

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 10th November 2010, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting [15.09.10] were accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising – there were none

3. Finance

3.1 Payment of Accounts - there were none

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

3.3 R.F.O's 2011 – 2012 Budget projection – Mr. Cooch presented this, for Councillors to consider before the January Meeting.

4. Planning

4.1 Release of Obligation, Deer Park.

The application for the Release of Obligation has been withdrawn, and replaced with an application to revise the conditions of the Obligation.

Mr. Luck explained to the Meeting the possible implications of the proposed revised wording. There was unanimous agreement that an objection to the application should be lodged, since:

i. There is concern that the application, if granted, would allow extended use of the site and facilities all year round, whereas at present it is restricted to 65 days a year.

ii. Whilst the application retains the restriction on the number of people who could use the site and facilities at any one time, it removes the restriction that it is for use by Guides; further, the question of who could use the site and facilities would be the decision of the owners of the land, and there would be no control by any outside Authority.

Councillors believed this would be too open-ended to afford proper protection of this site. Clerk to so inform CDC Planners.

5. Housing Needs Survey

5.1 Responding to the Survey results – Councillors had no objections to the proposed publishing of the main report and findings, but not the appendix which would allow the identification of individual respondents. – Clerk to so inform Mr. Hutchins.

5.2 Advancing 'Local Ties' – The Parish Council has received more requests from parishioners asking for intervention on behalf of potential housing applicants with local ties. However, this situation was investigated two years ago: Fosseway Living repudiated the suggestion that there is any local tie condition to their housing (Councillors thought it possible that maybe there was such a condition when planning was first granted for the houses, which were originally CDC owned, and that this may have got lost or withdrawn when control passed to what was then Fosseway Housing).

There is a local tie condition on two of the Orbit Housing homes, however, it has been established that a couple in need of housing would take priority over a single person, even if the single person could fulfil the local connection criterion. Clerk to ask Mr. Hutchins to draw CDC's attention to these inadequacies in meeting local need.

6. Grit+salt supplies

6.1 Reduced supplies – Gloucestershire Highways news on was this summarized. Clerk to publish item in newsletter alerting parishioners, and also remind that anyone wanting to salt their own paths and drives must buy in their own supplies for this.

6.2 Collect it yourself offer to PCs – Mr. Hobbs intends to avail himself of this offer on behalf of the Parish, and will liaise with the Snow Warden.

7. Correspondence from the Parish

7.1 Complaints have again been received regarding dog fouling. Clerk to publish another reminder in the newsletter.

7.2 A parishioner had suggested that the Parish Council might write to the Pipeline Project Team to thank them for the efficiency and consideration with which the pipeline had been installed (item 5.2 of 15.09.10 refers). However, since then, the project team has sent out satisfaction survey questionnaires to all in the vicinity of the route, and Councillors felt that it would be sufficient, and more appropriate, to leave parishioners to reply via this medium as they saw fit.

8. Other correspondence

8.1 letter re One Act Play Festival – to be considered next March.

9. Meetings

9.1 PCSOs Quarterly meetings

i) Communication – minutes of meetings arrive as e-mail attachments and are circulated to Councillors. Notices, if received before Editor's deadline, are included in the Newsletter, and Webmaster has recently created a 'Police' page, on which latest news and alerts can be posted. From the floor, Mr. Redmond told the meeting that he sometimes receives text messages from PCSO Shutt, but is not sure of how to pass these on.

ii) representative – In general, PCSOs quarterly meetings are covered by either Mr Collins or Mr. Muschamp. This was felt to be a good arrangement.

Clerk to inform PCSOs of all the above.

10. A.O.B.

10.1 Clerk asked to draw Councillors' attention to misleading information in the article on PRoW law in the last issue of "Clerks and Councils Direct".

i. '...a footpath must only be used for walking...' – a pedestrian has the right to do a bit more than only walk; and in certain circumstances, a 'higher rights' user could legitimately use a footpath.

ii. '...keep dogs on a lead or under close control...where there are sheep...' – the law relating to sheep-worrying also applies to the worrying of all other livestock, domestic fowl and waterfowl, and reared game.

10.2 Mr. Hobbs told the Meeting that the Open Spaces Society has objected to the proposed Diversion Order on bridleway BEL 4, on the grounds that parts of it are not 5 metres wide. Clerk commented that GCC standard width for a new or newly-diverted enclosed bridleway such as BEL 4 had been 4 metres, which was increased to 5 metres in January 04, with the proviso that this width might not always be possible. The application in respect of BEL 4 is to legitimise the line which has been used by the public for some 15 years, so it is difficult to see that the 5 metre standard could be insisted upon.

11. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 12th January 2011

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