

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

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 11th July 2012, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

**Apologies** were received from Mr. Collins, who had to attend another meeting this evening.

**1. Minutes of the previous Meeting** (16.05.12) were accepted and signed.

### **2. Matters arising**

**re item 6** Mr. Luck wrote an item for the Newsletter, and individual replies to the Parishioners who had written or e-mailed about the 3/190; it is understood that these were well-received.

**Re item 7** – The Risk Assessment and related documents for the Community Speedwatch have been received, and EPC's Insurance extended to cover official CSW activities. Three volunteers have conducted one session under police scrutiny, and then a further two; the equipment has now been handed back to be circulated around other groups before Elkstone has its next turn.

### **3. Finance**

3.1 Payment of Accounts

3.1.1 Bill for hire of Hall for Diamond Jubilee Big Tea: £71.00 – this included the CDC temporary Event Notice at a cost of £21.00.

A cheque for £71.00 was written, signed and will be delivered by hand.

3.1.2 Possible S 137 contribution of £100, as last year, towards Newsletter costs:

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

A cheque for £100.00 was written, signed and will be delivered by hand.

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

3.3 Notification has been received from the Audit Commission of a change of External Auditors, from Moore Stephens to Grant Thornton; also, as EPC has expenditure of less than £10,000 p.a., the audit fee will be reduced to zero.

### **4. Planning**

4.1 Proposed conversion of barn opposite Oldbury Farm – noted CDC have permitted

4.2 Proposed extension, Manor Farm Cottage – noted CDC have permitted

4.3 Proposed extension, Paynter's Cottage - Councillors had no objection, and it is noted that CDC have permitted

### **5. Dead wood, willow tree on Pound**

Four quotes from local arboriculturalists were considered, two were clearly from people who would offer to undertake any necessary tree surgery as well. Resolved to ask Mr. Unwin, the cheaper of the consultants, to assess and report.

Clerk to progress.

### **6. Code of Conduct**

EPC adopted the Model Code of Conduct in July 2007.

Following the disbanding of the Standards Board earlier this year, this Code now has to be revised – all Councils are free to devise their own Code; but GAPTC is hoping to introduce and have adopted a county-wide Model Code; the District and Borough Councils have been working on a draft for this.

The new Code is supposed to have been adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> July; however, Councils could simply agree to adopt the significant changed parts – relating to Registering and Disclosing Interests, and the Schedule of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – as an interim measure, and await receipt of a new Model Code.

To adopt the above two parts as an interim measure and await the county Model Code: Proposed: Mr. Cooch; seconded: Mr. Muschamp; carried nem. con.

### **7. Localising Support for Council Tax**

Mr. Cooch explained that one possible outcome of this issue is that it may be necessary to change the budget approval date, as there would in future have to be an exchange of information between CDC and PCs.

There may also be a hike in council tax, in which case, he would advise a notice in the Newsletter explaining circumstances beyond EPC's control.

He will pursue this matter and report back.

### **8. Offer from PCSOs to attend PC meetings**

PCSOs have renewed their offer to attend PC meetings, provided they are invited in good time. Councillors are of the opinion that as a general rule, it is sufficient for a Councillor to attend the Quarterly Neighbourhood Meeting; it is appreciated that in the event of some dire circumstance, our PCSO could be invited to a meeting of EPC.

### **9. Correspondence from the Parish**

A Parishioner has phoned Mr Hobbs regarding a planning matter.

EPC will take no action before having sight of the plans from CDC.

### **10 Other correspondence was put into circulation**

### **11. Meetings**

11.1 PCSOs' Neighbourhood Co-Ordination Meeting, 18th June – Mr. Collins sent a summary of this meeting, pending receipt of the Minutes – Elkstone Community Speedwatch is considerably in advance of most other groups locally, Elkstone has 6 volunteers, many villages are struggling to find 3; the parishes joint funding for the PCSOs vehicle initiative is unlikely to go ahead, as too few parishes volunteered to subscribe; speeding traffic remains a top priority.

11.2 CDC Housing Plan Consultation, 14<sup>th</sup> June – Mr. Cooch reported that two issues discussed were affordable and sheltered housing. CDC is working with Housing 21, a not for profit organization. Affordable housing has in the past been in groups of 10, which could be a large proportion of the housing in a small village. In future, the groups could be smaller.

### **12. A.O.B.**

12.1 From the floor, Mrs. Gilbert expressed concern about the size of three of the trees on the upper half of the Pound. Mr. Unwin to be asked to look at these too; and EPC to pursue the matter in due course with CDC.

12.2 Mr. Muschamp told the meeting that restricted byway BEL 25 was ploughed out earlier this year, has not been re-instated, and is now impossible to use.

Mr. Hobbs undertook to pursue this with the tenant and plough operator.

### **13. Date of next Meeting : Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.