

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council
8.00 p.m., Wednesday 6th July 2011, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

Apologies: Post-facto apologies were received from Mr. Muschamp, who had omitted to record the change of date in his diary.

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting [04.05.11] were accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising

Re item 10 – The Hall is booked for the dates agreed at last Meeting

Re item 3.3 of 16.03.11 – Mr Cooch reported that he has been pursuing with HMRC the possibility of continuing with the self-assessment system rather than the use of P.A.Y.E., but has been met with a rigid insistence on implementation. He will therefore set up a P.A.Y.E. system for September.

3. Finance

3.1 Payment of Accounts – there were none

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

3.3 It was noted that the Internal Auditor's report had been received and was clear, though he made two points, firstly the P.A.Y.E. (see above) and secondly a query as to whether the level of reserves should be included in the annual Risk Assessment. (They are, though this has not been separately itemised in the Minutes to date). Clerk to write thanking him.

3.4 Possible S. 137 donation of £100.00 to EVHMC for Newsletter costs:
proposed Mr. Cooch, seconded Mr. Collins, carried nem. con.

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

3.5 Following a change to a different billing package, Clerk asked permission to claim 20% of the fixed monthly charge for phone calls and e-mails, instead of providing an itemised claim as heretofore, providing that this would not increase the amount claimed.

To agree this: Proposed Mr. Luck; seconded Mr. Cooch; carried nem. con.

4. Planning

4.1 Proposed extension, Churn Bank - Councillors had no objections

4.2 Future use of Elkstone Dairy – there is concern about some of the possible uses the Agents are proposing for these premises. Councillors are concerned that there should be no increase in traffic, particularly freight, along the 3/190 to the north of the dairy.

Clerk to check with Gloucestershire Highways the status of the Freight Management Zone, and whether weight restriction signs need to be replaced along the 3/190.

5. WSP Report for Highways Agency – this indicated that consideration had been given to a number of possible actions to ameliorate the poor air quality at The Air Balloon. One suggestion was to ban north-bound traffic from turning right at the Air Balloon roundabout onto the A 436. Clerk to write stressing the unacceptableness of the likely result if such a ban were to be imposed.

6. Part-funding a car for PCSO – this was discussed at length. Clerk to reply to Chairman of Rendcomb PC indicating EPC view that the Police Authority ought perhaps to be taking the lead on any such initiative.

7. Emergency resilience planning – Mr. Luck spoke of further work on this. It is now being dealt with by GRCC (Marilyn Cox) rather than CDC. Mr. Luck will go to a meeting on ERP and Parish Networks shortly. He has received a number of documents which will be forwarded for consideration, and Clerk will invite Ms Cox to the September Parish Council Meeting.

8. Bus Service through Elkstone – Clerk has written to the Manager of the GCC Integrated Transport Unit protesting at the hardship which would be caused if proposals to withdraw the 2323 and in particular the 852 services are implemented, and asking that at least one return 852 service to Cirencester on one weekday and on Saturdays be retained. His reply has been circulated to Councillors.

Councillor S. Parsons has also contacted GCC ITU regarding these concerns.

9. Winter maintenance arrangements – Clerk has confirmed to Gloucestershire Highways that Elkstone will want the maximum allowed number of bags of salt/grit; also that Mssrs. Gibbs and Thorne are willing to continue as Snow Warden and Snow Plough Operator for the Parish. Clerk has also indicated that the map of grit/salt bins and heaps is not up-to-date – this will be dealt with in due course.

A request to GH for information as to how a hand-operated spreader differs from a shovel has not been answered – Mr. Luck explained that it would be like a lawn treatment spreader, with the advantage that it would deliver the appropriate amount of grit, whereas a shovel might over-deliver. As the cost of a hand spreader was quoted at £95.00, and several would be required if shovelling as a method were to be replaced, this was thought to be prohibitively expensive.

10. BT - Adopt a kiosk – Clerk has put a paragraph in the Newsletter inviting responses from anyone wishing to form a group to adopt the kiosk. There have been no responses to date as Newsletter has not yet been distributed.

11. Correspondence from the Parish – None received.

12. Other correspondence – was put into circulation

13. A.O.B. – there was none.

14. Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 21st Sept

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 9.05 p.m.