

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall**  
**19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Present**

Councillor K Preece (Chairman) and Councillors Lewis, Stephens, Garside and Powell (Vice Chairman).

**In Attendance**

D Roscoe (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

**1144 Apologies for absence.**

1144.1 No apologies.

**1145 Declarations of Interest**

1145.1 None declared.

**1146 Requests for Dispensation**

1146.1 None requested.

**1147 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

1147.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**1148 Clerks Report**

1148.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and accepted.

**1149 County Councillor's Report**

1149.1 No report.

**1150 Borough Councillors Report**

1150.1 Councillor McLain distributed her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

**1151 Finance**

1151.1 The Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation was distributed and approved by Council. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Garside. Unanimous.

1151.2 **It was resolved that** the following payments and receipts be approved. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Garside. Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
04/11/2022	ICO	OB055	35.00	0.00	Information Commissioner
19/12/2022	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salry
24/11/2022	C Lewis	OB056	150.00	0.00	Mowing
19/01/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
20/01/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB057	118.45	0.00	Clerks Expenses

1151.3 The Clerk's Expenses were approved. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Stephens.

1151.4 The budget for 2022/23 was reviewed and approved.

**1152 To discuss the footpath from Elmstone Hardwicke Business Park to the A4019**

1152.1 This issue remains outstanding with Councillor McLain

- 1152.2 **Action:** The Clerk will contact TBC Planning and County Highways to request a site meeting and determine why this application was signed off when conditions were not met.

**1153 Planning**

1153.1 The following planning applications were reviewed:

Appl Number	Application	Details	Result
22/01107/OUT	Land West Of Cheltenham Gloucestershire	Outline planning application for residential development comprising a mixture of market and affordable housing	Response will be submitted 25/1/23
22/01149/FUL	Walton Hill Farm Tewkesbury Road Deerhurst Gloucester	Removal of existing oak porch and addition of bespoke timber and double-glazed garden room	No objections
22/01150/LBC	Walton Hill Farm Tewkesbury Road Deerhurst Gloucester	Removal of existing oak porch and addition of bespoke timber and double-glazed garden room	No objections
23/00016/LIQPRM	Unit 1 Elmstone Business Park	New Premises License	No objections
22/01102/FUL	Longacre Elmstone Hardwicke Tewkesbury Gloucestershire	Removal of condition C of planning application T.780/B to remove the agricultural workers occupancy condition	No objections

**1154 Risk Register**

1154.1 No issues raised.

**1155 To report any new Highways Issues.**

1155.1 No new issues reported other than those discussed in the Clerk's Report.

**1156 To update regarding the Pumping Station.**

1156.1 Councillor Garside gave her updated report and confirmed that Severn Trent would be willing to have one of their team discuss the issues with local residents at a public meeting. Councillor Garside will continue to pursue.

**1157 To discuss Community Approaches to Road Safety**

1157.1 Councillor Garside confirmed that she was still awaiting a response from the Road Safety Partnership and Community Speed Watch Safety Fund.

**1158 To discuss the M5 J10 Road Improvement Statutory Consultation.**

1158.1 Nothing further to report.

**1159 To review the Elms Park Planning Application**

1159.1 Nothing further to report.

**1160 To discuss the purchase of a dog bin.**

1160.1 **It was resolved that** the Parish Council would approve the purchase of 2 dog bins at a total cost of £500 ex VAT. Proposed Councillor Garside, seconded Councillor Preece. Unanimous.

1160.2 It was noted that Elmstone Hardwicke Charity Trust were happy to sponsor the bins.

1160.3 **Action:** Councillor Garside and Councillor Powell would send exact locations for the bins to the Clerk using What3words.

**1161 To review the number of Parish Council Meetings held throughout the year.**

1161.1 **It was resolved that** the number of Parish Council Meetings would be reduced to 4 per annum taking place in March, May (Annual Meeting), September and November (Budget Meeting) commencing at 7:30pm. Proposed Councillor Garside, seconded Councillor Stephens. Unanimous.

**The meeting was suspended for Public Question Time.**

**1162 Items for Future Agenda.**

- 1162.1 To continue to discuss Cursey Lane.
- 1162.2 To continue to discuss Elmstone Business Park footpath to A4019..
- 1162.3 To continue to discuss the pumping station update.

**The meeting ended at 8.05pm**

**The next meeting will be on Thursday 16/3/23 commencing at 7.30pm.**

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**Report from Borough Councillor Heather McLain**

The introduction of the solar canopy at the TBC car park. This now provides green energy for all the council's buildings, including the leisure centre.

TBC has brought in a new housing and homelessness strategy which includes returning empty properties into use. The number of empty properties across the borough is as follows: 7 empty after 10 years, 20 over 5, 43 between 2-5 years.

Council tax discounts will apply as follows:

25% for unoccupied for 6 months

25% for those requiring major structural work for 12 months

Empty homes premium of an additional 100% for properties empty for between 2-5 years, 200% for between 5-10 years, 300% for at least ten years.

The TBC Budget has a projected Surplus of 200k overall for the current year. On the revenue side pay rises have been agreed with 2 of 3 unions, roughly 500k is needed, (TBC had budgeted 200k). However investment and related income is above anticipated levels and covers both the shortfall and allows a surplus as above.

Recruitment and retention - particularly within planning - remains a concern. Good comfort that this appears to be a national issue.

The MTFS including proposed council tax levels, treasury and capital management has just been agreed by the TBC executive and will be coming to full council presently for consideration, amendment and approval.

Electric vehicle strategy work is asking place with GCC. TBC are seeking to access a variety of funding pots to install more points in car parks and other publicly accessible sites.

Home for Ukraine Scheme - at last count just before Christmas there were 115 homes across the borough.

The HFU team began revisiting guests and sponsors in early September 2022. The purpose of these visits is to check on the welfare of guests and their sponsors, provide an opportunity for guests and sponsors to ask questions and to initiate a discussion about what might happen at the end of the initial

## Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Council

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six-month sponsor relationship. If plans are in place for ending the arrangement after six months, rematching and housing options are then discussed.

As of 15th December 2022, 115 revisits have taken place across the county to a total of 260 guests. Feedback from the revisits that have taken place so far is very positive, with the majority of sponsors wishing to continue sponsoring their guests. Sponsors and guests have also welcomed the opportunity to ask questions and talk through any challenges that they are experiencing. Many guests are keen to move into private rented accommodation in future, and the HFU team are currently working with partners to consider options to help support these transitions in the future.

### Rematching

- Work is ongoing to rematch guests with new sponsors where necessary. As of 15th December 2022, a total of 86 households across the county have been rematched to new sponsors, corresponding to 168 guests.

TBC's Warm Spaces fund was launched in November. Since then, we have had 20 applications to the fund. This funding is for two purposes, to allow venues to open as a Warm Space and to enable the provision of food and/or activity at Warm Space venues. We have also included libraries and other venues across the Borough on our Warm Spaces directory. We currently have 21 venues advertised on our website as a Warm Space and numbers continue to grow. For a list of current venues Warm Spaces directory — Tewkesbury Borough Council and to access the fund Warm Spaces community fund — Tewkesbury Borough Council. If you know of any venues that might be interested in applying, please direct them to the above link or ask them to contact [communityfunding@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:communityfunding@tewkesbury.gov.uk)

TBC launched a Community Food Project Fund just before Christmas. The purpose of the fund is to increase community food provision within the Borough, particularly to groups in need. Up to £5,000 is available for non-profit organisations and this fund can be used to support both existing and new projects. Applicants are invited to submit an expression of interest via the Council's website before Friday 3 February 2023. For more information Community Food Project Fund — Tewkesbury Borough Council or contact [communityfunding@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:communityfunding@tewkesbury.gov.uk)

TBC flood emergency team report that they have contacted flood wardens across the borough – all are reporting that things are manageable and no properties affected.

We have a good stock of sandbags available if the situation worsens – we have empty sandbags available for residents from affected properties to collect. Our policy is to provide filled sandbags to vulnerable residents.

An informal emergency response team meeting was held on Monday morning to ensure our response team is up-to-date with the latest situation.

The river levels (also in part due to the Spring tide) remains high, but the flood plains are doing their job and - with the ground water not having reached normal levels due to the summer drought - water is currently draining away.

Kind regards  
Heather

Tewkesbury Borough Councillor  
For Severn Vale Ward