

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 24th September 2014, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

Apologies: Mr. Muschamp, who is away on holiday; and Mr. Luck, as Mrs. Luck had just been taken seriously ill and hospitalised.

1. Minutes of the last Meeting (16th July 2014)

2. Matters arising

Re item 2.1 of 16.07.14 (was also item 7.1 of 12.03.14) the address of the absentee owners has been found, but the hedge was effectively cut back before a referral to Glos. Highways could be made.

Re item 2.2 (also 2.1) of 16.07.14 - this second-mentioned overgrown hedge, and the broken out edge of tarmac have been re-reported. It transpires that Mr. Jackson has now left Glos. Highways for a job with Swindon, and following a re-shuffle, Elkstone's contact person is now Mr. Mulla. He has recently phoned Clerk about these two matters (and the offending stones obstructing a verge were also mentioned to him) He has already visited to check, and reported back; the crumbling edges have been marked for repairs, the Groundsman has promised to have the hedge cut back within a month, and a letter about the offending stones obstructing the verge will be sent to the householders.

Re item 7.2 of 16.07.14 - the new electoral system - CDC sent out notices to all households, so a piece was not inserted in the Elkstone Newsletter.

3. Finance

3.1 External Auditors' report was again clear. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Cooch.

3.2 Payment of Accounts:

3.2.1 Bill for hire of Hall, April - Sept 2014 - £40.00

A cheque was written, signed and will be hand-delivered

3.2.2.i Clerk's salary for 6 months ending September 2014 - £631.00, less PAYE of £126.20 =

£504.80. Two cheques were written and signed, the first handed over, the second will be sent to HMRC.

3.2.2.ii Clerk's expenses - postage £1.06 plus 20% of BT standing charge = £38.04,

total £39.10. A cheque 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

4. Planning

4.1 Retrospective application for replacement door, Juniper House - Councillors had no objection, though were sorry to note there may be issues of building regs. and neighbours' access here.

4.2 Proposed dormer windows, 1 Hillview - Councillors were of the opinion that any new dormer windows should match, in shape and dimensions, those on the adjoining property.

CDC has been so informed.

4.3 Proposed replacement dwelling, The Bungalow, Butler's Farm - noted CDC have granted permission.

4.4 Proposed conversions, etc, Highgate Farm - noted CDC have granted permission

4.5 Proposed side extension compliance, Manor Farm Cottage - noted CDC have granted permission

4.6 proposed tree work, Langdale - noted CDC have granted permission for this work, EPC was not a consultee.

4.7 proposed tree work, Abbels House - noted CDC have granted permission for this work, EPC was not a consultee.

5. Winter preparations

5.1 Mr. Gibbs will continue as Snow Warden with the Mssrs. Thorn as snow plough operators.

5.2 Salt & grit – the maximum additional allowance, of 40 bags, has been ordered.

6. Standing Orders

A re-draft has now been completed and circulated to Councillors

To adopt the new Elkstone Standing Orders dated September 2014:

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

7. Financial Regulations

Mr. Cooch told the meeting he thought the main thrust of revised regulations was to do with online banking, which EPC would not be pursuing; however, he was not ready to lead on this matter, and asked for it to be held over to the January meeting.

8. Local Audit & Accountability Act, 2014

This new law will cause the closure of the Audit Commission, and may lead to the need for every council to appoint its own external auditor. Mr. Cooch thought Grant Thornton might continue as external auditors, though EPC would need to return to paying a fee; Clerk recalled a GAPTC suggestion that a new body (or bodies) may be formed to deal with this. GAPTC has promised to keep all its members informed of any further news, and advise against taking action on this yet.

9. Public Rights of Way

There have been a number of complaints about PRoWs in the parish:

9.1 Public footpath BEL 17 – a group of ramblers complained to a nearby householder (not the landowner) about the totally overgrown state of the field and path, and very large patch of nettles by the gate. Mr. Hobbs told the meeting that the landowners have recently asked him to mow the field, and he will cut the nettles too.

9.2 Public footpath BEL 21 – a group of walkers complained to the Clerk about the overhanging branches and side growth along both sides of this path.

Clerk to send a letter to the adjacent landowners reminding them of their responsibilities.

9.3 Public bridleway BEL 2 – a parishioner complained to the Clerk that the north end of this bridleway was completely obstructed by a large heap of planings from the resurfacing work on the 40864. An e-mail was immediately sent to Glos Highways and Estate Manager; the heap was rolled out and top dressed before the GH contractors left.

9.4 Restricted byway BEL 12 – had been obstructed by a fallen tree, but this has recently been cleared.

9.5 Unsealed road 50859 has been obstructed by a large limb, and attached branches, fallen from an adjacent tree. The tree is growing on the other side of the boundary fence, so is therefore the responsibility of the Colesbourne estate and its tenant; however, Mr Hobbs kindly undertook to deal with the obstruction as quickly as possible as it has fallen onto his land. This offer was gratefully accepted.

10. Correspondence from the Parish – there was none.

11. Other correspondence – has been put into circulation.

12. Meetings – the next PCSOs' quarterly Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7th October, at North Cerney Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm.

Clerk to check if Mr. Muschamp can cover this, if not, Mr. Collins will attend.

13. A.O.B. Mr. Collins told the meeting that the bus shelter on the 3/190 has become obstructed with overgrowth from the surrounding planting, which he kindly offered to clear. This offer was gratefully accepted.

14. Date of next Meeting - 19th November

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.58 pm.