

**Minutes of Elmore ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm 2024  
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, Mr J Field Mr Edward Watts, Mr Tony Leach,  
Cllr Gill Oxley  
Cllr Steven Davies**

**1.Apologies: None**

**2. Chairman's Annual Statement** On reflection, I would say that with regards to changes or major events within the Village, it's been a fairly quiet year, which in some ways is good. It's been business as usual with respect to activities carried out by the Parish Council. The only new additions to the village that we have been responsible for are the Please Drive Carefully signs that adorn a number of household wheelie bins and the litter bin in the layby at the Stonebench end of the village. I hasten to add, before you comment on its slant, that it was installed by the Highways Authority.

The only other matter to mention is with regards to Planning issues. There have been two separate long running planning matters the we have been involved with along Haywicks Lane (main road from Hardwicke to Elmore). Both sites were being used for purposes that they didn't have planning permission for, so eventually SDC applied enforcement notices on them. This has resulted in a new planning application being submitted for the small holding as you leave the village on the left along Haywicks Lane and the tenants leaving the wooden 'Common Room' between Hollow Farm and Taylors Yard. The Parish Council are keen to ensure that planning rules are applied equally to all applications/developments within the village and that the canal continues to be a physical boundary for major new development.

The Parish finances are in good health. In April 2023 our bank balance stood at £6142.90 and our regular expenditure on insurance, memberships, Defibrillator maintenance, printing of The Bridge and the Clerk's salary, have continued throughout the year. The total expenditure for the year was £3005.29, balanced off by a total income of £3713.35, which led to a closing balance in March 2024 of £6850.66.

Your Parish Council decided that the Parish Precept should remain unchanged again for the last 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 the Parish Council know your details (contact details can be found in The Bridge). 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 Gordon McGaugie – no report received**

<p><b>4. Open Question Time</b> No questions asked.</p>	
<p><b>5 Declaration of Member’s interest in Agenda items.</b> No declarations were made</p>	
<p><b>6 Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b> These were proposed as a true record by VM and seconded by MH.</p>	
<p><b>7 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>  <b>Highways – Footpaths</b> John Field said the Elmore Court had paid for and had approval for the re-routing of a footpath near the Tree Houses. Not checked recently.</p> <p>Bin Stickers ‘40’ are now in use. Spares to be fixed to the Layby Bin. VM continues to contact SDC about provision of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Bin. The Layby bin is used and regularly emptied</p> <p>The database of residents contacts continues to be updated.</p> <p>Assets – MB reports the keypad lock on the Elmore Back defibrillator cabinet is a bit sticky. It was suggested that we contact Gloucester Locksmiths to ask if there is anyway of fixing this.</p>	
<p><b>8 Finance:</b> <i>DJ emailed the spreadsheet information to the Council and published them on the website</i></p> <p>i) <b>Review of Parish Precept 2024/2025</b> The Parish Precept has remained unchanged at £2,472.00 There are no plans to change anything for the following financial year.</p> <p>ii) <b>Account and Audit 2023/2024</b> Following our internal Audit, this work is complete and ready for the Council to approve.</p> <p>iii) <b>Forecast Expenditure 2024/2025.</b> The forecast of expenditure remains roughly the same as for the previous Financial Year although there has been an and could be a further increase in Verge Cutting Costs.</p> <p>iv) <b>Community Based projects.</b> There are no planned projects at the moment.</p>	
<p><b>9 County Councillor Stephen Davies</b> GCC Annual report 2024. 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. 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. 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. Fire Service. Inspected. Good at dealing with fires but has a diversity problem so rated ‘inadequate’. Childrens Services inspected and rated Good.</p>	

<p>SEND Inspected and identified issues common nationally but has planned to address them.</p> <p>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..</p>	
<p><b>10 District Councillor</b> Gill Oxley</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><b>11 Highways Footpaths covered in matters arising</b>                  Pothole edges of Stonebench Lane have been filled with gravel. White lines have been painted around the potholes in the layby.</p> <p><b>Verge Cutting</b> Already mentioned in Finance.</p> <p><b>Speeding Controls</b> 40 mph bin stickers and Gateway signs</p> <p><b>Laybys Potholes</b> already mentioned.</p>	<p><b>VM</b></p> <p><b>VM</b></p>
<p><b>12 Planning NM</b></p> <p>Hollow Farm - request to change use of barn has been withdrawn                  Haywick Lane Barn area. Change of use request to LPA has been submitted against the Planning enforcement decision. Result awaited                  Firewood Production application to LPA has been refused.</p>	
<p><b>13 External Services JH</b> 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’.</p> <p>Hare coursing was mentioned. Police would need more information. We should report it to the RURAL CRIME department.</p>	
<p><b>14 Data MB</b></p> <p>Management of data in our Google drive continues. NM will pass on access to the G drive to our new councillors.</p> <p>MB plans to follow up the issue of the Hacking of our Website. It was noted that no sensitive information exists on there.</p> <p><b>Residents Database</b>                  A request for updated details will be included in the new issue of the Bridge.</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>TJ</b></p>

Elmore Parish Council

<p><b>Standing Orders</b> No changes to be made.</p>	
<p><b>15 Assets MH Defibrillators</b> New batteries have been installed on both defibrillators. Sticking keypad already mentioned in Matters Arising</p> <p><b>Notice Boards</b> Still plans to apply linseed oil when weather allows it.</p> <p><b>War Memorial</b> – nothing to report.</p>	<p><b>MH/DJ</b></p> <p><b>TJ</b></p>
<p><b>16 Special Projects</b> No planned projects.</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 38<sup>th</sup> Edition of The Bridge is due to come out at the end of May. Trevor Jones is continuing to edit this. Our thanks given to our willing volunteers to deliver to our doors.</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> no other business</p>	
<p><b>Date of the Next Annual Parish Meeting</b> – Date to be arranged in May 2025</p>	
<p>The Chairman thanked those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.53 pm.</p>	