

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council
8.00 p.m., Wednesday 21st September 2011, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

1. The Minutes of the last Meeting (13th July 2011) were accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising

Re item 4.2 – Clerk has been told the FMZ will continue, and weight restriction signs are placed along A 417 before all exits. No further action.

Re item 5 – Clerk has written, and received assurances that concerns noted, also nothing will happen in the foreseeable future due to budget constraints.

Re item 6 – Clerk has e-mailed Rendcomb PC re this. Similar views (Police should lead) were reportedly put forward at last PCSOs Quarterly meeting

Re item 8 – both the bus services have been reprieved

Re item 10 – One Parishioner has lately expressed interest in adopting the kiosk. A propos of this, noted a recent report (by CPRE?) of a village or community which had been faced with a large increase in its insurance premium and a large electricity bill, in respect of their adopted kiosk.

3. Finance

3.1 External Auditors' report – Mr. Cooch confirmed that the report was clear, with no points raised or recommendations made.

3.2 Payment of Accounts:

3.2.1 Bill from external auditors – a cheque for £60.00 has been raised and sent.

3.2.2 Bill for hire of Hall, April – Sept 11 – 4 bookings at £11.00 each:

A cheque for £44.00 was written and signed, and will be hand-delivered, together with a note explaining, in reply to EVHMC's Treasurer's request, that it is not possible to make a payment by electronic transfer, as the bank account requires two signatures on any payment transaction.

3.2.3.i Clerk's salary: 6 months @ £1186.00 per annum = £593.00 gross.

A cheque for £474.40 net was written, signed and handed over.

A cheque for £118.60 (= tax deducted at 20%) was written, signed and will be sent to HRMC.

3.2.3.ii Clerk's expenses – postage £2.16 and e-mails ££29.41 to end July + £8.00 for August and September; a cheque for £39.57 was written, signed and handed over.

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

3.4 GO Shred system – Cheltenham Borough Council – in order to continue to receive the precept, EPC has been required to sign up with this new system, which is a payment consortium of 4 local councils including CDC.

3.5 PAYE & expenses dispensation – Mr. Cooch reported that he has applied to HMRC for P 11 D expenses dispensation, explaining to HMRC that only the Clerk claims expenses, and no-one receives benefits in kind.

4. Emergency Resilience (Mrs Cox, Mr Luck)

Mr Hobbs welcomed Mrs. Cox of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, who gave a presentation on emergency resilience planning.

EPC has not received the 'toolkit' (A4 ring binder with documents and cd) which should have been sent by CDC; Mrs. Cox undertook to send one. This will be circulated to Councillors; for further discussion at a future EPC meeting.

Mr. Hobbs thanked Mrs. Cox for coming, and for her presentation..

5. Planning

5.1 proposed extension at Churn Bank – noted CDC have permitted

5.2 Deer Park – Release of Obligation – the amended wording was considered. Whilst there was concern at the proposed increase in possible days' use from 65 to 275, it was felt that, on balance, the proposed amended wording did now protect the site from future development/exploitation. Clerk to inform CDC that no further objection.

5.3 Proposed new-build at Cockleford Trout Farm – providing that the old building is completely demolished before the new build is commenced, Councillors had no objection to this application. It was noted that public footpath which crosses the site has not been shown. Clerk so to inform CDC.

5.4 Proposed extension at Manor Cross – Councillors had no objections.

5.5 Proposed two-storey extension at Manor Farm Cottage – Councillors had no objections; and expressed approbation at the efforts of the applicants to avoid jeopardising the nearby trees, which are subjects of TPOs.

5.6 CPRE campaign re National Planning Policy Framework – a recent letter was considered. Resolved Clerk to access the NPPF document on-line and establish the actual impact on AONBs. Letter to be scanned and forwarded to Webmaster, with the suggestion that individuals may wish to write to the Minister in support of the campaign.

6.To consider ordering two new salt+grit bins

Advice from GH is that EPC must obtain their approval for proposed sites (done) and then order bins direct from suppliers. GH recommends Glasdon.

Two alternative suppliers products were considered, which, although products were a little cheaper, appeared to compromise on robustness.

Resolved to order one Glasdon Slimline 160 l bin at £136.94 + VAT and one Glasdon Nestor MK II 370 l bin at £173.89 + VAT; delivery is free of charge, this purchase would be within the anticipated budget of £400.00.

7. Correspondence from the Parish – there was none.

8. Other correspondence – was put into circulation

9. Meetings

9.1 Mr. Cooch will attend a free HMRC course on using the PAYE system on Monday 26th September.

9.2 The next Community Speedwatch Initiative meeting is on Thursday 29th Sept, 7.00pm, Daglingworth, at which issue of funding is amongst topics to be dealt with

9.3 Mr. Cooch is offering to go to the CDC Town and Parish meeting on 31st October, and asks if anyone has any points they'd like raised. – these were identified as parking issues, the new charges and especially the arrangements for the Gloucester Beeches carpark (see below); and whether or not the Market Place is to be pedestrianised.

10. A.O.B.

- 10.1. A Freedom of Information Act request from Radio Gloucestershire re PC reserves since 2005 has been answered
- 10.2 Gloucestershire Police and PCSOs are now using 101 to receive non-emergency calls.
- 10.3 CDC are proposing to alter car park charges schedule, this is of import at the Gloucester Beeches carpark, as anyone parking there in order to catch an early (before 8.00am) coach to e.g. London, and not intending to return until after 6.00 pm would incur two additional £1.50 charges, as well as the £3.40 charge for 8.00am to 6.00 pm.. This has been pointed out to CDC, who have promised to give this car-park special consideration.
- 10.4 A requirement for householders to register all septic tanks with the Environment Agency by the end of this year has been withdrawn, pending further consideration.
- 10.5 Cirencester Library will have reduced opening hours from 3rd October

10.6 From the floor, Mrs. Davies asked that the Parish Council support the Community Speedwatch Initiative. She was assured that EPC is aware of the Initiative, being in receipt of relevant information from PCSO Shutt. Whilst EPC is not unsupportive, at the moment, it is not aware of the precise form the required support would take, and is awaiting further information from PCSO Shutt following the 29th September meeting.

10.7 From the floor, Mrs. Davies asked that a community lorry watch be set up, and suggested that temporary chicanes (e.g. parked lorries or tractors) might be created on the 3/190. Councillors were concerned that no potentially hazardous/dangerous situations were created.

11. Date of next Meeting – Wednesday 9th November

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.