

**Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting  
held at Elmore Village Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)**

---

Present	Parish Councillors Mr J Field (JF) Chair, M N Meek (V Chair), Mr T Jones (TJ), Mrs P Turner (PT), Mrs J Hill (JH) Clerk Mrs D Jones	
In Attendance		
1 Appointments of Chair and Vice Chair	Nominations of Chairman: PT nominated JF. TJ seconded. JF agreed to serve as Chair for a further 12 months. Nominations of Vice Chair: PT nominated NM TJ seconded . NM agreed to serve as Vice Chair for a further 12 months. JF and NM signed the 'Declaration of Office' forms for the posts.	
2 Delegation of member's responsibilities	Editor of The Bridge – TJ Defibrillators – TJ Highways – NM Database Controller -JF Broadband Emergency Plan – JF Ponds – JH Salt and Grit - JH 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid Training – PT Rural Network Services – PT Notice Board - PT	
3 Police Report	<i>PCSO reported a fall in reported crimes from Elmore since 2018 but an increase in incidents involving poaching, hare coursing and cannabis smoking. Comments following this appear in the Open Question Time section. PCSO Addinall encouraged the public to report all worries about incidents to the police via 101, Crimestoppers and through Community Alerts. These reports can be made anonymously if needed.</i>	
4 Open Question Time	There were no questions from the floor as there were no public attendees.	
5 Declaration of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.	
6 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 4th March 2019 were proposed as a true record by TJ Seconded by PT	
7Matters Arising	Matters arising from the Minutes of 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 i3) Police Security Stall for the WI event in May will be taking place i10)Condition of the Lake Street road surface - investigation has been undertaken by NM i10)Salt and Grit stocks were being monitored by JH i11) Fridge Magnets – 11 were reported as being with TJ	

8Finance	<p><i>Review of Parish Precept for 2019/20. This appears in the Chairman's Annual Statement. The precept remains unchanged this year.</i></p> <p>ii)<u>Account and Audit.</u> The Clerk had reported to the Council that this work was complete and ready for the Council to approve.</p> <p>iii)<i>Forecast Expenditure for 2019/20 This appears in the Chairman's Annual Statement and is shown in the Financial Forecast which is available for everyone to view on the Parish Website <a href="http://www.elmoreparish.co.uk">www.elmoreparish.co.uk</a></i></p> <p>iv)<u>Community Based Projects.</u> <i>This appears in the Chairman's Annual Statement. The plan for agreed work to be undertaken on the Village Hall fence will take place towards the end of May 2019.</i>  <i>TJ asked about the Pond maintenance fund of £600 which is ringfenced. Ponds are in need of maintenance but as the Council is not planning to spend public money on projects based on private land, it was agreed that we should investigate the ownership of the land where our Millenium Ponds are before planning to use this money. The committee agreed to allocate up to £200 to investigate the ownership of Parish Council land in Elmore. The Clerk agreed to write to the Land Registry Office on behalf of the Council.</i></p> <p>v)<b>Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 AUDIT</b>  The Annual Governance Statement was approved y the Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vi)<b>Accounting Statement for the Annual return 2018/19 AUDIT</b>  The Accounting Statement was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p>	
9 County Councillor's Report	<p><i>Cllr Stephen Davies written report.</i></p> <p><i>County Council Report 2019 for Elmore Parish Council Annual Meeting</i></p> <p><i>The County Council tax increased by 4.99% which is a 2.5% Gloucestershire County Council increase and 2.99% Adult Social Care Levy. This is lower than any neighbouring Council.</i></p> <p><i>However there has still been:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· £2m extra to protect older people. There has been a 28% increase in older people since 2007.</li> <li>· £11m extra for Children and Young people, reflecting the challenges of the poor Ofsted report. Work on improving Children Services continues with some real progress noted by Ofsted.</li> <li>· Year 2 of £150m investment in roads.</li> <li>· £45m for Gloucestershire schools. 98% of children have been offered a place at a school of their choice.</li> </ul> <p><i>More locally I have been involved in a number of Projects including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cross Keys Roundabout</li> </ul> <p><i>Work on this will commence imminently and there was a consultation event last week. This is an investment of £3.8m and importantly includes the infrastructure for traffic lights at a later date.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Speeding</li> </ul> <p><i>An area where there is on-going and growing concern is speeding and I am looking at how we can address this, through the Severn Voice group of Parishes.</i></p> <p><i>Finally if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at</i></p>	

	<i>Stephen.davies2@gloucestershire.gov.uk or on 07802 595 30</i>	
<i>10 District Councillor's Report</i>	<i>Cllr Gill Oxley – No report received.</i>	
<i>11 Highways</i>	<i>JF reported that he has seen patching of potholes on Village roads, although no Highways notification of this happening had been made. Parking at Sellars Bridge was discussed. There is parking over the double yellow lines whenever there is a big event such as fishing on the Canal. No enforcement is taking place. NM agreed to try to find a way to contact traffic wardens to see if this area could be monitored and violations reported. Lake Street road problems had been seen by Highways, Daniel Tiffney with NM. It was agreed that a Highways Structural Engineer would be asked to assess the problem of cracking down the centre of the road and verges falling away. There was discussion about asking the drivers of the large vehicles who have to use this road to get to and from farms in Elmore Back to slow down and take bends more carefully, therefore avoiding adding to the damage.</i>	NM
<i>12 Elmore Emergency Plan update</i>	<i>JF reported that he was regularly updating this and looking to recognise who might be the most vulnerable residents in the community.</i>	
<i>13 Broadband and Telephone Update</i>	<i>This was covered in the Chair's Annual Statement The Saga of a poor broadband download speed continues but there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Gigaclear, the company contracted by GCC to lay high speed fibre throughout Gloucestershire, has assured us that by mid to late 2019 the new system will be ready.  However, as we see it there is one rather large hurdle to overcome – namely connecting the fibre laid throughout the village to a server.  This is meant to be being done via a connection to Minsterworth which you may have realised is on the other side of the River Severn. Since February 2018 the intention has been to drill under the river to establish the connection but the start date for drilling keeps slipped – the latest estimate is that the 'drilling shot' is due to take place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – i.e. in less than 2 weeks! Provided of course that all the necessary permissions have been granted.  We are aware that the trenching work carried out by Gigaclear's contractors (Complete Utilities) has left rather a lot of large stones on the grass verge areas outside houses and on the grassed areas in lay-bys. In addition, some of the repair work to the tarmac surfaces is starting to subside. We have flagged this up to Gigaclear and await a response.  We have had 2 meetings or briefings from the Gigaclear Management team over the last year: one in August last year and one at the end of March. Since Gigaclear was awarded the contract by GCC for both Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, the company has signed further contracts with Devon &amp; Somerset, Wiltshire, Berkshire, Essex, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.  It would therefore appear that the company has grown rather too quickly and did not have the management teams in place to cope with the increased workload. This has meant both delays in the construction work as well as technical difficulties. There has also been a constant change of personalities which hasn't made it easy for us to</i>	

	<p><i>obtain clear answers to our concerns.</i></p> <p><i>One of the unanswered issues is whether or not ISPs like Sky can operate via the Gigaclear network – at the moment there are only a handful of very small ISPs (none of which were previously known to me) who have signed contracts with Gigaclear – but we will keep you informed as the system develops.</i></p> <p><i>JF agreed to keep the community up to date. There is due to be a ‘drill shot’ under the River on 20<sup>th</sup> May.</i></p>	
14 Parish Communications	<p><i><u>The Parish Council Website</u> was reported as looking good and up to date. It was agreed that we could look to our local Facebook site about Elmore News to add information to the Website.</i></p> <p><i><u>The Bridge</u>. The 20<sup>th</sup> Issue marks 5 years of the publication.</i></p> <p><i><u>Database</u>. This is maintained by JF on a regular basis.</i></p>	
15 Planning Review and Update	<p>Planning – Review/Update</p> <p>Several properties in the Village have application with SDC.</p> <p>All applications plus any related correspondence can be viewed online on the SDC website under Planning Applications.</p>	
16 Any Other Business		
17 Date of next Meeting	<p>To be held on Monday 23<sup>th</sup> September 2019 And then on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019</p>	
	<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.</p>	
	<p>Signed .....Date .....</p>	