

**Minutes of Elmore PARISH COUNCIL Meeting
held by Zoom on Thursday 11th March at 7.30pm**

Present on Zoom. Parish Councillors: Chair John Field (JF), Vice Chair Nick Meek (NM), Paula Turner (PT), Jane Hill (JH) , Trevor Jones (TJ) Dorie Jones (Clerk)	
1 Declaration of Member’s interest in Agenda items. No declarations were made	
2 Minutes of the Special Parish Council Meeting for Audit held remotely 12th May 2020 In advance of the Zoom meeting they were proposed as a true record by PT and seconded by TJ. This meeting was a one-off e-mail meeting to comply with the requirements of the Audit prior to submission.	
3 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Special Meeting for Audit 12th May 2020 Internal Audit approved	
<p>3 Election 6th May 2021. JF sent Councillors an email re the ‘way ahead’ for the Parish Council. Nominees and the future role of the Chairman of the PC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Councillors are required to submit Nomination Papers if they wish to be re-elected on 6th May. - At the moment Trevor Jones is standing down - Paula Turner is happy to stand down to make way for a new candidate - Currently 3 people have asked for Nomination Papers and these have been delivered. Two sets have been completed and returned to the Clerk. - If all 3 are completed and even if both Trevor and Paula stand down, we will have an election, as there will be 6 candidates. - JF stated that he too would like to hand over as Chair of the PC but at the moment there is nobody prepared to take over. However, he would be prepared to continue for a further year - but no more! <p>It was agreed that the Council would wait and see how many nominations were submitted before the deadline of 8th April.</p>	
<p>4 Report from Severn Voice Meeting JF’s report on Zoom meeting including VAS proposal.</p> <p><u>The growth of Severn Voice (SV)</u> – SV is a forum for the 9 parishes along the Canal/River Severn and previously only comprised Hardwicke to Slimbridge but in the last 2 years several other parishes have asked to join us; namely Hamfallow (near Berkeley) and Haresfield.</p> <p><u>Speed Cameras - VAS:</u> Because the Stroud District Road Safety Group (SDRSP) has disbanded through lack of interest from members and the fact that nobody came forward to chair the group, the two speed cameras bought by the group were sold off to contributing parishes (Slimbridge and Minchinhampton). SV are</p>	

<p>now considering buying their own.</p> <p>Flooding: The Environment Agency are about to release a consultancy document about the Lower Severn Estuary Plan – no doubt this will affect Elmore and Elmore Back in particular. It is hoped that will not be an action replay of the plan that we fought off so successfully several years ago.</p> <p>The next SV meeting is via Zoom on 18th March.</p>	
<p>5 Finance: DJ emailed the spreadsheet information to the Council and published them on the website</p> <p>Account Update FY 20120/21. The finances continue to remain in good health but we need to be careful that we do not build up too large a credit without a specific reason. Therefore, we will need to identify suitable community projects over this next FY.</p> <p>Account forecast FY 2022/23. In view of the current surplus of funds, I do not see any justifiable reason why the Precept for the FY 22/23 should be increased. <i>(JF noted that his own Precept contribution has reduced this year but that is only because more people are now paying Council tax in the village. Houses, previously empty are now occupied. Therefore, the Precept EPC has set, is divided by the number of households paying Council Tax.)</i></p> <p>Audit Planning: The Audit will commence when the accounts are finalised at the end of March (i.e. end of FY). As we check the financial spreadsheet on a regular basis there is unlikely to be any major change before then. we are, however, due a payment from GCC for the Verge Cutting Contract, this will not alter the income figures as the payment is already shown as due in March.</p> <p>Annual accounts are approved at the Annual Meeting (18 May) – this is a legal requirement. DJ will get an Internal Audit done by Mike Farmer prior to that.</p>	
<p>6 Defibrillator updates/supplies: Both defibrillators have had new batteries and pads in this financial year. Minimal spending is required for the coming financial year as shown on the Forecast 2021-2022. This is more than covered by the Contingency allocated for this. It was agreed at the December 2019 meeting that £300 / year should be ring-fenced for defibrillator supplies starting from April 2020. TJ stated that the light over the Elmore Back defibrillator was reported as not working. He had asked James Tooth (electrician) if he could investigate it, but had not yet heard if it was fixed or received an invoice.</p> <p>There was discussion about the value of, once again, offering First Aid + Defibrillator training to Elmore residents. There was a general feeling that this would be a good idea. It was agreed that this would be discussed at future Council meetings with a view to holding an event in 2022. PT said that the trainer we used for out last session is still available.</p>	
<p>7 Planning Applications: Review/Update: JF sent out an update of the following Planning Applications:</p>	

Hollow Farm – S.20/0148/FUL: Conversion of Barn to Rest Room. This application was contested by EPC and subsequently refused by SDC. However, the owners lodged an Appeal late last year and this was approved on 8th March with 5 restrictions. Two of these restrictions cover bio-diversity aspects concerning birds and bats and a plan showing what measures have been taken to protect the habitat, particularly for foraging bats, must be submitted and approved in writing by SDC before occupation.

Dutch Barn on Haywicks Lane - S.19/0954/FUL: The application to build a barn on land in Haywicks Lane (opposite Hollow Farm) was contested by EPC and refused by SDC. However, development has continued on the site and this was reported to the Enforcement Officer at SDC in January and we were assured that they are investigating the case. We await action by SDC.

Talygarn - S.21/0431/HHold: An application has been submitted to build an extension which is not considered controversial from an EPC point of view; we are required to comment by 17 March if we wish to do so. JF believes the plans are reasonable and we would not have any planning reason to object. Decision by SDC pending.

The following Applications have already been approved by SDC:

6 Weir Green – S.20/2403/HHold: Double storey extension. The justification was to build an extension for an aging parent of the owner. Currently there are tenants in the house. Permitted by SDC

Orchard View – S.20/0555/LBC: Extension now approved after 3 previous failed submissions and subsequent revisions. Permitted by SDC

Kenton Green – S.20/0188/FUL: Second storey extension. Permitted by SDC.

The following older applications with restricted conditions are ongoing:

Elmore Back Farm – Large cow shed S.19/0621/FUL: This was for a large (60m x 10m x 6m) shed adjacent to Lake Street Bungalow and applied for in 2019. A requirement to carry out soft landscaping to shield the shed from neighbouring properties was required by SDC. This has now been done so we should see the erection of the large shed shortly.

Church Farm – S.18/1208/P3Q: Conversion of Agricultural Building to a Residential one: This was applied for in 2018. There was a requirement for surface drainage to be checked prior to any conversion. The survey and report were carried out by a professional firm, and this has now been submitted to SDC and a decision is awaited.

<p>Possible Future Application: We've all seen Elmore Court's proposals for various developments but no official application has yet been submitted. However, EPC has commented on the proposals and major planning observations we've identified concern the facts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no 'Settlement Boundary' in Elmore, therefore any development would be restricted, or rather, probably not permitted by SDC; - There is no mains drainage in Elmore although the plan seems to rely on them! - No Public Footpaths were shown on any of the plans and maps for Elmore Court's proposals although there are quite a few that impinge on the proposed development. - There is also the underlying aspect of tenancy agreements, which would be a matter for the tenants and landlord to resolve. 	
<p>8 Any Other Business</p> <p>Census – not of direct responsibility to EPC but some people may need assistance as this year it is being done online.</p> <p>Red Telephone Box: The box now requires repainting but it was agreed that this task will have to wait until the warmer weather.</p> <p>EVH Notice Board: The notice board was repaired last year by TJ as the backing board had rotted. There were also some mysterious fractures in the Perspex front, which may have been caused by stones but equally could have been an air gun. TJ reported that if the Perspex were to be broken again, it would be difficult to replace it considering the way the doors are constructed</p> <p>Highways – Potholes: The reporting of potholes, particularly dangerous ones, should not just be the responsibility of EPC as any member of the public can do this. Therefore, we need to publicise the methodology in the next issue of the Bridge. It was noted that the dangerous potholes reported to Highways were being treated but not beyond the specifically reported potholes and so lots of adjacent lesser potholes were ignored.</p> <p>Litter: The litter situation continues to be a problem. We have previously discussed the installation of a litter-bin in lay-bys which would be emptied by SDC but we rejected this idea as we felt it may attract more rubbish. JH suggested community litter picking would be a good idea, although it seems to be a never ending task. An example of poor use of litter bins was given for the Layby on the A38, which often has piles of rubbish thrown around it. TJ offered to contact SDC to find out who was responsible for emptying it. It was agreed that this litter issue would be discussed at our Annual Meeting in May.</p> <p>Community Project ideas:</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TJ</p> <p>TJ</p>

Footpaths: NM said that many more walkers were attempting to walk footpaths in the Village. This is often difficult as signage has disappeared. He suggested that the Council could start a project to improve signage and improve stiles and gates. JF reported that GCC was responsible for stiles, gates and bridges on footpaths and the landowners were responsible for keeping the paths open. JF also thought that GCC had passed responsibility to Amey (contractor) for this. It was suggested that we could allocate some routes to keen walkers and get a report on what problems exist. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Meeting in May 2021.

Fencing for Ponds: JF suggested that we might look at the fencing around the Millenium Ponds. Some has broken or disappeared.

Tree Planting Project for the Environment: As official grants were available, it was agreed that we should look at this idea again but perhaps with an emphasis on finding a plot of land rather than space in local gardens.

The Annual Meetings on 18th May – this meeting is to be held in EVH the day after we are permitted to have indoor activities – (up to 30 people will be permitted to attend weddings etc). However, we will need to await the instruction that will no doubt be published concerning official meetings.

Date of the Next Parish Council Meetings –

Local Elections	Thursday 6 th May '21
May 2021	Tuesday 18th May '21 Main Hall
September 2021	Monday 20 th Sept '21 Committee Room
December 2021	Monday 6th Dec '21 Committee Room

The Chairman thanked PT for organizing Zoom and thanked those taking part and declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed, Date