

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at**Elmore Village Hall on Monday 12th December 2016 at 7.45 pm**

Present Parish Councillors: Mr J Field (JF) Chair, Mr N Meek (NM) Vice Chair, Mrs J Hobbs(JH), Mrs P Turner (PT) Mr T Jones (TJ)		
In attendance. No parishioners were present		
1 Apologies Cllr Gill Oxley and Cllr A Blackburn		
2 Open Question Time	No parishioners were present.	
3 Police Report	No report was offered by the Police	
4 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.	
5 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 26 th September 2016	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 26 th September 2016 were proposed as a true record by JH and seconded by PT.	
6 Matters arising from the Minutes of 26 th September 2016	<p>Item 2: a question was raised by Louise Ford about the lack of a Police report and non-attendance at our meetings: AB agreed to follow up which he did without much success. The matter was also taken up by SV who also wrote to the Police Commissioner.</p> <p>Item3: Reinstatement of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. No formal action has been taken so far but we did include a large section on security in the last issue of The Bridge. Nick Stewart has offered to follow this up.</p> <p>Item 6: Checking of the salt bins has been carried out by Trevor</p> <p>Item 10: Speed signs etc. Not yet discussed with NM but NM has agreed to talk to Daniel Tiffany to see what he suggests.</p> <p>Item 11: VETS scheme – to be covered later on the Agenda</p> <p>Item 15: Photos for the website – work in progress.</p> <p>Item 15: Article for The Bridge regarding contributions by Councilors – work in progress – it was suggested that ‘milestones’ of what PC has achieved could be included.</p>	NM
7 County Councillor's Report	AB sent his regrets and stated that there was nothing worthy of a report.	
8 District Councillor's Report		

	<p><i>Cllr Gill Oxley has sent her apologies and her electronic report:</i></p> <p><i>The initial problems with the waste collection seem to have settled down with regular collections being smooth.</i></p> <p><i>Last month I reported the missed collections to SDC who have informed the collection vans.</i></p> <p><i>Owners of empty properties are encouraged to apply for an interest-free loan of up to £15,000 to help them bring homes back into use for affordable rented housing.</i></p> <p><i>Stroud District Council is marking national 'empty homes week' by inviting the owners of any property that has been empty for over 12 months to apply for a loan in an effort to reduce the number of empty residential properties in the district.</i></p> <p><i>Owners of empty properties can contact the council's housing renewal team on 01453 754478 or email environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk.</i></p> <p><i>Stroud District Council been seeking views on the long term future of the Stroud Subscription Rooms. Whilst the council provides other small grants to arts venues and organisations in the district, the Sub Rooms is the only council-owned and run arts and entertainment facility. Last year it spent £415,000 on running the venue. The first part of the consultation has just closed and I will update parishes on the feedback as soon as it is known.</i></p> <p><i>She also sent us a leaflet with information about Gloucestershire County Council's Lengthsman's scheme. A 2-man team is allocated to each GCC Councillor for a period of 3 weeks. The leaflet gives many of the details. For more information contact the Highways Manager for Stroud is Dan Tiffney.</i></p>	
<p>9 Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account update: The bank balance remains in a healthy state with the sum of £5,913.32 forecast for the end of this month. • Forecast Expenditure for 2016/17. No major expenditure is forecast at the moment – the only change to our budget would be an increase in the Precept as agreed at the Annual Meeting of 3% making our Precept £2,472.00. JF proposed this increase and it was seconded by PT. • Pond Clearance: We still await the bill for pond clearance that took place earlier in the year. I have spoken with follow-up Mike Watts – as he arranged the clearance – and he still awaits the bill from the contractor. 	
<p>10 Highways</p>	<p>Verge cutting – possible EPC contract. JF sent out a few e-mails on this matter and attended a</p>	

meeting last Thursday with Daniel Tiffany and the reps from the other SV parishes.

- The SV parishes have proposed that the responsibility for verge cutting is removed for Amey the main contractor and given to each parish who would be paid a set fee for the cutting. In making verge cutting more efficient and cost effective, this would allow us to cut the verges when we want and in view of the flexibility of funding, to cut them more than once a year. Currently Amey are under contract to cut the verges once and the ‘splays’ additionally a second time (*Splays are the extra cuts required on the inside of bends to allow traffic visibility.*) The experience of all SV parishes has been that the verges are cut on an ad hoc basis and when well overdue while the ‘splays’ are either not cut or done too late in the year.
- Having asked for a breakdown of distances and which roads where the verges were currently cut, we were given various charts showing the roads and the distances that were used by Glos Highways /Amey- sadly the charts for all the SV parishes were inaccurate e.g. showing lanes in Elmore as being in Hardwicke, duplication of some roads in more than one parish and inaccurate distances. Not a major problem and easily corrected.
- JF therefore asked for a map showing the exact extent of what Glos Highways currently cut and these maps were promised by Christmas for all SV parishes
- JF asked for clarification of payments for cutting the ‘splays’ at bends: It would appear that the cutting of splays is additional to the metre-run costs paid by GCC and these would be agreed separately with GCC Highways.
- The idea would be that if we think this is a good idea - by the middle of February we send a letter to Glos Highways stating that we would take on the verge cutting from 1st

	<p>April 2017 for an initial contract of one year. If it was a success this contract would then roll-over for 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There also seems to be a small sticking point regarding Insurance cover: we would need to have indemnity for £10million – however, there is some confusion about whether the Parish Council needs such cover or whether it is the sub-contractor or both. Whitminster have already made enquiries from their insurer and it would appear that an extra £700 annual was quoted. Such a figure would make the whole scheme untenable for us. <p><u>Key points agreed at the meeting were:</u> All nine Severn Voice parishes are, in principle, supportive of proceeding with the delegation of responsibility and budget for verge mowing. The A38 and its roundabouts is to be excluded from the agreement - with the potential to reconsider this for future years. All parishes will need to make a final decision to proceed early in the new year- consequently we should aim to resolve outstanding issues by mid/late January.</p> <p><u>Follow-up action:</u> Severn Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft a simple form of agreement to be used between each participating parish and GCC - <u>by Christmas</u>. • Each parish to seek a view from their insurers as to whether accepting delegated responsibility for verge mowing and commissioning this work will require any revised insurance cover - <u>by Christmas</u>. <p><u>GCC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise/correct schedule of streets and distances for each of the nine parishes - including Slimbridge. • Provide maps to complement above 	
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	<p>schedules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and pro-forma for risk assessments • Advise on annual uplift indices within the GCC/Amey contract for possible replication within the GCC/SV agreement. • Advise of quantities for each parish for additional work of mowing visibility splays (including second cut) • Provide information on the training/competence/safety certificates that contractors must/should hold. • Notify Amey of the ‘in principle decisions’ of the nine Severn Voice parishes and therefore the likelihood of the exclusion of this work from the Amey contract for 2017. <p>JF proposed that the EPC could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize the Chair to deal with Glos Highways and SV in the context of securing a contract for verge cutting within Elmore with GCC. • Instruct the Clerk to investigate with our Insurance Company to required fees for indemnification for verge cutting activities and, if favourable, to increase our insurance premium accordingly. We should however set an upper limit on such an increase and proposed the figure of £100. • Canal Bridge approaches – parking restrictions There is a Glos Highways proposal to place parking restrictions on the approaches to all canal bridges. No timeframe but this is linked to the automation of bridges – a project which now appears to be on hold. 	
<p>11 Elmore Emergency Plan update - VETS alternative</p>	<p>NM proposed that Cllrs should try the phone apps on a selection of their phones to see how well these work.</p> <p>NM said that to assess if this type of system could work, rather than the very costly VETS, we need to know if everybody has a smart phone, what operating system they use and then do some trials. For the last app we would also need to identify people who could be responders (have the necessary training).</p>	

	<p>http://redpanicbutton.com/ http://icecontact.com/ https://www.goodsamapp.org/home</p> <p>TJ stated that The Bridge had been used to alert people to the need to make their own arrangements of whom to contact in a medical emergency. He had also arranged for a person from SDC to come and talk to the parishioners about SDC's 'Care Line' service but that no one had expressed an interest so he had had to cancel the talk. He expressed the opinion that EPC could not be made responsible for everyone's safety.</p>	
<p>12 Broadband update</p>	<p>Broadband update. JF reported a 'light at the end of the tunnel'. It appears that BT has now produced the costs for GCC so that faster broadband can be included in the Fastershire budget for 2017. We have no definite confirmation and no timeframe for completion . However, GCC is hopeful that we are now on track for some improvement.</p>	
<p>13 Severn Voice Meeting 12th October 2016 in Saul Village Hall - Report</p>	<p>The SV Meeting resolved to take various course of action as follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write a letter to Crime Commissioner expressing concern about the new areas of Police responsibility, e.g. the creation of a single area from Hardwicke to Berkeley for only one PC and one PCSO – a reply has since been received stating that this is necessary as part of Police cost cutting measures! - Write letter to CEO of SW Ambulance services expressing concern over the poor reaction time for call-out – this situation was triggered by one elderly patient having to wait 3.5 hours for an ambulance ! No reply has yet been forthcoming. - Write a letter to Leader of GCC expressing dissatisfaction with the service provided by Amey on behalf of Glos Highways. This was triggered by the endless and seemingly disjointed road works on the A38. - Write a letter to the Intergrated Transport Manger at GCC to express concern about 	

	<p>the reduction in rural bus services, namely 113 & 62.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write a letter to Tony Blackburn concerning the suspension of the public consultation regarding the parking restrictions at some of the canal bridges and asking for the consultation to re-instated asap. JF agreed to email C&RT but felt that C&RT have put the 'automation' on hold. 	
<p>14 Annual review of EPC Standing Orders</p>	<p>JF did not propose any amendments to our Standing Orders. This was agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p>15 Parish Communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website – it was agreed that the website was working well and up to date. More photos could be added when better weather allows these to be taken. • The Bridge – another good issue for November 2016. • E-mail database - JF now has 58 e-mail addresses on the database but if he discounts those where there are two for the same household only 50 households are included – this represents a 55% coverage- we should endeavour to get more interest in the matter over the next 12 months. NM proposed a prize for entering into the email database list for emergency use. 	
<p>16 Any Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Parish and Town Councils - Thursday 19 January 2017. JF usually attends this meeting and invited other Councilors to attend. 	
<p>17 Date of next Parish Council Meeting - Monday 6th March 2017 <u>2017 Meetings following:</u> Tuesday 16th May 2017 – Annual Parish Meetings Monday 25th September 2017 Monday 11th December 2017</p>		
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.</p>		
<p>Signed..... Date</p>		