

# **Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council**

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 9th November 2011, in Elkstone Village Hall

**Present:** Mssrs. Hobbs (Chair), Collins, Cooch, Luck and Muschamp; Mrs. Eyre (Clerk)

**1. Minutes of the previous Meeting** [21.09.11] were accepted and signed

## **2. Matters arising**

Re item 5.6 – on closer reading, the NPPF document didn't appear to compromise AONBs – no further action

Re item 10.3 – CDC plans to alter car parking schedules of charges have been dropped, except for the Brewery car park in Cirencester, where evening and Sunday charges have been introduced.

Re item 10.7 – Police advice on temporary chicanes has been sought, and the Parish Council is strongly advised not to pursue this idea. Information from a lorry watch initiative in Birdlip (where the two volunteers are able to stand on a raised footway behind railings at a corner which vehicles negotiate relative slowly) is that most lorries, when investigated, are found to be making legitimate journeys, due to having started their journeys inside the FMZ, or having a destination inside it, or both.

## **3. Finance**

3.1 Payment of Accounts – a cheque for £372.99 (inc VAT) has been signed and sent to Glasdon in full payment of two salt+grit bins (item 6 of 21.09.11 refers)

Mr. Cooch has requested information from the Treasurer of Elkstone Village Hall Management Committee in respect of any website charges, but this has not yet been received.

3.2 R.F.O.'s Report on Year to Date Income & Expenditure was accepted with thanks.

3.3 R.F.O.'s 2012 – 2013 Budget projection was considered. It was felt that it could be advisable to slightly increase the Council's level of reserves against the possibility of any unplanned additional expenditure. Councillors will also consider whether there are any projects which should be undertaken. For final decision in January.

## **4. Planning**

4. Discretionary Tree Work, Elkstone Manor. The Parish Council was alerted to this forthcoming non-consultative work, but had no objections.

## **5. Grit+salt supplies**

5.1 The Parish Council has been informed that there will be reduced supplies of grit+salt this winter. Most of the bins around the Parish have received their once-per-year fill, though the bins along Cockleford Lane have all been missed; this is currently the subject of an exchange of e-mails, and Mr Muschamp will phone Mr Hicks of Gloucestershire Highways about this oversight. None of the heaps around the Parish have been topped up, and the Parish Council has been informed that this will not be done, as heap-topping has been confined to certain strategic routes as identified by GH.

5.2 As last year, GH is offering "collect it yourself" limited additional bagged supplies to PCs via their Snow Warden. There are no further details, but last year's supply was limited to 1 ton/20 bags. Clerk has asked for Elkstone's name to be added to the list of

parishes willing to collect supplies. Mr. Hobbs will liaise with the Snow Warden/Snow Plough Operator on this.

## **6. Emergency Resilience**

The 'toolkit' has not been received (see item 4 of 21.09.11). Clerk has recently contacted neighbouring parishes with a view to borrowing one. One PC has replied that it has never received a toolkit, and another has already disposed of theirs. No offers to date.

## **7. Community Speedwatch**

Mr. Collins reported back on this from the recent PCSOs' quarterly meeting: a pilot initiative is due to be launched in March 2012, though before then, a number of issues, including training, equipment and insurance have to be sorted. Mr. Cooch pointed out that EPC's insurance would not cover volunteers involved in this initiative.

The Parish Council has been informed that the initiative will incur no extra costs to it, nor involve any additional work. If a Parish Co-ordinator is required, it is understood that Mrs. Davies has offered to take on this role. Councillors agreed that they remain supportive of this initiative in principle, and had no objection to the Speedwatch management board asking Mrs. Davies to take on a parish co-ordination role. Clerk to so inform PCSO.

**8. Correspondence from the Parish** - there was none.

**9. Other correspondence** - was put into circulation.

## **10. Meetings**

**10.1 CDC meeting for Town and Parish Councils, 31<sup>st</sup> October.** Mr. Cooch reported back from this meeting. CDC is aiming to be the most efficient in the country, though it was accepted that this would be difficult to measure. To this end, it is working jointly with three neighbouring councils, (see item 3.4 of 21.09.11). The contract with Sita for waste and recycling collections will not be renewed, instead collection teams will be 'in-house'. Kerbside plastic bottle collections are scheduled for introduction next October.

There is a pledge to hold the level of council tax for three years.

**10.2 PCSOs Quarterly meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - minutes for this should be available shortly, but additionally to item 7 above, Mr. Collins reported that 11 of the 16 parishes approached have apparently agreed to contribute towards funding a car for our PCSO.

## **11. A.O.B.**

### **11.1 Neighbourhood Watch**

Noted Mrs. Davies has now been interviewed for the volunteer post of NW co-ordinator for the parish, and her appointment agreed.

Parish Councillors expressed their gratefulness to Mr. Price who has undertaken this role for a number of years.

## **12. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.