

**Minutes of Elmore ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm 2023  
in Elmore Village Hall**

**Present: Parish Councillors: Chair Nick Meek (NM), Vice Chair Mike Hodge (MH), Jane Hill (JH) , Vince Meredith (VM) , Matt Brandon (MB), Dorie Jones (Clerk)**

**In Attendance: Mr Trevor Jones, Cllr Gill Oxley Mr Dudley Ford**

**1.Apologies: Cllr Stephen Davies**

**2. Chairman's Annual Statement**

At last year's annual meeting I remember sharing some of the details of what was planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee within the village. On 2nd June a large number of residents and family came together on the field next to the church for the Grand Picnic. It was great to see so many people from the village all in one place, having a lovely time on a beautiful sunny day. Commemorative mugs were given to the village children, everyone ate and drank well accompanied by fine music and choirs and the day ended with a lovely big bonfire, what more could you ask for. I would again like to thank everyone who helped in organising/holding, financially supporting and attending the event. It was a great day.

We also planned to plant a commemorative tree, which is now in place and growing well, at the junction to Elmore Back at Farleys End. A plaque marks the tree and seems a fitting tribute after the sad loss of Her Majesty last year.

One other major project we delivered last year was the installation of three Gateway signs on the road entrances into Elmore. We decided that these would provide a greater visual impact that you are entering a proud residential village and hopefully people would drive/ride accordingly.

The last thing I would like to mention happened just over a week ago when the village came together to litter pick as part of the King's Big Help Out. The Parish Council was very happy to support this village event organised by Hamish Pitt. This was a great opportunity for villagers to come together, on the Coronation weekend, have a walk and do some good for the village at the same time. Over 35 residents collected many bags of rubbish and were rewarded with a hot dog afterwards in the Village Hall. I would like to especially thank Hamish and Dorie for making this happen and all of you who joined in. I believe this type of event will be repeated going forward. With the verges now cut and the new signs installed the village is looking good.

The Parish finances are in good health, despite having a some fairly major expenditures throughout this period mainly due to the Jubilee. The cost of the Jubilee celebrations including the commemorative tree and plaque was offset by some kind donations from individuals/businesses around the village. We also managed to obtain a grant to pay for a large proportion on the new gateway signs. At the end of April our bank balance stood at

£6,933.88 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 this financial year and is currently £2,472. 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.

Finally, I would like to ask newcomers to the village and longer standing residents who may have changed their email address, to let Matt Brandon (matt\_brandon@hotmail.com) from the Parish Council know your details. These will be added to our data base and stored securely, only to be used by the council to contact you with regards to important village issues.

Nick Meek

**3. Police Report – from PCSO's Ben Rollins and Gordon McGaugie – no report received**

**4. Open Question Time** No questions asked.

**5 Declaration of Member's interest in Agenda items.** No declarations were made

**6 Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

These were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by MB

**7 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

A Road Safety check speed survey will be carried out by Highways.  
Most other matters have been addressed since the 2022 Meeting.

**8 Finance:** *DJ emailed the spreadsheet information to the Council and published them on the website*

- i) **Review of Parish Precept 2023/2024.** The Parish Precept has remained unchanged at £2,472.00 although our Council Tax bills show an increase of 4.4% levy to Elmore. This is based on changing numbers of unoccupied property. There are no plans to change anything for the following financial year.
- ii) **Account and Audit 2022/2023** Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.
- iii) **Forecast Expenditure 2023/2024.** The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there has been an increase in Verge Cutting Costs.
- iv) **Community Based projects.**  
There are no planned projects at the moment.

<p><b>9 County Councillor Stephen Davies</b>  GCC have been awarded £500,000 to support walking and cycling from the Government's Active Travel Capability Fund. This will go towards designing improved cycle routes.</p> <p>GCC has published its 3rd Annual Report on action to tackle Climate Change. Highlights include the planting of 66,000 trees, an increase in recycling rates and commissioning of 1,000 EV chargers.</p> <p>GCC are working on the pothole backlog following a cold and wet winter. 98,000 tonnes of tarmac have been used since April 2022. Gloucestershire received nearly £4m in the Autumn statement to address Potholes.</p> <p>In the recent Secondary School Admissions round 99% of children were offered a school of their choice, and 92% their first choice despite this being a "bulge" year. However I am aware of some local issues that I am working on. If you know of any specific issues please ask them to get in touch.</p> <p>GCC Libraries have launched a project to support over 60's called "Ageing with Creativity."</p>	
<p><b>10 District Councillor Gill Oxley</b>  Further planning at Huntsgrove for a further 750 homes. When completed about 7,000 homes, currently around 2,500.</p> <p>The southbound B4008 from where it passes over the A38 will be closed for 13 months starting August 2023. This is to accommodate the new junction from Hunts grove onto the A38. Also traffic lights to be installed at the McDonalds roundabout.</p> <p>.</p>	
<p><b>11 Highways</b></p> <p><b>Footpaths</b>  Notification of a footpath tree house diversion are in place for a temporary time. The Council have until June to make representations to the planning department. Although the Council is unlikely to object we will ask that the new route is kept clear and point out that this re-routing was not in the original application.</p> <p><b>Verge Cutting</b> Already mentioned in Finance.</p> <p><b>Speeding Controls</b>  The Council has accepted that any attempt to change speed restrictions through the village would be too costly. It was agreed that we purchase "40 is enough" bin stickers for wheelie bins. The cost will be £99.</p> <p><b>Laybys</b>  There are been ongoing discussion with SDC about the placing of rubbish bins in our laybys. VM continues to communicate with SDC.</p>	<p><b>VM</b> <b>/NM</b></p> <p><b>VM</b></p> <p><b>VM</b></p>

<p><b>12 Planning NM</b> There are no new planning issues. The enforcement planning issues are ongoing in SDC planning office which is apparently understaffed.</p>	
<p><b>13 External Services JH</b> Nothing to add.</p>	
<p><b>14 Data MB</b> Management of data in our Google drive continues.</p> <p><b>Residents Database</b> A request for updated details will be included in the new issue of the Bridge.</p> <p><b>Standing Orders</b> No changes to be made.</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>TJ</b></p>
<p><b>15 Assets MH</b> <b>Defibrillators</b> We are waiting to hear what cost might be involved in replacing the lock or cabinet at the Elmore Back defibrillator site.</p> <p><b>Notice Boards</b> TJ is to fix the door on the Village Hall Notice Board.</p> <p><b>War Memorial</b> Now added to our Property Book and insured.</p> <p><b>Ponds</b> It was agreed that no action on the ponds will be undertaken. The ponds' land does not belong to the Parish.</p>	<p><b>MH/DJ</b></p> <p><b>TJ</b></p>
<p><b>16 Special Projects All</b> No plans at the moment.</p>	
<p><b>17 Parish Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Website:</b> Kept up to date.</li> <li>• <b>The Bridge:</b> The 34th Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this.</li> <li>• <b>Email:</b> Addresses given to the Chairman to hold are kept strictly confidential to comply with Data Regulations Guidance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DJ</b></p> <p><b>TJ</b></p>
<p><b>18 Finance DJ</b> Nothing to add to minutes.</p>	
<p><b>19 Any Other Business</b> Nothing more to report.</p>	
<p><b>Date of the Next Annual Parish Meeting</b> – Date to be arranged in May 2024</p>	
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.</p>	