

**Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting
held at Elmore Village Hall on Tuesday 24th May 2022**
(Immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Present	Parish Councillors Mr N Meek (Chair), Mrs J Hill (JH) Mr M Hodge (Vice Chair, Mr V Meredith, Mr M Brandon. Clerk Mrs D Jones
In Attendance	Mr Trevor Jones, Mr John Field and Mrs Samantha Pitt
1 Confirm Chair and Vice Chair	Chair and Vice Chair agreed to continue in their roles. All Councillors submitted Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms.
2 Delegation of member's responsibilities	<p>The work of the Councillors has been defined under 5 main Business Areas. Each area will be led by one councillor with support from the others. All related data and information will be stored in the corresponding folders on the new common shared drive. A new Log will be used to identify responsibilities and record progress against the Parish Councils business.</p> <p>The Business Areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways -VM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o including footpaths o verge cutting o Grit bins 2. Planning - NM 3. External Services - JH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rubbish - Fly tipping o Rural Network Services o Police 4. Data - MB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Management o Residents database o Emergency Plan o Standing Orders 5. Assets - MH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Defibrillators o Notice Boards o War Memorial o Ponds 6. Special Projects – All <p>Comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bridge - Trevor o Website DJ <p>Finance - DJ</p>

3 Police Report	<p><i>From PCSO's Ben Rollins and Gordon McGaugie</i></p> <p><i>We have had a few complaints and concerns over the parking around the bridges. I have spoken to Gloucester council to request yellow lines to be added or improved.</i></p> <p><i>We are attending the Pilot Pub on a regular basis and addressing any concerns that they may have. We are told by management that they are having a pub family day at the end of June. This will take place in the garden area of the pub. We have also been to and attended the Wholly Gelato farm. Purely on the basis of public visibility.</i></p> <p><i>We are also on our third article for the Hardwicke matters publication. This is going very well and we have had people contact us for advice and guidance.</i></p> <p><i>Twitter is regularly updated by ourselves and on-going patrols of the area. Please search for Glos Neighbourhood Police</i></p> <p><i>Any information that we do have is also posted via the community alerts system.</i></p> <p><i>Up to date information as regards any currents statistics can be found at the following address and by placing in a post code for a specific area.</i></p> <p><i>I have also included the link for ask the police. This is also available on a mobile application to download.</i></p> <p>https://www.police.uk/your-area and https://www.askthe.police.uk</p> <p><i>We actively encourage persons to report any incidents via 101 to be dealt with and recorded accordingly.</i></p> <p><i>Any direct e-mails to our accounts will not be dealt with officially as we cannot generate incident numbers from the office. Anything that requires an incident number must be called in via 101/999 or online.</i></p> <p><i>HQ are also once again holding the 'open day'. This should be on the 17th of September and will be advertised shortly.</i></p>
4 Open Question Time	<p>TJ asked about the peeling paint on the Village Hall Railings. The original contractor has agreed to return to fix the problem with rubbing down and repaint using Black Hammarite.</p>
5 Declaration of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	<p>Nothing was declared by the Councillors.</p>
6 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting	<p>The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 1st March 2022 were proposed as a true record by MB and seconded by MH.</p>
7 Matters Arising	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes of 1st March 2022</p> <p><u>Severn Voice Meeting</u>. MB attended this meeting and reported that there was a lot of discussion about the installation of Solar Farms in the area. The one planned for Longney will create construction traffic travelling from Longney and crossing the Sellars Bridge at the Pilot Pub. This is already a congested area</p>

	<p>because of cars being parked on a double yellow line area.</p> <p>An increase to the cost of paying our contractor for the Verge Cutting contract is expected.</p> <p><u>Defibrillators and Training.</u> MH reported that both sets of pads in Elmore Back are ‘out of date’. Although no red warning light is showing, we will order replacements. Training has been completed for those who wished to take part.</p> <p><u>Footpaths:</u> JF has reported to GCC the footpath signs which are missing or broken. These are the signs where paths leave the highway. Arrows to put on posts on footpaths have been requested. GCC is responsible for maintaining bridges and stiles and gates off the highway. Impassable footpaths are the responsibility of the landowner to clear. MB asked if there was any enforcement of impassable paths which are not cleared. JF doubted that there was.</p>
8 Finance	<p><i>i) Review of Parish Precept 2022/2023. The Parish Precept remains unchanged at £2,470.00 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.</i></p> <p><i>ii) Account and Audit 2021/2022 Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</i></p> <p><i>iii) Forecast Expenditure 2022/2023. The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there will be an increase in Verge Cutting Costs with immediate effect.</i></p> <p><i>iv) Community Based projects. When these have been costed, they will be added to the spreadsheet.</i></p> <p>v) Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 AUDIT The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vi) Accounting Statement for the Annual return 2021/22 AUDIT The Accounting Statement was approved by the Council. All were in favour. This was signed by the Chairman and Clerk</p> <p>vii) Audit- Certificate of Exemption. Figures for the Audit were agreed and the Chairman signed this Certificate ready to be submitted to Littlejohn, the External Auditors.</p>
9 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee	<p><i>Open to residents/relatives. Approx 170 people have booked to attend. There is a Jubilee Committee including NM and JH from the Parish Council.</i></p> <p>A plan to plant a tree with a commemorative plaque is planned and one or two possible plots have been identified.</p>
10 County Councillor Stephe Davies Report	<p>This year the theme of the Gloucestershire County Council budget is “Build back better.” This year’s budget will be £519.6 million, an increase of £37m on last year. This includes an extra £100m for roads, £150m injection into school buildings and further investment in our market towns and high streets. There is a focus on supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our community, including a £14m additional investment in Children and Young people services. There is an additional £1m fund to go towards Climate Change in addition to the existing plans for major cycle routes. The budget also allocates £30k to each Councillor to invest in local highways schemes. This is funded through a Council Tax increase of 1.99%, securing £10.2m and a 1% Adult Social Care levy generating an additional £3.7m to protect the most vulnerable. Based</p>

	<p>on a Band D property, this equates to an increase of £3.50 / month. Despite the increased investment this should still have Gloucestershire as one of the lowest Council Taxes of any County Council.</p> <p>Ofsted recently upgraded Children’s Services from inadequate to requires improvement recognising Children in Gloucestershire are safer now.</p> <p>Ukrainian refugees. There are 2 schemes, the first is where people with family connections are offering accommodation, this is beginning to see some refugees arriving in Gloucestershire. The second is the National Scheme where people have volunteered their homes for refugees. In Gloucestershire over 200 people have offered help, this will now be followed with a check on whether the accommodation is suitable and an accelerated DBS check. So far over 500 refugees have been housed in Gloucestershire. Additional money has been provided to fund schools and other services. I have volunteered for this scheme my family arrived on Wednesday 11th May. We are now in a phase of Living with Covid and it is not clear how long this will go on. It means that occasionally we see a disruption in services including schools due to staff absences, but generally in Gloucestershire we have seen a good provision of local services throughout the pandemic, although I like others are increasingly concerned about Covid being used as an excuse for delays.</p> <p>More locally I have been working on the concern over Secondary School places. Although all applicants for Secondary schools from last year got their 1st or 2nd choice, there is an acknowledged concern over Secondary School provision. There is a specific issue for 2023 for which extra capacity is planned. In the longer-term work is being done on capacity planning and we await the conclusion from this, but my personal belief is that we will need an additional Secondary School and we need to start the process to identify a site and build one. This requires Department for Education support. With Primary Schools there has been an expansion in capacity with a new school in Hunts Grove and one planned in Great Oldbury.</p> <p>A “Speedwatch” scheme has been announced which includes funding for VAS and “20 is plenty” signs. I have shared this with the Elmore Parish Council.</p>
<p><i>11 District Councillor Gill Oxley Report</i></p>	<p><i>The £150 tax rebate had been sent to many of the properties in bands A- D. Cllr Oxley was to meet with SDC enforcement officer Sophie Hollins about planning infringements.</i></p> <p><i>If anyone has any problems I can be contacted on 07536464405 or email cllr.gill.oxley@stroud.gov.uk</i></p>
<p><i>12 Highways</i></p>	<p><i>Rubbish in Layby’s</i> <i>Following a successful trial with temporary bins JH has been in touch with SDC about the installation of cost effective bins which can be emptied on a regular basis.</i></p> <p><i>Fly Tipping</i> <i>SDC are picking up reported fly tipped rubbish. However, rubbish has recently been dumped on private land. SDC cannot collect this and it becomes the responsibility of the land owner.</i></p> <p><i>Village Entry Signs</i> <i>We are looking into the possibility of improving the three road signs at the entrance to the village. This might include the erection of a gate structure and additional wording to encourage all people entering the village to respect other road users and residents. We may be able to obtain County Council financial support to this project.</i></p>

13 Emergency Plan Update	<i>John Field updated this and handed it over to NM/MB.</i>
14 Parish Communication	<p>Website: Kept up to date.</p> <p>The Bridge: The 30th Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this.</p> <p>Email: Addresses given to the Chairman to hold are kept strict confidential to comply with Data Regulations Guidance.</p> <p>Further Discussion about Communications. Ideas from Sam Pitt were that we could add to our existing means of communications (Notice Boards, The Bridge and emails) via a new local Whatsap group and using the existing Elmore Facebook site more which could add a quick and meaningful thread to sharing information in Elmore. It was noted that each method does not reach the entire population all of the time</p>
15 Planning Review and Update	<p><i>Following the Elmore Court application. 6 Tree Houses were approved.</i></p> <p><i>Haywicks Lane Barn application was refused in 2021 and enforcement of planning is ongoing.</i></p> <p><i>All applications plus any related correspondence can be viewed online on the SDC website under Planning Applications.</i></p>
16 Any Other Business	
Date of next 2 Meetings	To be held on Monday 20 th September 2022 And then on Monday 5th December 2022
	The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.
Signed Date ...20 th September 2022.....	