

Minutes of an Interim Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

held at St John's Church Elkstone
8.00 p.m. Wednesday 5th September

Present: Mr. Hobbs (Chair and notes) Mssrs. Cooch, Luck & Muschamp

Apologies were received from Mr. Collins and Mrs. Eyre

Minutes of the last meeting – held over to 19th September.

1. Planning Application –

proposed new house and kiln dryer, High Cross Timber Yard.

This application was discussed at some length.

Councillors resolved that:

In respect of the application to install a kiln drier, they had no objection.

In respect of the basic concept of a new house being built on this site, they have some sympathy with the applicant, and have previously not objected to an application for a single storey dwelling on this site.

There are some concerns about the proposed new access off the single track 40863, and the risk of increased traffic being generated by diversification into timber drying.

There was a minority view that the need for a dwelling associated with this small business, as required by the testing procedure of PPS7, is not demonstrated.

However, Councillors wish to object to this application, being of the view that:

- i. the footprint of the proposed 'forestry worker's dwelling' is unacceptably large
- ii. the ridge height of the roof is unacceptably high

Should Cotswold District Council determine to permit this application, Elkstone Parish Council asks that the house is the subject of a tie linking it to the business.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 19th September 2012, in Elkstone Village Hall

Present: Mr. Hobbs (Chair) Mssrs. Collins, Cooch & Luck: Mrs Eyre (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mr. Muschamp

1. Minutes of the last Meetings (11th July and 5th September 2012) were accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising – there were none

3. Finance

3.1 Mr. Cooch reported that the External Auditors' report was clear.

3.2 Payment of Accounts:

3.2.1 Bill from external auditors £60.00 (paid 14th August; approval now confirmed)

3.2.2 Bill for hire of Hall, April – Sept 12, for £44.00 – a cheque was written, signed and will be hand-delivered.

3.2.3 Bill from Arboriculturalist - £84.00 (paid 14th August; approval now confirmed)

3.2.4.i Clerk's salary March – September; gross £608.00. A cheque for £486.40 (the net amount) was written, signed and handed over. A second cheque for £121.60 was written, signed, and will be sent to HMRC.

3.2.4.ii Clerk's expenses £45.58; a cheque was written, signed and handed over.

3.3 R.F.O.'s Report on Year to Date Income & Expenditure against Budget was received with thanks.

4. Council Tax base and benefit support and precept

Mr Cooch reported that the consultation period ends 5th October, but signs are favourable that the outcome will be that deductions are not passed on to precepting authorities.

To reconsider at November Meeting.

5. Planning

5.1 Proposed dormer window, Manor Barn – Councillors had no objection.

5.2 Proposed single storey dwelling, 18 Elkstone

This item was discussed at length.

i) That Councillors have no objection to the proposed bungalow

ii) That Councillors regret the proposal that Numbers 18 and 19 be converted to one dwelling, since they represent two small affordable dwellings which are in short supply in the parish; and hence Councillors hope that Cotswold District Council might waive or relax the Policy 19 in this exceptional circumstance

iii) That Councillors would wish to enjoy in perpetuity the opportunity to nominate a tenant for the bungalow

Proposed: Mr. Collins; seconded: Mr. Cooch; carried nem con.

Cotswold District Council to be so informed.

5.3 Proposed new build at Cockleford Trout Farm – noted applicants' appeal against CDC Planning decision not to permit has not been granted.

6. Winter preparations

6.1 Snow Warden – Mr Rice has confirmed that Mr Gibbs is willing to continue as Snow Warden with Mssrs Thorn as snow plough operators

6.2 Salt & grit supplies – Clerk to ask for additional parish allowance.

6.3 To consider ordering new salt+grit bins – resolved not to order more bins this year.

7. Trees on the Pound

7.1 The report from Mr Unwin, arboriculturalist, was considered. Although the weeping willow has minor dieback from a fungal disease common to this species, it does not present an issue. It was noted that the crown overhangs the adjacent property. Other trees were found to be in good health.

7.2 A letter from resident living adjacent to Pound was considered. She is concerned about the height/spread of some of the trees, rather than their health, and is offering a financial contribution to work on them.

An indirect verbal report, that the owners of the overhung property might be pleased to contribute towards some reduction in size of the tree, was noted. It was also noted that these owners have the right to choose to remove the overhanging branches themselves.

Resolved: Mssrs. Hobbs and Cooch to make a site visit to consider this aspect of the trees, and discuss with the neighbouring resident.

Clerk to so inform resident.

8. Code of Conduct

In the absence of an agreed county-wide model code, to adopt the CDC format with minor amendments to Officer titles:

Proposed: Mr.Cooch; seconded: Mr. Collins; carried nem con

9. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

EPC has been informed by Mr. Fogden that Mrs. Davies has resigned from this role, and a replacement volunteer is sought.

It is believed that another parishioner could be willing to take on this role; Clerk to ask her. Alternatively, the vacancy to be advertised in the Newsletter.

10. Community Speedwatch

Noted that Dr. Eyre has taken on the co-ordination of the parish end of this initiative; more volunteers have been recruited and more sessions carried out.

From the floor, Mr. Redman (one of the volunteers) told the Meeting of the puerile and irresponsible behaviour exhibited by some drivers when they sight the Speedwatch.

11. 3/190

The improvements to signage etc, promised for this summer, have not materialised. Clerk to remind Gloucestershire Highways.

12. Government consultation on red diesel use during emergency gritting

Councillors were not minded to contribute to this consultation.

Clerk has passed the consultation documents on to the Snow Warden.

13. Correspondence from the Parish – there was none.

14. Other correspondence – was put into circulation

15. Meetings

15.1 GAPTC AGM – no-one could attend.

15.2 CDC Town & Parish Meeting – Mr. Cooch may attend at the Cirencester venue.

16. A.O.B. - there was none

11. Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 14th November.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.17 pm.