

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council**

8.00 pm, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, in Elkstone Village Hall

**Present:** Mssrs. Collins, Cooch, Hobbs, Muschamp; Mrs. Eyre (Clerk)  
District Councillor Parsons

**Apologies:** Mr. Luck, who has to be away from home this evening, in order to be in place to present expert evidence in the County Court, Manchester, tomorrow morning; and Councillor Robbins, who is also away.

### **1. Election of Officers**

1.1 Chairman – Mr. Hobbs; proposed Mr. Collins, seconded Mr. Cooch, carried nem con.  
Mr. Hobbs took the Chair.

1.2 Vice Chair – Mr. Collins; proposed Mr. Muschamp, seconded Mr. Cooch, carried nem con.

1.3 Mr. Cooch continues as Responsible Financial Officer, for which the Council is grateful.

**2. Co-option** to fill vacant seat: Mr. Cooch was nominated, and was willing to be co-opted. To co-opt Mr. Cooch, proposed Mr. Collins, seconded Mr. Muschamp, carried nem con. This item was taken ahead of item 1.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting** (15<sup>th</sup> April 2015) were accepted and signed.

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

### **5. Finance**

5.1 Payment of accounts –there were none

5.2 R.F.O.'s Report on Year to Date Income & Expenditure was accepted with thanks.

5.3 The Internal Auditor's report was clear, other than highlighting that unusually, three donations to the Village Hall Management Committee (towards the costs of the newsletter and the website) had not been receipted.

Inter alia, Mr. Cooch mentioned that a newsletter just received from External Auditors Grant Thornton had indicated that in future, the Governance section of the Annual Return is to be completed after the Internal Audit.

**6. Insurance renewal** – the renewal documents had finally been received.

Mr. Cooch told the Meeting he thought that AON had made a mistake, and neglected to start the agreed three year contract last year. It is, however, started now, so this year may prove to be the first year of the three, which would be to the Council's benefit.

A cheque for £208.58, the insurance renewal cost, was written, signed and will be sent.

### **7. Planning**

7.1 Proposed alterations to Dairy Unit, Beech Pike, to provide 8 residential units:

This item was discussed at length.

Mr. Hobbs took comments from the floor.

That EPC has no objection to the proposed development, but notes that:

i. the very much above average sized proposed residential units are not in line with the local housing need identified by the GRCC survey (item 4 of 15.09.10 refers) which was for affordable housing for single people.

ii. the proposed residential units, if permitted, would cause an increase in traffic emerging onto or leaving the 3/190 at a point where the national speed limit applies; and as the last survey of traffic speed and volume along the 3/190 dates from 2009 (although such surveys were originally promised as a biennial event) a further survey of traffic speed and volume is requested, in order to contribute to and better inform the safety assessment of the proposals.

iii. the development, if permitted as described, will create light pollution, as permanent rather than PIR-triggered night-time lighting of the approach lanes and parking areas, and clear roofing panels, which would allow light to escape from the residential units, are both included in the specifications.

Proposed: Mr. Cooch, seconded Mr. Muschamp, carried nem con.  
Clerk to so inform Cotswold District Council Planning Services.

#### **8. EPC page on the village website**

The Webmaster has revised the EPC page to comply with the Transparency Code, and whilst documents for the April Meeting were a little late being posted, the page is now up-to-date. The Webmaster has indicated that the website is fairly tightly secured, so as to avoid a repeat of the previous website being hacked into, and he has given this as the reason for retaining posting control.

GAPTC has advised that EPC should have control of its own page and postings.  
This situation and arrangement to be monitored.

#### **9. Proposed visit of new AHR**

Gill Porlock offered to come and meet parish representatives, was invited to tonight's meeting but couldn't make it, and has suggested a later visit. She thought EPC might like to compile a list of issues ready for her visit, in addition to the crumbling surfaces of the 40863 & 40864, and the re-erection of the signpost at Westerleigh crossroads, already raised with GH (several times). There was some discussion, and further issues to be raised with her are:

- i. Communication problems, as it isn't possible to track progress on reported problems.
  - ii. The inadequacy of re-patching filled potholes.
  - iii. The desirability of a sensible plan for Bubb's Hill, where passing traffic on this narrow road constantly erodes the edges beyond the tarmac, leaving sharp-edged gulleys, and any subsequent infilling causes this erosion to encroach further into the banks on which trees grow.
  - iv. The use of potentially injurious metal spikes, with red-and-white hazard tape, to protect mown grass verges outside certain houses.
  - v. the need for a further survey of traffic speed and volume along the 3/190.
- Clerk to set up a meeting and circulate date and time to Councillors

#### **10. Correspondence from the Parish** – there was none

**11. Other correspondence** – all other correspondence had been by e-mail, and had been forwarded to Councillors.

**12. Meetings** - PCSOs meeting – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, National Star Centre College:  
Mr. Muschamp will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **13. A.O.B.**

Councillor Robbins e-mailed news that the next Fastershire contract is about to be awarded.

**14. Public Session** – there were no contributions.

**15. Dates of next Meetings** - proposed dates are:

In 2015: 15<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

In 2016: 13<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May

Clerk to check Hall availability.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.29 pm.