of independently Monitoring the plume of the incinerator, and we hope to have final agreement shortly on the methods/cost of this independent Monitoring so our residents can be assured that there is no danger from the plume.</i></p> | |

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| | <i>Finally as we now have a team of 3 District Councillors, it is hoped that we will be able to ensure that the 8 parishes in our extended ward are correctly serviced.</i> | |
| 11 Highways* | Potholes Recent indications of future pothole repairs with yellow lines around some of the holes through the village. Severn Trent Repairs on Haywicks Lane Leaks are continuing from the new pipe line laid 3 years ago. | |
| 12 Elmore Emergency Plan update* | <i>This Emergency Plan will remain a living document, which will be reviewed annually.</i> | |
| 13 Broadband & Telephone update* | <p>Broadband</p> <p><i>We all know that we have a miserable broadband reception and when compared to our nearest village across the canal we are in the dark ages! The canal has always seemed to be the stumbling block notwithstanding various failed attempts to drill under it.</i></p> <p><i>We shouldn't forget that we've come a long way since dial-up Internet and shared lines, which was the situation prior to 2009. But then again the rest of UK has moved forward too and at a far faster rate than us.</i></p> <p><i>We thought we'd made a major breakthrough with BT when we hosted a meeting here on 29th August 2014 and BT told us quite categorically that a revolutionary microwave system was going to be installed to fire the broadband signal across the canal and give both Longney and Elmore superfast broadband.</i></p> <p><i>We saw a gradual progress of the project as the microwave pole was erected; the dishes were put on top and the lines connected to the junction box. The whole system was due to 'go live' by the end of 2015 but sadly BT/Openreach remained behind schedule right up to the last minute.</i></p> <p><i>However, on 8th January I was invited to a launch event at The Pilot, attended by all the great and good of the local area only to discover that a decision had been made by Fastershire and BT to exclude Elmore from the new microwave system.</i></p> <p><i>Since then I have been in constant communication with BT, our local MP – Neil Carmichael, as well as Ed Vaizey, the Government Minister responsible for Digital Economy; in addition I've written to Fastershire, SDC and GCC. Progress has been painfully slow but up to last weekend we had a firm promise from GCC to include Elmore in the Fastershire project but they were awaiting the cost figures from BT so that the necessary budgets could be found.</i></p> <p><i>However, I noted from a Government announcement on 30th April that they have now abandoned their pledge to give rural areas faster broadband because it is too expensive and I quote. "not everyone wants it"</i></p> <p><i>Where are we now? I still await confirmation from GCC that we will be included but I have no idea as to the timeframe.</i></p> | |

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| <p>14 Parish Communications*</p> | <p><i>Website the website is now live but in being developed. This website is a legal requirement in order to publish information and financial activity of the Parish Council. There is a small annual charge for maintenance. Technical help and support is ongoing.</i></p> <p><i>The Bridge is now an established feature in the village. A settled annual pattern of publication has been established. There is no intention to move to colour because this would push up the costs disproportionately. However any suggestions of how the format and content might be improved would be welcome.</i></p> <p><i>E-mail database: We have some 54% of households on the electronic database and who therefore receive e-mail updates on road closures, security matters etc. We would of course like 100% but realise that this is not achievable as some people in the village don't use the internet at all. However, as part of the Emergency Plan we would like to see a wider communications base so would encourage people to become part of it. Only 2 people have the complete list – me and our Clerk so your privacy is protected.</i></p> | |
| <p>15 Any Other Business</p> | | |
| <p>16 Date of next Parish Council Meeting</p> | <p>26th September 2016 at 7.45 in Elmore Village Hall</p> | |
| | <p>The Chairman thanked all present and declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm.</p> | |
| | <p>SignedDate</p> | |
| <p><i>Note: The discussions from the Annual Parish Meeting on all items marked with an asterisk(*) and in italics will not be repeated during this meeting but will be taken as if they had been discussed for the purposes of the Minutes of this meeting.</i></p> | | |