

**Minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held at Elmore Village Hall on
Monday 4th March at 7.45pm**

Subject Heading	ITEM	Action
Present	Parish Councillors: Mr J Field - Chair – (JF), Mr A Nash - Vice Chair – (AN), Clare Stewart (CS), Mrs J Hobbs – (JH), Mr T Jones – (TJ). Clerk: Mrs J Smeaton – (JS).	
In Attendance	Those present: Mr Graham Littleton (GL) (District Councillor – Hardwicke Ward) { Items 1 -4 only }, Mr Tony Blackburn (TB) (Gloucester County Councillor) { Items 1-9 only }. Parishioners – Mr Nick Stewart.	
1. Apologies	Mr Russell Miles – (RM) (District Councillor – Hardwicke Ward). Mrs Dorie Jones.	
	John Field opened the meeting at 7.45pm and welcomed those attending.	
2. Open Question Time	<p>Cllr Graham Littleton (SDC) stated that we have had the wettest year in a long time. Due to this, the village is suffering from damage to the verges. EPC is aware that this isn't just local farm traffic that is causing this, but also the local buses and daily delivery vans. GL asked what the long term fix would be to this, and stated that, for example, a couple of passing bays on Lake Street would be the best option. JF stated that this would be the best option and is what the village needs, however due to the recession, he did not think Gloucester Highways would do this. As a start JF is to write to the bus company requesting they change the bus to the smaller bus. He would also write to SDC to ask if the rubbish and re-cycling trucks could take more care of the environment.</p> <p>GL stated that he had to leave after his District Councillor's Statement. CS then suggested that discussion on Item 12 on the agenda should be moved up to Item 3 so that GL could participate – this was agreed. This applied also to Item 8 on the Agenda - the District Councillor's Report which was moved to Item 4 on the Agenda.</p>	JF
3. Highways & State of the Village	<p>JF informed the meeting that Severn Trent plans to replace the water main throughout the village from 'Beamlow' at one end of the village, to the Stonehouse turning, at the other end - from 15th April 2013 to 21st December 2013; however EPC has not yet been officially notified of this project. These proposals will cause severe disruption on the roads especially as part of the proposal is to close Lake Street for 6 weeks. JF has written to Severn Trent and GCC and is awaiting a formal answer.</p> <p>The flooding on the corner at Farley's End seems to have been cured although Highways never replied to JF's email or the email from GL. The state of the verges was mentioned in the Parish Newsletter. JF welcomes any comments on a possible way ahead regarding this problem.</p> <p>Weir Green Embankment – TJ informed the meeting of the problems at Weir Green – cars were constantly parking on the grass covered flood embankment and caused serious damage - and he had recently had a meeting with Anselm Guise (AG), the land owner, as well as the EA regarding a way forward. Posts are being provided by AG and these will be put in as a barrier but with a removable post to allow access for emergency and maintenance vehicles. 'No Parking' notices will be put up on the flood bank and a suggestion by TJ to keep costs down, was a self-help tidy-up of the damage that could be done as a community project. The</p>	JF TJ

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	<p>EA had also agreed to remove Weir Green from their website as a viewing point for the Severn Bore.</p> <p>Village Design Statement – AN has put together an application for a Grant from SDC in order to help EPC prepare an ‘Elmore Village Design Statement’. We were up against a tight deadline for submitting our application as the date was 1st March, therefore this had already been done. We are not committed by this application, however, the preparation of such a Statement would entail some expenditure by EPC and these costs needed to be agreed when they arose.</p> <p>AN explained the idea of a Village Design Statement and how it provides an opportunity for the community to describe how the character of village could be maintained and enhanced. AN proposed drafting a questionnaire for the Parishioners to answer and add comments on about how they felt about the village.</p>	AN
4. District Councillor’s Report	Councillor GL reported there will be no increase on the council tax rate. <i>He then departed.</i>	
5. Police Report	No police were in attendance and there was no written police report. The clerk did not receive any confirmation that the police would be attending the meeting.	
6. Declaration of Member’s Interest in Agenda items	There were no declarations of interest in any agenda item.	
7. Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 17th December 2012	The minutes of the Elmore Parish Council Meeting held on 17 th December 2012 were proposed by CS and seconded by JH. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chair.	
8. Matters arising	<p>Item 3: The non-emergency number for the police was not mentioned in the newsletter. JF will look into this being included in the Church Circular.</p> <p>Item 6: Action on Standing Orders still pending.</p> <p>Item 6: JF still to visit Land Registry.</p> <p>Item 6: AN has made some progress with the CRT in respect of using the Dymore Brook Culvert – we await developments.</p> <p>Item 6: Parish Website remains on hold. The Matter of the website was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that TH and JH investigate the production of an Elmore website and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Item 8: Declaration Forms are all now with SDC.</p> <p>Item 10: Improvement to Broadband links – latest letter from BT/Open Reach would indicate that no further improvement would be economic.</p> <p>Item 11: Flooding - Since the last meeting the EPC Flooding Brief was published and we have had the Open Meeting in the Village – More on this later.</p> <p>Item 14: Emergency Plan – Work in Progress.</p> <p>Item 15: Planning:</p> <p>Listing of War Memorials – We have not heard anything further from SDC regarding the listing of all memorials.</p> <p>Elmore Court – to be covered later in the agenda.</p>	JF JF JF AN TJ/JH
9. County Councillor’s Report	<p>Cllr Tony Blackburn (TB) reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An extra 3 million pounds had been allocated for pothole repairs. - There will be no increase on the County Council Tax rate. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many library and youth centres are being run by volunteers as there is no funding for them. - Longney School is looking for a School Governor. <p>There is to be a GCC Planning meeting on the 21st March 2013 at the Gloucester Rugby Ground for the Javelin Park Incinerator. This is where the decision will be made.</p> <p>TB left after this item.</p>	
10. Financial Statement	<p>Financial Statement: The balance sheet shows a healthy balance of £3,565.59 of which £1,665.59 is available for use as £1,300 remains ring-fenced as a contingency fund and £600 remains ring-fenced for pond maintenance.</p> <p>Precept: At the last meeting, the Precept was frozen for the 3rd year in a row and this remains the case. However a year ago the government changed the rules regarding Council Tax Benefit and it is now called Council Tax Support. Whereas in the past we received a Precept based on a figure that we set within the guidelines, that figure will now be reduced by the number of households claiming Housing Support.</p> <p>The clerk received an email from SDC on the 25th February 2013 asking if Elmore Parish Council would like to receive a Council Tax Support Grant and we were required to make a decision by 1st March 2013. JF made the decision that we would not accept the grant based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As we do not yet have the visibility of any reduction in our Precept for the FY 13/14, it was difficult to gauge whether or not there would be any reduction and the likely knock-on effect this might have on us. - The grant was not guaranteed for future years so anything we receive this year might change, or stop, in subsequent years. - Any grant we claimed could be passed on to the Parishioners and this last factor was not in line with our current policy of not increasing the Precept during the recession. - Furthermore, if the Grant was to be reduced in future years the Council Tax could be increased with no increase in the Precept. - We can still increase householder's precept contributions in future years if the need arises. - Therefore JF declined the offer, however this was discussed at the Parish Council Meeting and all councillors agreed. <p>Afternote: The new SDC Council Tax demands have now been issued and it would appear that the Elmore Precept has now increased by 2.2% for individuals despite EPC pegging a 0% increase for the third year. JF wrote to SDC on 18th March asking for clarification.</p>	JF
11. Code of Conduct Update	Declaration of Interest Forms have now been sent to SDC.	
12. Flooding Risk: Update on EA'S optans	<p>Considerable progress has been made since this time last year and the situation is looking much better. The Open Meeting that was held on the 29th January provided the revised ideas, they are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no deliberate flooding of the Elmore Back Meadows. • The EA will continue to maintain the flood defences as long as their funding permits. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life expectancy of the flood defences is 40-50 years. <p>However, since that meeting further information has come available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EA's Flood Risk maps now show Elmore Back's flood risk at 1:75 (the previous ratio was 1:20) • The EA has now achieved their target for compensating habitats and will not require any more land for at least 20 years. • Anyone who wants to sell their property, or is having difficulty obtaining insurance cover, can apply to the EA's Tewkesbury Office for a letter certifying the flood risk. • The publication of the EA's revised Strategy document will now be another few months before it can be seen. 	
<p>13. Planning Applications – Oak End House Elmore Court Update Mobile Homes at Elmore Back</p>	<p>Oak End House – The new residents are now in occupation and they have submitted a listed building application to provide an en suite bathroom – we have had no objections – the decision is pending.</p> <p>Elmore Court – update. The 'Decision Notice from SDC placed some 19 'conditions' on the development at Elmore Court – some of which have already been met. (Published on 14 Aug 2012).</p> <p>Mobile Homes at Elmore Back – We have received 3 written complaints/observations from residents at Elmore Back regarding the appearance of 2 mobile homes at Elmore Back Farm. JF has received a letter from Mrs Sophie Round on 4th March 2013 stating that she will be submitting a Retrospective Planning Application for the temporary retention of the mobile homes while a permanent accommodation solution is formulated. It was agreed that JF would write a reply to the letter asking that as per letter sent to JF. The EPC looks forward to viewing the planning application soon.</p>	JF
<p>14. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13th May 2013 which is to be the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meeting. Venue is Elmore Village Hall at 7.45pm</p>	

	<p>Chairman.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	
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