

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
Elmore Village Hall on Monday 18 March 2024 at 7.00 pm**

Present Parish Councillors: Mr N Meek (NM) , Mr M Hodge (MH), Mr V Meredith (VM), Mr M Brandon (MB) Mrs J Hill (JH), Mrs D Jones (Clerk)		
In attendance Mr J and Mrs J Field, Mr H Pitt, Mr T Leach, Mr E Watts, Cllr Davies, Cllr Oxley, Mr T Jones		
1 Apologies None received		
2 Open Question Time	No questions.	
3 Police Report	No report received from the Police team.	
4 Declaration of member's interest in Agenda items	No declarations were made.	
5 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 4 th December 2023	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting held on 4 th December were proposed as a true record by MB and seconded by MH.	
6 Matters arising from the Minutes of 4th December 2023	Most questions from the last meeting are covered in the following Minutes. The question of late night noise from the Event field at Hollow Farm will be monitored officially by SDC. Safer Access to this field can be reported by any member of the public to the SDC Safety Advisory Group.	
7 County Councillor's Report from Cllr Stephen Davies	<p>1)The CC budget is solvent. Helped by income from the incinerator.</p> <p>2)Climate change: 100 EV charging points have been installed</p> <p>3)Family hubs for anti and post natal services have been set up.</p> <p>4)Easter holiday activities are planned to target free school meals children.</p> <p>5)Care Leavers have gained university places.</p> <p>6)Stroud library has moved to the 5 Valleys Centre.</p> <p>7)Trading Standards have fined shops £3,000 for selling cigarettes to underage children.</p> <p>8)Flooding. EA will refund people who spend on flood defence measures but SDC will pay/lend money upfront as EA money is paid retrospectively.</p>	

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	<p>9)Potholes - £87.9 million is available. April/May is the peak time for work to be done.</p> <p>10)Money is available for Green Policies</p> <p>11)The local plan which outlines housing infrastructure development. A new plan is under development.M5 Junctions 12 and 14 are already over capacity and the high cost to improve M5 junctions has to be met from somewhere.</p> <p>J14 comes under S Gloucs area council – their housing development is nearer to Bristol and so they don't intend to improve J14.</p> <p>Developers are supposed to pay up to 15% of road development costs.</p>	
8 District Councillor's Report from Cllr Gill Oxley	<p>1)Hardwicke ward has 3 parishes. Elmore is one.</p> <p>2)Elmore is now moved to the North Cotswold for MP elections following boundary changes. Geoffrey Clifton Brown is the sitting MP.</p>	
9 Preparation for Annual Meetings / New Councillors	<p>Annual Meetings will be on 20th May 2024. 2 New councillors were given Nomination papers ready for the election on 2nd May. It was discussed that a co-opted councillor could replace any existing councillors who may wish to retire subsequently.</p>	
10 Finance Update	<p><u>Account update: FY 2023/2024</u></p> <p>The account remains in a healthy state with a balance on 10th March of £6915.98</p> <p>No other major spending is expected, other than new supplies for the Elmore Back Defibrillator.</p> <p>The Annual Audit is about to be prepared by the Clerk. We will ask Mike Farmer if he will act as our Internal Auditor.</p>	DJ
11 Special Projects	<p>Layby Bins. 1 bin was purchased by us and installed by SDC. VM will follow up the emptying on a regular basis. Ubico are responsible for this.</p> <p>A bin for Kenton Green will be considered as lots of rubbish is being dumped there.</p>	VM
12 Highways Update - VM	<p>VM will follow up the request to highways for the repair in Stonebench Lane.</p>	.VM
13 Planning Update – NM	<p>Elmore Back Grain Store application – no one had any issues with this.</p> <p>Haywicks Lane Barn. NM has sent in our comments to planners. The Planning department enforcement process has not happened against illegal building and it appears that a re-application for what has been refused will be submitted.</p> <p>Hollow Farm Common Room – The Planning enforcement to prevent use of this illegal conversion has also not happened. However, the Enforcement Team did assist in moving the illegal tenant from this Common Room. Another request has been</p>	

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	<p>submitted to Planning to gain residential use of this illegal conversion.</p> <p>MB and John Field added that in both cases, the Planning position is being flouted as SDC have not achieved anything. The message is spreading that Planning restriction can be ignored as SDC are unable or unwilling to follow their own rules.</p>	
14 External Services - JH	JH will find out which PSCO's are now active in Elmore as we have been unable to contact any to report to our PC meetings.	JH
15 Data - MB	<p>The PC Website was recently hacked. Our provider, fixed the problem. MB is going to follow up with technical questions to our provider to see if there is a way of making the site more secure.</p> <p>Hamish Pitt suggested that the BRIDGE should include a communications page. He will pass information about the village Whatsapp group for the next publication.</p> <p>TJ said that printing costs for the Bridge are rising. However it was agreed that the Bridge is our main means of communicating PC information to the parish and included the statutory publication of the Chair's Annual Report to the Parish.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>HP TJ</p>
16 Assets - MH	<p>Defibrillator battery and pads have been replaced at the phone box and a battery has been ordered for the one at Elmore Back.</p> <p>The Code for access to the defibrillators will be communicated through the next BRIDGE. MH will pass that to TJ.</p>	<p>MH TJ</p>
17 Any Other Business	<p>Report from Severn Voice Meeting by NM</p> <p>School Admissions issues were discussed.</p> <p>Verge Cutting Contract was discussed. Highways are happy for SV to continue with this contract. However, Highways will probably renegotiate the payment they will make to Parishes. We assume we may be paid less but our payment to the contractor will rise with costs and inflation. We will have to see what happens.</p> <p>Councillor's teams meeting will be organised for April/May.</p> <p>Alteration of December Meeting date from 2nd to 9th December.</p>	
<p>Date of the next Parish Council Meetings - Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.00 pm</p> <p><u>2024 Meeting Dates corrections.</u></p> <p>Monday 20 May 2024 (Annual Meetings)</p> <p>Monday 16 September 2024</p> <p>Monday 2 to 9th December 2024</p>		
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8. pm.</p>		

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Signed.....	Date
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