

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council
8.00 p.m., Wednesday 15th January 2014, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting (27th November 2013) were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising - there were none.

3. Finance

3.1 The RFO's Year to Date report of income and expenditure was received with thanks.

3.2 Precept request for 2014 - 5:

Councillors had considered the RFO's budget forecast, tabled at the last meeting, which suggested a 5% reduction in precept compared to last year's request.

To approve a precept request for £2850.00 for 2014 - 5:

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

3.3 To renew CPRE membership, annual subscription of £29.00 (no increase since last year) due 5th January

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

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

3.4 To make a S. 137 donation of £75.00 to the Village Hall Management Committee, in fulfillment of the agreed 50% towards the Elkstone website hosting:

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

A cheque for £75.00 was written, signed, and will be hand-delivered.

3.5 To make a S.137 donation of £220.00 (a £10.00 increase over last year) to EPPC for churchyard maintenance:

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

A cheque for £220.00 was written, signed, and will be hand-delivered.

4. Planning

4.1 Swallows - proposed side extension and undercroft - noted CDC have granted permission.

5. Standing Orders

Councillors had considered EPC's current Standing Orders against those newly devised by NALC. It was noted that the new model Standing Orders appear to cover much (but not all) the same ground as the current EPC standing orders, introduce some new points, but have some items which are redundant for a small PC.

Mr. Cooch opined that the new model is clearer to use and understand.

Proposed: Mr. Cooch and Mrs. Eyre to meet and produce new Standing Orders based closely on the new model, to be circulated in time for consideration at the March EPC Meeting:

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

6. Survey of EPC physical assets

Mr. Cooch & Mr. Collins reported on their recent survey, backed with a plan of the Pound area. The following is noted:

As far as Mr. Cooch and Mr. Collins could ascertain, no tree or shrub on the Pound showed evidence of fungus or splitting.

The willow tree on the Lower Pound overhangs a Mill House outbuilding; it is believed the gardener periodically trims this back a little, but it is anticipated that more major work may become advisable at some point in the future.

The easternmost of the four trees on the Upper Pound may also require trimming at some point in the future, but this is not considered at all urgent.

The commemorative bench on the Lower Pound would benefit from being rubbed down and oiled. Mr. Collins kindly offered to do this later in the Spring.

The old bus shelter appears in good condition, except for a downpipe which needs to be replaced. Mr. Hobbs undertook to deal with this.

The new bus shelter is in good condition, it is noted that Mr. Collins kindly cleaned this thoroughly before last year's Gardens Open Day.

The two litter bins are in good condition, and it is noted that they are regularly emptied by the CDC waste collection contractors.

The salt+grit bin next to the post box in the centre of the village has broken hinges, from time to time the lid falls off or is blown off, and could therefore represent a hazard. As this is one of the bins which was installed by the County Council Highways Department, at least 25 years ago, Clerk to contact Gloucestershire Highways to ask for its repair to be considered. Mr. Luck suggested S.58 of the Highways Act 1980 (in the event of a claim arising from damage/injury, the authority would need to prove that such care as in all the circumstances was reasonably required to secure that that part of the highway was not dangerous) could be relevant here.

Mr. Muschamp reported that the three bins along Cockleford Lane are in sound condition.

Mr. Cooch has kindly cleared the ash sapling and ivy from the merestone opposite the timber yard gate on Highgate Lane.

Councillors thanked Mr. Cooch and Mr. Collins for all their work.

7. Meetings

PCSOs' NCG meeting Thursday 30th January, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Rendcomb College

Mr. Muschamp will attend on behalf of EPC.

8. AOB

8.1 Electoral register – Clerk to send in signed requests for copies.

8.2 Today's press release from CDC re the Missing Link and the 'Brown Route' proposal, now known as 'the A417 loop', was noted; this includes the option of signing an on-line petition.

The information has been circulated to Dr. Eyre for the Newsletter, to Mrs. Davey for the

Neighbourhood Watch network, and to Mr. Davies for posting on the Elkstone website.

9. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 19th March

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.31 p.m.