

**Minutes of the Elmore Annual Parish Council Meeting
held at Elmore Village Hall on Monday 20th May 2024
(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 (VM new Vice Chair), Mr M Brandon (MB new Chair), Mr Edward Watts (EW), Mr Tony Leach (TL), Clerk Mrs D Jones
In Attendance	Mr Trevor Jones,
1 Appoint Chair and Vice Chair	<p>Chair - Matt Brandon was proposed by MB and seconded by VM. Vice Chair – Vince Meredith was proposed by JH and seconded by TL. All completed the Acceptance of Office Form. All completed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Forms are required annually for SDC to record.</p>
2 Delegation of member’s responsibilities	<p>The work of the Councillors has been defined under 5 main Business Areas. Each area is 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 Council’s business. It was agreed that the 5 councillors would consider the areas that they would like to lead and discuss this at the next teams meeting</p> <p>The Business Areas are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o including footpaths o verge cutting o Grit bins 2. Planning - 3. External Services - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rubbish - Fly tipping o Rural Network Services o Police 4. Data - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Management o Residents database o Emergency Plan o Standing Orders 5. Assets - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Defibrillators o Notice Boards o War Memorial 6. Special Projects – All <p>Comms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bridge – Trevor Jones o Website DJ

	Finance - DJ
3 Police Report	From PCSO Ben Rollins and Gordon McGaugie Report not received
4 Open Question Time	No questions
5 Declaration of Members' Interest in Agenda Items	Nothing was declared by the Councillors.
6 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting	The Minutes of the previous Parish Council Meeting on 18th March 2024 were proposed as a true record by MH and seconded by TL
7 Matters Arising	Matters arising from the Minutes of 18 th March 2024 Mike Farmer had completed the Internal Audit. Severn Voice next meeting is being planned. Important issues including Solar Farms, Planning and Verge Cutting will be discussed
8 Finance	<p><i>i)Review of Parish Precept 2023/2024.</i> <i>The Parish Precept has remained 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 2022/2023</i> Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</p> <p><i>iii)Forecast Expenditure 2023/2024.</i> The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there has been an increase in Verge Cutting Costs.</p> <p><i>iv)Community Based projects.</i> There are no planned projects at the moment</p> <p>v) Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 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 2023/24 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>
<p>9 County Councillor Stephen Davies Report</p>	<p><i>GCC Annual report 2024.</i> <i>Budget has been passed including investment in adult and children’s services and highways. GVC element of council tax up by 5.99%. GCC finances helped by £15 million of electricity sales by EFW.</i> <i>Potholes. GCC receiving money from central Government for this. Highways purchased new equipment for this. ‘Fix My Street’ will automate reporting and enable tracking of progress. When fixing potholes GCC introduced policy of also fixing nearby potholes which will soon need attention.</i> <i>Climate change. GCC has published update to its plan and embarked on ambitious tree planning programme – up to 100,000 trees this year. Has installed 100 EV chargers towards a 1000 planned and have secured £6million for Zero emission buses.</i> <i>Fire Service. Inspected. Good at dealing with fires but has a diversity problem so rated ‘inadequate’.</i> <i>Childrens Services inspected and rated Good.</i> <i>SEND Inspected and identified issues common nationally but has planned to address them.</i> <i>Cllr Davies working locally to provide bus transport to children allocated to school outside of catchment area. Ultimate solution is to increase capacity of Secondary Schools in the area. Birth rate is declining so any extra need for places is through migration of families into the area. ie where new housing I built, which is decided by Stroud Local Plan which has been delayed by a year.</i></p>
<p>10 District Councillor Gill Oxley Report</p>	<p><i>There are 33 new councillors in Stroud. Her areas of interest will probably remain unchanged. She emphasised the frustration with LPA not enforcing Planning decisions.</i></p>
<p>11 Highways</p>	<p>Footpaths covered in matters arising <i>Pothole edges of Stonebench Lane have been filled with gravel. White lines have been painted around the potholes in the layby.</i></p> <p>Verge Cutting <i>Already mentioned in Finance.</i></p> <p>Speeding Controls <i>40 mph bin stickers and Gateway signs</i></p> <p>Laybys Potholes <i>already mentioned.</i></p>
<p>12 Planning</p>	<p><i>Hollow Farm - request to change use of barn has been withdrawn</i> <i>Haywick Lane Barn area. Change of use request to LPA has been submitted against the Planning enforcement decision. Result awaited</i> <i>Firewood Production application to LPA has been refused.</i></p>

13 External Services	<p><i>PCSO Gordon McGurgy is not available on Monday nights. No report submitted as all local police events are posted publicly online. We can all have updates sent directly to us through 'Your community alerts'.</i></p> <p><i>Hare coursing was mentioned. Police would need more information. We should report it to the RURAL CRIME department.</i></p>
14 Data	<p><i>Management of data in our Google drive continues. NM will pass on access to the G drive to our new councillors.</i></p> <p><i>MB plans to follow up the issue of the Hacking of our Website. It was noted that no sensitive information exists on there.</i></p> <p>Residents Database <i>A request for updated details will be included in the new issue of the Bridge.</i></p>
15 Assets	<p>Defibrillators <i>New batteries have been installed on both defibrillators. Sticking keypad already mentioned in Matters Arising</i></p> <p>Notice Boards <i>Still plans to apply linseed oil when weather allows it.</i></p> <p>War Memorial – <i>nothing to report.</i></p>
16 Special Projects	<p><i>No plans at the moment.</i></p>
17 Parish Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: <i>Kept up to date.</i> • The Bridge: <i>The Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this.</i> <p><i>Email: Addresses given to the Chairman to hold are kept strictly confidential to comply with Data Regulations Guidance</i></p>
18 Finance	<p><i>Nothing to add to minutes.</i></p>
19 Any other business	<p><i>None</i></p>
<p>Date of Next Parish Council Meetings Tuesday 16th September 2024 Monday 49th December 2024</p>	
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm</p>	
<p>Signed Date</p>	