

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

8.00 p.m., Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, in Elkstone Village Hall

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

**Apologies:** Mr. Luck, who is unwell; County Councillor Robbins and District Councillor Parsons also sent apologies, due to clashes of engagements.

**1. Minutes of the last Meeting** (15<sup>th</sup> July 2015) were accepted and signed.

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

### **3. Finance**

3.1 The External Auditors' report was clear.

3.2 Payment of Accounts:

3.2.1 Bill for hire of Hall, for April to September 2015, four hirings at £10.00 each – a cheque for £40.00 was written, signed, and will be hand-delivered.

3.2.2.i Clerk's salary for March to September 2015 - £650.00 gross less £130.00 PAYE - £520.00 nett. A cheque for £520.00 was written, signed and handed over.

A cheque for £130.00 was written, signed and will be sent to HMRC.

3.2.2.ii Clerk's expenses for March to September 2015 – Stationery £12.93 for paper and printer ink, postage £1.59, 20% of BT standing charge £20.39.

A cheque for £34.91 was written, signed and handed over.

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

3.4 The R.F.O.'s reportedly somewhat elderly computer was judged likely to be incompatible with new PAYE software about to be introduced. Mr. Cooch told the meeting that he had bought a new laptop, with appropriate up-to-date browser and software. He considered asking the Parish Council for a contribution towards this, but decided not to.

### **4. Planning**

4.1 Proposed conversion of Dairy Unit to eight residential units - noted CDC have granted permission.

4.2 Proposed extensions and new-build garage, Etheridges – Councillors had no objections.

4.3 Retrospective application for a large pond at The Cottage, Cockleford - Councillors had no objections, though Mr. Muschamp told the meeting of a large number of lorry passes along the single track Cockleford Lane.

### **5. Winter preparations**

5.1 Snow warden - Clerk has replied to GH indicating Combend Estate will continue.

5.2 Salt & grit – Clerk has ordered maximum allowable extra bags.

**6. Highways** – there has been no further response or reply from AHR since her 20<sup>th</sup> May visit, although Clerk has e-mailed 3 times, and invited her to tonight's meeting.

Councillors were very disappointed by this.

Clerk to e-mail again, expressing this disappointment, with copies to Richard Gray, Local Highways Manager, Cotswold South; and our County and District Councillors

### **7. Maintenance of the Pound**

Two complaints regarding its unkempt appearance have been received; the former parishioner who was maintaining it as a wildflower area has moved away.

This issue was discussed at length; should the Parish Council continue to maintain it as a wildflower area, or revert to regular mowing?

No-one was in favour of reverting to regular mowing, which is still seen as a costly option; whereas a wildflower area is seen as ecologically sound and hopefully cost-effective. To seek a local parishioner to undertake a one-off cutting back now, with further consideration of the issue – possibly seeking quotes from contractors willing to do a cutting back on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> July, and a second cutting back later in the summer – in time for the January meeting

Proposed: Mr. Hobbs; seconded Mr Cooch; carried nem con.  
Mr Hobbs will approach local parishioners.

#### **8. Correspondence from the Parish**

A telephone call was received from parishioner who was concerned about the hazard of certain rotten trees adjacent to a PRow shedding limbs – the landowner was alerted, and has had a tree surgeon inspect and deal with the trees.

**9. Other correspondence** was put into circulation.

#### **10. Meetings**

**10.1 PCSOs' Neighbourhood Liaison – 29<sup>th</sup> October, Winstone Village Hall –**  
Mr Collins will attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

**10.2 CDC Town & Parish Liaison – 9<sup>th</sup> November, CDC Council Chamber, Trinity Road –**  
Mr Cooch will attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

**11. A.O.B.** – there was none.

**12. Public Session** – no points were raised.

**13. Date of next Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> November**

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.59 pm.**