

**Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at  
Elmore Village Hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.45 pm**

Present	Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (FJ) Chair, Mr A Nash (AN) Vice Chair, Mrs J Hobbs (JH), Mrs C Stewart (CS), Mr T Jones (TJ) Acting Clerk Mrs D Jones (DJ)	
In attendance	Those present: Cllr Graham Littleton, Mrs Val Overton and Mr Barry Overton and PCSO Manja Tunney.	
<b>1</b> Apologies	Cllr A Blackburn	
<b>2</b> Open Question Time	Mr B Overton asked if the very poor state of the lower sections of Lake Street could be reported to Highways. This includes large potholes and gullies blocked with slurry. JF reminded all present that any parishioner can and should report these incidents directly to Gloucestershire Highways. JF agreed to report it too but stated that the more reports made of each event might provoke a faster response.	<b>JF</b>
<b>3</b> Police Report	PCSO Manja Tunney reported local crime comparison statistics for the last 3months. Burglaries and attempted burglaries: seven (7) this year compared to one (1) last year. Sadly, this follows a trend within other Severnside villages. CS recorded her thanks to the police for their greater presence in Elmore. JF agreed to write a note to those parishioners with email contact to pass around a warning for the need to keep property secure. He will encourage all to remain vigilant and ready to report any suspicious events to the police. The Crimestoppers number is 101 - this is a non-emergency number.	<b>JF</b>
<b>4</b> Declaration of Members Interests	Nothing to declare	
<b>5</b> Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2013 were proposed by JF and seconded by TJ.	
<b>6</b> Matters Arising	It was agreed that the Crimestoppers number will be displayed on the village notice board and the website. The issue of land ownership around village ponds was to be resolved before the next meeting	<b>JF</b>
<b>7</b> County Councillor's Report	Cllr Blackburn GCC was absent from this meeting.	
<b>8</b> District Councillor's Report	Cllr Graham Littleton reported that he would not be standing for re-election in May2014 after 14 years of service. He expressed his view that the recently adopted Committee style of leadership within the council appeared to be less efficient than the Cabinet style with which has worked during his 14 years in office. Cllr Littleton reported that SDC have a large fund of £100,000 available for Green projects. He is keen to promote that this fund should be spread widely through the SDC area and not held primarily for Stroud projects.	

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<b>9</b> Finance, Precept, Audit Result, Forecast Expenditure	<p>JF reported that the Forecast expenditure sheet shows a very healthy balance with more than £5000 in the bank.</p> <p>JF proposed that EPC should set the same precept for the financial year 2014 – 2015. The forms for this will be received and completed in January 2014. The proposal was agreed.</p> <p>It was also agreed that EPC could allocate some money towards the purchase of a defibrillator; (amount not yet specified).</p> <p>The External Audit of the EPC accounts was approved with no charge made as our annual turnover is less than £10,000 and the ‘Statutory Notice’ had been displayed by TJ on the Notice Board for the regulation period.</p>	
<b>10</b> SDC Grant for local projects	<p>The Council assumed that this Grant would come from the Green projects fund of £100,000. It was suggested that we look at the possibility of funding towards pond clearing work in Elmore.</p> <p>AN &amp; JF would try to clarify this at the SDC meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January.</p>	<b>AN &amp; JF</b>
<b>11</b> Flooding Issues – EA Consultation update	<p>Following the EA consultation on Flood Risk Management we expected to receive the results and findings by the end of September 2013. This report has still not been published.</p> <p>We are aware of dialogue between the GCC and EA but no new information has yet emerged.</p> <p>A reply from the EA’s Tewkesbury office, following our FOI request, informed us that the cost of maintaining the river banks for Elmore and Longney had been £12,000 over a 10 year period. This figure was for grass cutting and rubbish collection only with no figure for refurbishing or improvements to the flood defences. This is very different to the figure of £7m stated in the EA’s Flood Risk Report.</p> <p>The EA wanted to discuss with landowners the concept of shared responsibility for the maintenance but as yet no approaches have been made despite this idea being stated over 12 months ago.</p> <p>GL reported that he usually tops the grass on his river bank land but that the EA have not contacted him as a landowner.</p>	
<b>12</b> Parish Council Website update	<p>JH and TJ reported that the website was already ‘live’. They asked if all Cllrs would look at the existing content of the site and make suggestions to them about which changes or additions would improve it. It was also agreed that ‘useful telephone numbers should also be posted on the site.</p>	<b>All Cllrs.</b>
<b>13</b> Elmore Design Statement	<p>The September EPC minutes showed that this would be deferred until 2014. However in the meantime it was suggested that information could be published on the website to assist with the preliminary work to be done.</p>	<b>AN</b>
<b>14</b> Stroud Charter	<p>AN suggested that this should be included on the Agenda of the Town and Parish Council meeting at Ebley Mill on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This can then be reported back to EPC at the next meeting.</p>	<b>AN</b>
<b>15</b> Code of Conduct update	<p>It was agreed that this document should be added to the EPC website.</p>	<b>JH/TJ</b>
<b>16</b> Highways and State of	<p>The Severn Trent water main work has been completed. JF reported that some infilling is still needed to alleviate subsidence where work</p>	

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Village	<p>was done. JF agreed to contact the Severn Trent contractors about this issue.</p> <p>Salt and Grit bins need to be checked and ‘loosened up’ as they are packed hard in the bins. TJ and AN agreed to do this. Small bags of salt have been delivered to JH. These will be easier to handle and distribute.</p> <p>Glos Highways have only recently replied to JF’s request for a job specification for a Snow Warden in the villages. This document appears to be ‘over formal’ and asking too much of volunteers. JH offered to act as ‘a point of contact’ for snow duties in the middle of the village.</p> <p>JH discussed the idea of asking for a snow plough fitting for the tractors. JF agreed to contact Glos Highways and contact Mrs Round about being a similar ‘point of contact’ for the Elmore Back area.</p>	<p><b>JF</b></p> <p><b>TJ/ AN</b></p> <p><b>JF</b></p>
<b>17</b> Weir Green Parking	<p>TJ reported that problems have arisen for each of the existing two plans for protecting this area with posts. Recently a very large vehicle had driven through Weir Green, mistaking it for another location. This incident damaged verges and the flood bank. TJ agreed to contact Glos Highways to request a notice at the start of Weir Lane ‘Not suitable for HGV’s or Articulated Lorries’.</p>	<p><b>TJ</b></p>
<b>18</b> SDC Pre-submission local plan	<p>AN reported as per the minutes of the last meeting. No further action is required.</p>	
<b>19</b> Planning	<p>Elmore Court: SDC have issued the ‘Discharge of Conditions’ notice for planning. JF expressed disappointment that EPC had not been involved in the sound test in September. Elmore Court is now ‘open for business’ and there were no reported problems following the initial events. Further applications are being made for alterations to the residential accommodation.</p> <p>Elmore Back Mobile Homes: SDC reported that no further action will be considered until sometime in 2014. The EPC note that they have registered the concerns of the residents in the area to SDC although no useful or helpful reply was received from SDC. CS felt that the SDC’s lack of guidance has caused rift in the community.</p>	
<b>20</b> WW1 Centenary	<p>TJ reported that we have a quotation for a plaque to be made by a local firm as part of the WW1 Commemorations. EPC felt that the wording should include the EPC website address which has a link to the ‘Glosgen’ website.</p> <p>It was agreed to allocate up to £250 for this notice to be erected. It was recommended that TJ contact Mr Michael Watts to ask if the Elmore Land Charity Trust might like to make a contribution towards this.</p>	<p><b>TJ</b></p>
<b>21</b> Appointment of Clerk	<p>DJ agreed to be appointed EPC Clerk. However, it was noted that this post could still be filled by another if a suitable local person emerges.</p>	

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	All Councillors expressed their gratitude to DJ.	
<b>22 AOB</b>	<p>There were three items under AOB:</p> <p>a. <u>Emergency Plan</u>: JF briefed the meeting on the status of the draft Emergency Plan which was now ready to be circulated for consultation, a copy has already been sent to SDC for their comments. CS voiced the thanks of the council to JF for the extensive work applied to this task. JF agreed to circulate the hard copy of the plan to each councillor for comments. First Aid training for parishioners, as part of this 'Plan' was discussed; SDC would provide free training, carried out by the Red Cross, for up to 24 people. However, this training was not a 'certificated' course and only covered everyday first aid. JF agreed to investigate more advanced training once a corps of people had already been trained by the Red. Data protection of information was also discussed and JF felt that the data currently held was only that which was already available in the public domain but would keep the situation under review. The issue of insurance was discussed in relation to the fact that the plan formalises the roles of volunteer Councillors and other parishioners. It was agreed to check our existing Insurance policy and to get advice from GAPTC.</p> <p>b. <u>Local Elections</u>: JF highlighted the fact that local elections would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 as part of the MEP and district Council elections. All Elmore Parish Councillors were due to re-election in 2014 and the forms for registration would be issued by SDC in the early part of the New Year. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to publicise that the matter on the website.</p> <p>c. <u>Telephones</u>: JF stated that 'Fastershire', the GCC's introduction of faster broadband to rural areas by 2015, is already behind schedule but the Hardwicke Exchange had been upgraded. Sadly, this will not be of any benefit to Elmore as the problem of the canal seemed to be a bridge too far! The matter will be followed up at the next SV meeting.</p>	<p><b>JF</b></p> <p><b>DJ</b></p> <p><b>TJ/JH</b></p>
<b>23</b> Date of next meeting and Dates of 2014 Meetings.	<p><b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014</b> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014</b> Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting.</p> <p><b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014</b> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b> Parish Council Meeting</p>	
	There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by JF at 21.50.	
	<b>Signed:</b> .....	<b>Date:</b> .....