

Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting will be held at
Elmore Village Hall on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7.45 pm

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	No one attended	
1 Apologies	Cllr A Blackburn	
2 Open Question Time	No parishioners were present.	
3 Police Report	No Police Report was provided in the absence of a Police representative at the meeting. JF had reported to the police that men in a White Vans had called at his gate in Elmore. The number plates of the van was checked and found to be false.	
4 Declaration of Member's Interest in Agenda items	There were no declarations made.	
5 Minutes of the previous meeting	The Minutes of Elmore Parish Council meeting held on Friday 3 rd October 2014 were proposed as a true record by AN and seconded by NM.	
6 Matters Arising	Matters Arising - Item 8. Follow-up letter to Mr N Carmichael on questions for the EA. JF was waiting for the meeting with the EA to take place Based on the success or otherwise of that JF would write. This will be covered in JF's report on flooding etc. - Item 13. Community Emergency Plan – this topic will be covered as a separate Agenda item. - Item 14. Website – again this will be covered later.	
7 County Councillor's Report	Cllr Blackburn was unable to attend and no report was received.	
8 District Councillor's Report	Cllr D Mossman did not attend this meeting but his written report covered. - Boundary Review – likely that Hardwicke will have 3 District Councillors; - House numbers: - Water Treatment Plant: - Incinerator: final decision on location is expected by - Flood Defences - Post Office in Hardwicke: A new PO will now be located in the old Starting Gate Pub on the main road. - A 38 Junction:	
9 Highways - Lake Street.	Highways - Lake Street. Traffic speed and winter road plans. Nick Meek gave an update on some of the developments:	

<p>Traffic speed and winter road plans.</p>	<p>Lake Street repairs. Following a meeting with Daniel Tiffney the worst potholes have now been filled. Highways are hopeful that the work to do a full width overlay can be done within this Financial Year. To do this top surface, the likely cost would be £60-£70K.</p> <p><u>Salt Bins</u> – all topped up ready for winter – Jenni Hobbs has a stock of salt/grit</p> <p><u>Parking at Weir Green</u> – the improvised bollards seem to have been successful in keeping cars off the grass. JF recommended that we tidy up the logs that are in-situ and maybe replace a few with more respectable examples.</p> <p><u>Fly-tipping</u>: After a period of little fly-tipping we’ve had 3 incidents in the past few weeks. All have since been collected by SDC.</p>	
<p>10 Finance – Forecast expenditure</p>	<p>The Finance Spreadsheet shows a healthy balance of £6,170 and although this looks large we have £2,000 already allocated for our tentative plans for the purchase of a Defibrillator. This will be covered later.</p> <p>Nevertheless, even with this projected expenditure, our end of year forecast bank balance will still be in the region of £3,890.</p> <p>We have £1,300 in our ‘Contingency Fund’ and some time last year AN suggested that we should increase this figure. Let us recap on why we have such a fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - firstly to meet the unexpected cost of an election should that be necessary – and this matter is more relevant with the proposed boundary changes which could result in an election within the Parish which doesn’t coincide with either a National or Local election. EPC would have to pay for this. - secondly, to meet any sudden expense that we, as a PC, might face e.g. a tree on Parish Council land falling and either causing damage or needing to be cleared away by a contractor. - thirdly, as detailed in the draft Emergency Plan – to meet possible expenditure on maintaining a ‘Place of Safety’ (such as Elmore Village Hall) or having to provide emergency food/assistance to sections of the community. <p>TJ proposed that we raise the Contingency Fund from £1300 to £1500 with immediate effect. This was seconded by AN. DJ agreed to add this to the budget and record this ready for the Annual Audit.</p>	<p>DJ</p>
<p>11 Severn Estuary Flood Risk (SEFRMS)</p>	<p>Last week JF had a meeting with the Richard Bentley and Steve Edgar of the EA at both Weir Green and Elmore Back.</p> <p>The main reason for the meeting was to establish better relations at the working level with our local EA reps and to find out why EPC hadn’t been consulted regarding the work along our stretch of the riverbank</p> <p>JF felt the meeting was very worthwhile and found the EA reps</p>	

	<p>more than amenable and open regarding the problems they are facing and the funding available for ongoing maintenance. It now transpires that some extra funding has been forthcoming from the Government and our local EA had put in a successful bid for riverbank maintenance – hence the sudden activity along the riverbank.</p> <p><u>Flood Defences:</u> Richard Bentley assured JF that the current EA policy is to ‘Hold the Line’ i.e. maintaining the existing flood defences in their current state and that the life expectancy of these defences is 40 years. However, no funds are currently available for any ‘improvements to the flood defences.</p> <p><u>Weir Green:</u> In particular, they now intend to do some clearance of the ditches leading to the small outfall at Weir Green to improve the flow of water for the catchment area. JF pointed out that some pollarding work had been carried out but there were some rather large trees on the riverbank that needed attention. The EA took note of this and promised to allocate teams to finish the work on this stretch.</p> <p><u>Elmore Back.</u> JF was joined for this part of the meeting by Dave Guilding who has a wealth of knowledge about that stretch of the riverbank and they discussed both the severe pollarding of the trees along the bank that had already been done as well as what could be done in the future to prevent erosion of the riverbanks.</p> <p>The yardstick used by the EA is that any vegetation growing within 5m of the flood banks will be inspected and if necessary trimmed to avoid trees from being uprooted by the strong tides/Severn Bores and hence causing the collapse of the of the riverbank. This is done by pollarding so that the root systems remain intact to strengthen the bank.</p> <p>We showed the EA the planting that Dave Guilding had carried out many years ago – for which he had received a rap on the knuckles from the EA – however, as Richard Bentley explained, such work is to be applauded not punished !</p> <p>The EA even suggested that we have a community planting day alongside the EA teams to coppice existing willows and replanting the cuttings along the bank.</p> <p>In addition, we inspected the damage on parts of the flood defences which has been caused by livestock. In particular, there were several areas in gateways and adjacent to gates – downstream of Sophie Round’s farm, where the ground was noticeably lower. This had been caused by the constant trafficking by livestock at these chokepoints. The EA said they would attend to these problems and would see if funding was available from a special vote to build a special track behind the flood defences so that livestock could avoid using the flood defences as their only route in order to be moved to different</p>	
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	<p>pasture areas. The EA also expressed a wish to hold some form of ‘Study Day’ for farmers and landowners, in conjunction with other agencies to discuss ways and means of reducing erosion by livestock and the precautions as well as repairs that farmers could undertake. <u>Views welcome on this aspect.</u> More work is yet to be carried out as EA teams and contractors become available and they apologized for the lack of communication and assured me that they would endeavour to get us in the picture regarding future works. TJ offered to contact Steve Edgar (EA) about a community day.</p> <p>All in all – things look positive for the future.</p>	TJ
<p>12 Broadband and Telephone lines update including current broadband issues</p>	<p>A new distribution box for fibre-optic cables was installed at the end of November at the Longney junction and the old box removed. New underground cables also appear to have been laid across the road. However, the new receiver/transmitter for the Back-Haul system doesn’t appear to have been erected yet. The last official news JF had was that there were originally problems with the size of the pole required and BT’s contractor couldn’t supply one. JF’s endeavours to find out from BT and/or Fastershire as to the current situation have drawn a blank. Notwithstanding the lack of good news JF remains hopeful that we will see some improvement in the quality of both our phone reception and Broadband.</p>	
<p>13 Standing Orders review</p>	<p>Elmore Parish Council are under remit to review our own Standing Orders in December of each year and this is the time! JF scanned the document and could not see any need to add additional items or amend existing sections. The councillors agreed that no amendments were needed.</p>	
<p>14 Elmore Village Emergency Plan</p>	<p>The Final Draft of the Emergency Plan has been printed and is now in circulation to some of the key stakeholders in the Village for their comments. The document has now been seen and commented on by; John Hardisty Graham Littleton Graham Lovell Jenni Hobbs Both Trevor Jones & Nick Meek have read the e-mail version and contributed their comments too. The draft Plan had also been published on the Elmore Parish Council Website. A note will be placed in the next issue of our Newsletter / The Bridge to draw attention to its existence. Within the scope of the Emergency Plan there is the matter of First Aid Training and the Defibrillator. JF said that he intend to leave the First Aid training until after</p>	

	<p>the Final Draft has made its rounds and to gauge the level of feeling within the Village. If it is positive he will then arrange for SDC to conduct the relevant training at the Village Hall. However, such training could also include training on the Defibrillator.</p>	
<p>15 Phone Box Adoption</p>	<p>TJ and AN were asked to report to the meeting on the research into the purchase of a Defibrillator.</p> <p>TJ & AN had met on two occasions and good progress had been made. Contact with Saul where a defibrillator has already been installed in the phone box was useful. AN had attended a familiarisation session there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two defibrillators were needed, one near EVH, the other at Elmore Back; even EVH could be well outside the 8 minute response time aimed at by SWA, let alone Elmore Back. - Suggestion that we adopt the phone box by EVH for one defibrillator. BT will release it to us for £1. They would pay for decommissioning and apparently pay for electricity for 7 years (at least) – we have this in writing from BT. Electricity costs would be between ‘60p and £6 pa’ (SWA) depending on temperatures. SDC have already approved the adoption. Meeting approved adoption and gave TJ and AN authority to go ahead but only after contacting everyone in the parish to find out who uses it (if anyone) and who might oppose its adoption. It was agreed to contact the parish through the January edition of The Bridge. AN agreed to check the BT contract ready to sign for the phone box adoption. <p>TJ had asked NM to suggest a site in Elmore Back. NM suggested his porch or one of the barns at Elmore Back Farm (owner Sophie Round, SR, had agreed). On balance the meeting preferred the Elmore Back Farm site. Both MN & SR had agreed to meet the electricity costs. TJ and AN will meet with NM and Sophie Round at Elmore Back to discuss the location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two suppliers of the defibrillator and its cabinet had been explored. Though not the cheaper option, the equipment recommended by South West Ambulance and the Community Heartbeat Trust was preferred by the meeting. SWA personnel are familiar with it and it networks with their tablets so that patient information can reach the hospital before the patient. Each installation and defibrillator would cost about £2000. EPC would need to set aside about £150 pa for maintenance (mainly battery and pad replacement) 	<p>AN</p> <p>TJ/AN</p> <p>TJ/AN</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully automatic equipment is preferable. Can be used by anyone with ease, though familiarisation sessions would need to held for volunteer parishioners. SWA would help with this. - EPC could afford one machine and its installation. Need to look for grant aid and also to organise fund raising for the second one. Suggested grant applications to Elmore Land Charity and Glos Community Trust (TJ has a contact at the GCT). A fund raising event was proposed – possibly an auction of promises (flights, sailing etc mentioned) - First defibrillator should be at Elmore Back. <p>The council asked DJ to contact our insurance company about the cost to include the defibrillators.</p>	DJ
16 Communications - Newsletter and Website	JF reported some very positive feedback regarding our newsletter 'The Bridge' and although the last issue was quite bulky, it was a good read. Thanks from the chair to TJ Editor. The Website problems have now been resolved and it is taking shape very well indeed. It now publishes not only the Minutes of our meetings but also future Agendas. It contains a copy of the Emergency Plan It was agreed to draw attention to the EPC Website in the next issue of 'The Bridge'.	TJ
17 Any Other Business	There was no other business.	
18 Date of next meeting	Monday 2 nd March 2015	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 20 pm	
	Signed..... Date	