

## Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 14th November 2012, in Elkstone Village Hall

### Minutes

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

**1. Minutes of the previous Meeting** [19.09.12] 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 2013-14 preliminary budget projection, received with thanks, was discussed.

3.4 Council tax base and benefit support and precept – Mr. Cooch explained that a final decision on this was still awaited, but it seemed as though parishes, or smaller parishes, would not be affected.

### **4. Planning**

4. i. Additional dormer window, Manor Barn – noted CDC have permitted

4.ii Proposed change of use of land and building from agricultural to equestrian, and construction of a manege, Oldbury Farm.

This was discussed at length. It is noted that the plans show the existing barn in the wrong position relative to other existing buildings.

The proposals are for an additional 14 looseboxes, tack rooms, hay storage, horse walker and manege, with hardstanding and additional vehicular access.

It was noted that the proposed manege would be larger than the standard international / Olympic size. It was further noted that, in response to the question regarding conflict of use of local roads, and overuse of local bridleways, the applicants had replied indicating that, whilst horses might be hacked out occasionally, as at present, they would also be exercised on site, using the manege and horse-walker.

Councillors were concerned that this was strongly suggestive of a business – hunter or competition liveries - rather than private use, and hence anticipated considerable additional traffic, including horseboxes and trailers, along the single track 40863.

Other than this, there were no objections.

CDC Planning dept to be so informed.

**5. Trees on Pound.** Mssrs. Hobbs and Collins have had a site meeting to further consider the trees, specifically the silver birch close to an adjoining property. This was seen to be a mature tree, now very tall, but of no great aesthetic value. The question of whether to reduce the height of the birch, or completely fell it, was considered.

To proceed towards felling the birch: proposed Mr. Collins; seconded Mr. Hobbs; carried nem con.

Clerk to so inform resident of adjacent house, notify CDC of the intention to fell, and obtain quotations for the work.

- 6. Neighbourhood Watch** - Councillors are grateful to Mrs. Davey for taking on this role.
- 7. Community Speedwatch** - Dr. Eyre has compiled a report. There will be no Speedwatches during winter months due to few daylight hours.  
Councillors are grateful to all the CSW volunteers for all their efforts to date.
- 8. Electoral review**
- 8.1** - Mr. Cooch has attended a meeting which informed of progress of the Review to date, and plans to attend a further meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.  
Eight Divisions in the county are now confirmed. CDC is likely to reduce from 40 to 32 Councillors, though this is yet to be confirmed; if it is, then Ward boundaries will change. It is aimed to have a single Councillor per Ward, and equal representation.
- 8.2** Possibly prompted by this Review, a letter has been received from the Chair of Colesbourne Parish Meeting informing that an application has been made to CDC to alter the parish boundary such that four properties (Butler's and River Farms, Windy Ridge and The Bungalow) would transfer from Elkstone to Colesbourne parish.  
Councillors had no objection to this, though noted that the proposed new boundary had a little dog-leg around one demesne.
- 9. Correspondence from the Parish** - there have been queries about the new extension at Rose Cottage, which under new (2008) legislation is a 'permitted development'.
- 10. Other correspondence** - was put into circulation
- 11. Meetings**
- 11.1** PCSOs Quarterly meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October - Mr. Muschamp expanded on the information already received via the Minutes.
- 11.2** CDC meeting for Town and Parish Councils, 12<sup>th</sup> November - additionally to the information about the Review, Mr. Cooch informed the Meeting that CDC intend to raise the rate of council tax on second homes to 100%; apart from this, council tax, and the garden waste recycling licence fee, will remain unchanged. CDC is selling off redundant properties, but is not allowed to use revenue from sales to fund services.
- 12. A.O.B.** - there was none.
- 13. Dates of next Meetings: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013;  
also 20<sup>th</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> July.  
Clerk to book Hall.**

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.32 pm.