

Minutes of a Meeting of Elkstone Parish Council

8.00pm, Wednesday 20th May 2020, by remote attendance via Zoom

Present: Mr Hobbs (Chair), Mr Collins, Mr Kearney and Ms Toase; Mrs Thorn (Clerk),
District Councillor Judd

1. **Minutes of the last Meeting** (22nd April 2020) were accepted and will be signed at a later date.
2. **Public Session** – no items were raised from the floor.
3. **Matters arising** – there were none.
4. **Finance**
 - 4.1 **Payment of accounts**
 - 4.1.1 Clerk's salary – April 2020 = £300.84 – to approve salary payment for April retrospectively. The cheque for April has already been written, signed and handed over.
 - 4.2 RFO's Report on Year to Date Income and Expenditure against Budget was received with thanks.
5. **Insurance Renewal**

The renewal documents have been received from BHIB which is year 3 of a 3 year long term agreement tied into the current insurance.
A cheque for £201.73, was written, will be signed and sent.
6. **Correspondence from the Parish** – there was none.
7. **Other Correspondence** – to be circulated.
8. **Items for Information**
 - 8.1 The defibrillator electrodes (pads) will be expiring soon. Clerk has ordered replacement pads and has received these, replacement pads are part of the defibrillator package.
 - 8.2 The submission deadline for the receipt of the AGAR (Annual Return) to the external auditor has been extended to 31st July 2020 which will allow for the internal audit to be carried out.
 - 8.3 Willow Tree on the Pound – The willow tree is leaning due to it being heavily weighted, works will be required to reduce it in size. Mr Collins to contact a specialist for advice.
 - 8.4 Highways have included in their two year programme the patching and resurfacing works to the road from Bubb's Hill to the Green Dragon.
 - 8.5 Highways have advised of the temporary road closure between 8th June and 26th June to carry out repairs to the Cockleford Bridge.

- 8.6 Mowing of roadside verges was discussed as roadside verges are important for biodiversity and wildlife and feel that an effective way forward, would be to favour the minimal legal requirement for visibility at junctions and for verges not to be mowed beyond the required safety cut by Highways around junctions with regard to conservation, to encourage wildflowers and provide habitat for wildlife, it may also reduce the speed of traffic through the village. Ms Toase to mark on a plan of the village where the mowing of roadside verges are to be left. Clerk to contact County Councillor Robbins.
- 8.7 The Welcome to Elkstone booklet is being updating. Mr Kearney has updated the Parish Council section, which was agreed.
- 8.8 Ms Judd informed the meeting that CDC have resumed the green bin garden waste collections and all collections are now continuing as normal. Recycling centres have now opened but must be pre booked in advance. CDC may have funds available and might be able to help get residents connected to broadband, if problems or any issues are being encountered or the broadband is not reliable, there may be help available. Mr Kearney to put a note in the Elkstone Newsletter.
9. **Date of next Meeting** – Wednesday 22nd July 2020, 8.00pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.34pm.