

**Minutes of Elmore ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Tuesday 18th May at 7.45pm 2021  
in Elmore Village Hall**

**Present: Parish Councillors: Chair John Field (JF), Vice Chair Nick Meek (NM), Paula Turner (PT), Jane Hill (JH) , Trevor Jones (TJ) Dorie Jones (Clerk)**

**Elected Councillors Designate: Mr M Hodge (MH), Mr V Meredith (VM)**

**In Attendance:**

Jennie Field, Elaine Ricketts, John and Su Hardisty, Anselm Guise, Simon James, Rebecca Hodge, Nick and Claire Stewart, Andy Nash, Rev Richard Martin, Colin Ellis, Debbie and Nick Allen, Samantha Pitt, Val and Barry Overton.

**1.Apologies:** Mr & Mrs Littleton, Mr & Mrs Watts, Mr & Mrs Hurran.

**2. Chairman's Annual Statement / Report**

**Changes to the Parish Council:**

There have been two changes to Councillors this year; Trevor Jones and Paula Turner have retired; the newly elected Councillors are Vince Meredith and Mike Hodge.

The current Chair, John Field, has given notice that he too will be retiring during this year after 14 years as Chair and 17 years on the Parish Council.

**Vote of Thanks**

A personal 'thank you' goes out to both Trevor Jones and Paula Turner who have served the community in a voluntary capacity on the Parish Council for many years and who have made a great contribution to Parish life. In particular, Trevor, who not only masterminded the installation and maintenance of the Defibrillators in the village but who also established our Parish magazine, The Bridge, and who has been the Editor since it started. Although Trevor has retired from Parish Council duties he will continue as Editor of The Bridge for a while longer but would very much like to hand over the reins to a younger person in the not too distant future.

**Chair's Annual Statement**

At the beginning of the first lockdown, when all those considered to be vulnerable, including anyone over 70 who were advised to stay at home, the Parish Council conducted an exercise to identify all those in Elmore in this vulnerable category. This exercise was based on the work we had already carried out for our Emergency Plan where we had kept an up to date list of all those over 75.

The Parish Council's main concern during the early days of the pandemic was to ensure that nobody, who was either in the 'vulnerable category' or isolating at home for medical reasons, was forgotten or left without anyone keeping an eye on them. We therefore contacted everyone on the 'vulnerable list' to ensure that they were not left isolated. What was very encouraging, and humbling, was the fact that many residents came forward and offered to help their neighbours and anyone else who may not have had family close by. Therefore, a special vote of thanks goes out to all those in the village who rallied round

to help their neighbours during these rather difficult and strange times we have lived through.

The Parish finances are in good health, as we have not had any major expenditure throughout this period. Our bank balance stands at £7,390 and our regular expenditure on insurance, memberships, Defibrillator maintenance, printing of The Bridge and the Clerk's salary, have continued throughout the year.

Your Parish Council decided that the Parish Precept should remain unchanged again for both the last and this financial year and is currently £2,470. Our internal audit was conducted successfully and we continue to follow the financial transparency guidelines by publishing any expenditure over £100 on our Parish website. We review the financial situation at every Parish Council meeting by producing the financial statement for scrutiny by Councillors.

Planning applications have still had to be reviewed and there have been quite a few of those over the last 14 months. A major potential development on the horizon revolves around the plans by Elmore Court to enhance various aspects of the Estate and we wait to see the detail when the formal planning applications are made

### **3. Police Report – No report received**

### **4. Elmore Court Presentation**

At the invitation of the Parish Council Anselm Guise gave a short presentation about his proposed developments on the Elmore Court Estate.

Anselm Guise thanked those present and addressed the meeting with a visual presentation, referring to the Vision document which is on his website. He stated that a third of the community visited the Court last week to be introduced to his vision plans. He has several ideas to help future development of Elmore Court. At the moment weddings are the only working business at the Court and in order to unlock capital but keep the land, he is hoping to diversify. The aim is to develop the natural ecology with rewilding of land enhancing the quality of rural wild life. Income generation could come from accommodation in 6 eco friendly tree houses and even a Communal Pod, in the area behind the Court perhaps with wellness and yoga retreats. The other main income idea is to develop a Gateway Community into the village. Within this there could be opportunities to provide from a range of ideas, such as, limited tasteful housing, low impact workshops, farm shop, micro brewery and ice cream factory. He stressed the point that no planning applications have been submitted and that some of this is likely to a difficult longer term project. At all times he wanted Elmore Court Estate to work alongside the Community.

### **5. Open Question Time**

Questions relating to the Elmore Court Presentation included :

**Qu:** Provision of Footpaths

**Reply:** Footpaths would be maintained and perhaps enhanced with some rerouting.

**Qu:** Planning Discussions and developing with our existing structure – Traffic and safety with overuse of village roads

**Reply:** Only unofficial discussion was underway. The 'sand is shifting' on planning structures but that planning rules may stop many ideas from moving forward. There was

<p>no wish to create a precedent for less favourable development in Elmore. Moving business to the Gateway area could help reduce the traffic through the village, thereby reducing traffic / pedestrian risk.</p> <p><b>Qu:</b> Timescale of development and Fencing of land</p> <p><b>Reply:</b> There was hope that permission for the Tree Houses could be granted for the start of 2022. Rewilding of land has begun but is a long process with animals on the land after 2 years. Fencing would be installed only where and when needed. Overall timescale could be up to 10 years.</p> <p><b>John Field (Chair)</b> Welcomed this discussion process from Anselm for Elmore Court. He pointed out that Elmore is an area with no Settlement Boundary, which means that there would be no new development of even affordable housing. We lack mains services and that we do have a traffic issue on our country roads. The ideas sounded interesting but there were real practical issues and limitations that needed to be addressed.</p>	
<p><b>6 Declaration of Member's interest in Agenda items.</b> No declarations were made</p>	
<p><b>7 Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019. (No Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020 because of Covid).</b></p> <p>These were proposed as a true record by NM and seconded by JH.</p>	
<p><b>8 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b></p> <p>Action has been taken on all matters since this Annual Parish Meeting in 2019, which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ownership of parcels of land within Elmore was investigated through the Land Registry and finally with a local map.</li> <li>- Yellow lines for no parking were painted on the road approaching Sellars Bridge. These have largely been ignored by the public and there has been no enforcement.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9 Finance:</b> <i>DJ emailed the spreadsheet information to the Council and published them on the website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>Review of Parish Precept 2021/2022.</b> The Parish Precept remains unchanged at £2,470.00.</li> <li>ii) <b>Account and Audit 2020/2021</b> Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</li> <li>iii) <b>Forecast Expenditure 2021/2022.</b> The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year.</li> <li>iv) <b>Community Based projects.</b> We do not have any major project planned. We would welcome any viable suggestions for future projects</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10 County Councillor's Report</b> No Councillor present and no report received.</p>	

<p><b>11 District Councillor Cllr Gill Oxley sent the following information.</b></p> <p>There is very little to report as the first meeting of the Council at SDC isn't until the 20th May.</p> <p>1) 3 District Councillors elected for the Hardwicke Ward, myself, Cllr Dave Mossman and Cllr Mark Ryder.</p> <p>2) County Councillor is Stephen Davies.</p> <p>Couple of contacts from local residents which I have dealt with. If anyone has any problems I can be contacted on 07536464405, or email cllr.gill.oxley@stroud.gov.uk</p>	
<p><b>12 Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Potholes</b> NM reported some improvement. Work is being done and there are yellow lines drawn around more recent potholes. He encouraged everyone to report these. It does not have to be a Council member.</li> <li>• <b>Lake Street repairs</b> NM reported that some major work has been completed on parts of the road.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fly Tipping</b> JF reported that fly tipping in an ongoing problem. SDC will collect anything reported although sometimes more quickly than at other times. He encouraged everyone to report these. It does not have to be a Council member.</p>	
<p><b>13 Emergency Plan Update:</b> JF reported that as he had already mentioned the fact that a medical pandemic was not part of our existing Emergency Plan, this plan therefore needs to be updated.</p>	<b>JF</b>
<p><b>14 Parish Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Website:</b> JF reported plenty of 'hits' on the website and offered to include any photographs that people would like to see on the website.</li> <li>• <b>The Bridge:</b> The 26<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May.</li> <li>• <b>Email:</b> The numbers on our database of email contact is steadily increasing but we still only account for 65% of the village.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>15 Planning Applications: Review/Update:</b> JF had previously sent out an update of the Planning Applications to the Committee;</p> <p>Illegal Structures and Enforcement: Barn on Haywicks Lane – The building of</p>	

<p>this structure was refused in 2019 but that has not stopped the owners from erecting a large barn. In December 2019 we reported the start of the building to SDC as well as several updates since. The barn’s framework is now complete as well as two sides and the roof. However, no action appears to have been taken by SDC.</p>	
<p><b>16 Any Other Business</b>                  Death of a number of established trees along Lake Street. A few months ago it was brought to the Councils attention that a number of large willow trees along Lake Street had died, possibly after being poisoned. In addition to this there has apparently been some hedgerows removed locally on farmland. This was reported to SDC Enforcement Officers in December 2020 but no action appears to have been taken as a satisfactory answer has not been forthcoming.</p>	
<p><b>Date of the Next Annual Parish Meeting – Date to be arranged in May 2022</b></p>	
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.</p>	
<p>Signed.....Date .....</p>	