

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

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

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

**1. Minutes of the previous Meeting (Wed 9th November 2011) were accepted and signed.**

**2. Matters arising - there were none**

### **3. Finance**

3.1 Payment of accounts - there were none

3.1.2 CPRE subscription - it's £29.00, to renew, though renewal documents are delayed

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

A cheque for £29.00 was written, signed and will be sent.

3.1.3 Sec 137 donation to EVHMC of £108 in respect of website costs (50% of hosting fee plus the 'dot com' domain name renewal)

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

A cheque for £108.00 was written, signed and will be hand delivered.

3.1.4 Consider Sec 137 grant of £200.00 to PCC for churchyard maintenance -

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

A cheque for £200.00 was written, signed and will be hand delivered.

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

was received with thanks

3.3 Precept and budget including agreement on level of general reserves

(see also item 8 which was considered prior to this discussion)

Mr. Cooch had previously circulated a budget forecast for all to consider; there was lengthy discussion on the likely costs which might be incurred by the Council

(e.g. more salt+grit bins, S 137 donation towards PCSO's car) and a consideration of the level of reserves which might be needed.

To set the 2012-13 Precept at £3000.00: Proposed: Mr. Cooch; seconded: Mr.Collins; carried nem. con.

### **4. Planning Applications**

4.1 Proposed extensions, Westwood House

Following a Councillor query, an e-mail had been received this afternoon from CDC Planning confirming that the development is within the curtilage - however, this e-mail referred to the north boundary, whereas the query referred to the east boundary.

It is believed that the garden has been created on part of an agricultural field without the benefit of a Change of Use agreement.

Councillors considered the proposed extensions at some length, there was regret that a new-build house which had originated as a cottage-style building in the local vernacular was now the subject of further proposed extensions.

It was noted that existing trees, which are shown on the 'existing' block plan, do not appear on the proposed block plan.

Resolved: Clerk to inform CDC that Councillors wish to lodge an objection to the proposals, pending further clarification on the east boundary, and wishing to have it confirmed that trees will not be felled.

#### 4.2 Revised details for proposed new build at Cockleford Trout Farm

These relate to the previously-missing bio-diversity report, and had no bearing on Councillors' previous decision not to object to these proposals.

### 5. Community Resilience

Mr. Luck explained his thinking in respect of all the possible emergency situations, and the steps which might be taken to deal with them.

In summary, almost all situations would require input from at least one of the emergency services, the probable exception being motorists stranded in deep snow.

In this event, the most likely scenarios were that, as at present, either a snow plough or tractor driver might be out looking for motorists requiring help, or that the motorist would use his mobile phone, and would be given a local phone number to contact for such help. Councillors concluded that, in the situation of being a small parish high in the Cotswolds, any formalised plan with committee, etc., would be superfluous.

Mr. Hobbs thanked Mr. Luck for all his work on this.

No further action.

### 6. Speedwatch

Details have been sent out by PCSO to those who have volunteered to take part, believed to number three – training to start soon

### 7. Neighbourhood Watch

7.1 Mrs Davies, NW co-ordinator, had sent an e-mail asking how EPC wanted to be involved with NW.

A propos of this, it has been established that PCs are not members of NW, individuals/households are. Clerk to thank Mrs. Davies, and inform her that, as previously, EPC does not expect to be involved in NW.

7.2 Mrs Davies had also e-mailed a paragraph originally used in Winstone's newsletter, asking car owners not to park in a way which would block emergency vehicles/snow ploughs etc.; and asked that this be inserted in the newsletter as though from EPC.

Councillors did not believe Elkstone had comparable difficulties, and considered this would not be appropriate.

### 8. PCSO vehicle

It is understood that, until last year, PCSOs had been using a car donated by Pebley Beach, with running costs funded by police. Latterly, PCSOs have been without a vehicle other than an electric bicycle, and have been resorting to strategies such as arriving two hours before their shift is due to start, in order to secure a pool car – not always with success.

Although information had been received that 11 of 16 parishes had agreed to contribute to a new scheme for funding a car for PCSO use, two meetings, to discuss details of such a scheme and scheduled for last November/December, were cancelled due to low proportion (representatives of only three parishes) of possible attendees.

Mr. Cairns of Rendcomb has recently sent some further details, and a request to commit to £200.00 per year for 3 years – but no further details of the finer points of the scheme are available as yet.

Councillors considered this at length – what would happen at the end of three years? Will parishes be expected to continue to contribute ad infinitum? Should parishes be paying additionally towards a service which ought to be funded via council tax?

Will we still have PCSOs? What about the parishes that haven't opted to contribute? This would be understandable in the case of Parish Meetings with no precept, but there was uncertainty that this would apply to all five which haven't indicated any willingness to contribute. Would parishioners want to be sure of a PCSO presence continuing?

To reply to Mr Cairns indicating EPC's willingness to contribute providing this scheme goes ahead:

Proposed: Mr. Collins; seconded: Mr. Muschamp; carried by 4 votes with one abstention.

**9. Correspondence from the Parish** – there was none

**10. Other correspondence** – was put into circulation

**11. Meetings**

Next Neighbourhood Co-Ordination Group (PCSOs) Meeting Tuesday 21st February 2011  
Rendcomb College Reading Room: Mr. Muschamp will attend on behalf of EPC.

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

12.1 – noted that there are a number of potholes requiring attention – Mr Muschamp explained that he had attempted to report some on Cockleford Lane, but had experienced difficulty with GH's new system, which requires the location to be marked on an online map – which doesn't show Cockleford Lane. Clerk to provide the road number for a written report.

12.2 – the collapsed drystone wall at Hillview Green was queried. Clerk said that just before Christmas, she had received a phonecall from a member of CDC staff about this, following its report by a local resident. Clerk informed her that the wall is Fosseyway Living property, and she said she would pass the report on.

In view of no action to date – other than further collapse – Clerk to contact Fosseyway Living direct.

12.3 – noted desirability of coffee and biscuits being available at next meeting.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m