

Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 25th September 2013, in Elkstone Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Mssrs. Hobbs (Chair) Cooch & Luck; Mrs Eyre (Clerk)

Apologies – Mssrs. Collins & Muschamp

1. Minutes of the last Meeting (11th July 2012) were accepted and signed.

2. Matters arising – there were none.

3. Finance

3.1 External Auditors' report has been received, it was clear, with no comments.

3.2 Payment of Accounts:

3.2.1 Bill for hire of Hall, April – Sept 13 - £40.00 – a cheque was written, signed and will be hand-delivered.

3.2.2.i Clerk's salary: £619.00 gross, less £123.80 income tax = £495.20 nett. Two cheques were written and signed, one handed to Clerk and one will be sent to HMRC.

3.2.2.ii Clerk's expenses: postage £2.00 + 20% of BT standing charge £39.12 = £41.12.
A cheque was written, signed and handed to Clerk.

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

4. Planning

4.1 Proposed garage, Highgate Cottages – other than the regret of a further development at what were once a pair of small cottages, Councillors had no objection, and it is noted that CDC have granted permission.

4.2 Proposed tree work, Langdale – Councillors had no objection.

4.3 Proposed new garage at the Bungalow, Butler's Farm - Councillors had no objection.

4.4 Proposed timber-framed car port, The Yew Trees - Councillors had no objection.

4.5 Proposed new build, Guide Camp, Bubbs Hill – it is noted that CDC have granted permission.

4.6 Proposed replacement of render, The Old Rectory - Councillors had no objection, and it is noted that CDC have granted permission.

5. Winter preparations

To consider ordering new salt+grit bins – Clerk has been approached by a parishioner regarding the absence of provision in the Butler's Farm area. In that the occupants of the four houses in this area have all expressed their agreement with the proposal to redraw the parish boundary such that they would move into Colesbourne Parish, Councillors were not minded to purchase a salt+ grit bin for this lane, which in any case was considered less undulating than other for which provision has been made. Clerk to so inform parishioner.

6.Highways

6.1 White lining on the 3/190 – an E-mail has been received from the Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator, querying the possibility of white lines along the sides of 3/190 to

give pedestrian/cyclist/horserider lanes. Mr. Cooch thought this a good idea, but Mr. Luck was concerned that the only possible provision would be cycle lanes, not multi-user lanes, and that implementing such white lines would have to be justified in the interests of demonstrated extensive use by cyclists. Clerk to ask Gloucestershire Highways.

6.2 UCR 50945 - reportedly illegally ploughed out across the middle field. Clerk to refer to Gloucestershire Highways.

Inter alia, Clerk mentioned that public footpath BEL 18 and public bridleway BEL 2 had both been ploughed out after harvesting. As the former is wholly headland and the latter 50 % headland, this was taken up with the Estate Manager, who replied that they'd not been ploughed out, merely mini tilled. Clerk had then pointed out that any headland PRow is supposed to be a permanent feature, and it is illegal to interfere with its surface in any way (except to cut back overgrowth). Happily, both these routes were reinstated promptly.

7. Community Speedwatch - the early September week of CSW had to be abandoned as all the equipment was called in to have calibrations checked.

An open meeting in the Village Hall is scheduled for Thursday 3rd October, at which it is hoped that Garry Handley OBE, from the County's Road Safety Partnership, will be present to explain some alternative ideas.

8. District Electoral Review - information re the consultation on the proposed reduction of the number of wards to 35 is published in Elkstone Newsletter for October

9. GCC Big Community Switch - information re this scheme to possibly save money on energy bills is published in Elkstone Newsletter for October

10. Correspondence from the Parish - there was none.

11. Other correspondence - was put into circulation

12. Meetings - there have been none since the last Parish Council Meeting

13. County Councillor Robbins - was able to join the meeting from 8.35 pm. He asked about the state of our roads, indicating that he had received complaints about the potholes along Uncombe Lane (40863)

He was interested to hear that Elkstone's Community Speedwatch group has already been functioning for a year.

He indicated that the £10K discretionary grant scheme will run for another year; he would be pleased to receive bids from Elkstone PC for a share of this, thinking particularly about small projects (rather than road repairs) and he wondered whether the purchase of equipment such as a "Smiley Sid" would be a good project for Elkstone. He undertook to look into the cost of this.

14. A.O.B. - there was none.

15. Date of next Meeting - is scheduled for the 20th November, but Mr. Cooch would be unable to attend. Clerk to check the possibility of moving the Hall booking to the 27th November.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.57 pm.