

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council
8.00 p.m., Wednesday 14th July 2010, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

Apologies: Mr. Hobbs (at a school production in which his youngest daughter appears)

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting [19.05.10]

Two amendments to the previously-circulated draft were read out, the Minutes were then accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising

Re item 6: The GRCC Housing Needs Survey has been distributed to every household in the Parish – Councillors wished to record thanks to Mrs. Howlett, co-ordinator, and her team of Newsletter distribution volunteers for undertaking this.

Re item 8.2: Mr. Collins has checked the bench on the Pound, and considered its state to be at least adequate without further treatment.

Re item 8.3: Mr Collins has checked the wooden salt/ grit bins round the village, and effected some running repairs.

Re item 11: the new salt/ grit bin ordered for Pike Hill has now been installed.

3. Finance

3.1 Payment of Accounts – no items

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

4. Planning

4.1 proposed extension, Millstone Cottage – noted that a query regarding the (white) colour is being dealt with; otherwise Councillors had no objections.

4.2 Release of Obligation, Deer Park - Mr. Luck guided the Meeting through the implications of this application. It was felt that the restrictions imposed by last year's planning consent for a new building at this site offered insufficient protection to the site as a whole, without some form of Obligation, though a re-worded Obligation might be acceptable and sufficient.

To Object to the proposed Release of Obligation:

proposed: Mr Luck; seconded: Mr. Cooch; carried nem. con.

Clerk to so inform CDC.

4.3 Modifications to telecommunications mast on Gloucester Beeches layby (in Syde Parish) Councillors had no objections.

5. PRow matters

5.1 Clerk has heard unofficially that a GCC PRow Officer has recently left and will not be replaced; remaining Officers are re-organising (enlarging) their areas to absorb this vacancy, w.e.f. August. Elkstone will thus lose Mr Cluley but gain Mr. Barton.

5.2 Bridleway BEL 2 across Stonefield has suffered re-growth of the previously-cut rape. The line of the PRow is still just visible and passable – to be kept under review.

5.3 Bridleway BEL 4 through Cowley Woods - Mr. Cluley has very recently reported having tried, but failed, to contact the landowner by telephone, in order to progress the issue of the dangerous surface.

5.4 Complaints had been received in respect of the overgrown surface vegetation, and spreading compost heap, on footpath BEL 11. These problems have been dealt with by the householder and a volunteer.

5.5 The legitimacy of both footpaths BEL 16 and 17 had been questioned (not by the same persons). It has been pointed out that both appear on the definitive map, and were most probably added to it in the early 1950s. Both therefore have statutory existence, and could only be removed by the granting of an Extinguishment Order, at a probable cost to the applicant of about £2,500.00, and with no certainty that such an application would succeed, in view of the likelihood of objections.

5.6 Public footpaths crossing arable fields in the Parish have now been sprayed (with one partial exception) but the north end of BEL 18 has again been sprayed along the headland to the gateway, rather than along the statutory line across the field to the stile.

Mr. Cluley has been made aware of this.

5.7 There was very recent concern in respect of restricted byway BEL 25 when this was discovered to have been included in the drilling of the entire field with maize.

Happily, the full-width line was very promptly sprayed out again.

5.8 A gate on usr 50859 has collapsed – the hinge-end gatepost having rotted so badly that the top hinge has fallen out. The landowner has been alerted to the need for a new post.

6. Correspondence from the Parish – none received.

7. Other correspondence – was put into circulation.

8. Meetings – following a phonecall from a member of the National Grid pipeline project team seeking Parish Councillors and landowners to attend, Mr Cooch kindly agreed, at very short notice, to go to the official launch of NG/CCB drystone walling grant.

He told the Meeting about this interesting afternoon.

9. A.O.B.

Mr. Cooch raised the possibility of a S. 137 donation to EVHMC for Newsletter costs; however, it appeared from the paperwork available that last year's donation might not have been so used, no claim for costs having been submitted to the EVHMC.

Mr. Cooch will query this with the EVHMC Treasurer.

This item is to be considered at the next Meeting.

10. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 15th September

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.53 p.m.