

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall
21st September 2023

Present

Councillor K Preece (Chairman) and Councillors Lewis and Powell.

In Attendance

D Roscoe (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

1208 Apologies for absence.

1208.1 Apologies were received from the Garside and B Stephens.

1209 To complete Register of Interest.

1209.1 Councillor Powell completed the Register of Interest.

1210 Declarations of Interest

1210.1 Councillor Preece declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 "To discuss renewal of the Rental Agreement for the Allotment Field for 2023-2026" and took no further part in that discussion.

1211 Requests for Dispensation

1211.1 None requested.

1212 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th May 2023

1212.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1213 Clerks Report

1213.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and accepted.

1214 County Councillor's Report

1214.1 Councillor P McLain distributed his report (see below).

1215 Borough Councillors Report

1215.1 No report.

1216 Finance

1216.1 The Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation was distributed and approved by Council. Proposed Councillor Powell, seconded Councillor Lewis. Unanimous.

1216.2 **It was resolved that** the following payments and receipts be approved. Proposed Councillor Powell, seconded Councillor Lewis. Unanimous.

Date	Payee	Chq No	Amount incl VAT	VAT	Reason
19/05/2023	D Roscoe (Printer)	OB069	59.50	0.00	Printer
19/05/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
19/06/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
01/06/2023	K Preece	OB070	8.24	0.00	Maintenance
08/06/2023	J Preece & Sons	OB071	432.00	72.00	Mowing
19/07/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
06/07/2023	Uckington & Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall	OB072	12.00	0.00	Hall Hire
06/07/2023	K Preece	OB073	60.00	0.00	Materials
19/08/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary

Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: David Roscoe

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19/09/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
12/09/2023	J Preece & Sons	OB074	432.00	72.00	Mowing
22/09/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB075	190.75	0.00	Clerks Expenses

1216.3 The Clerk's Expenses were approved. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Powell.

1216.4 The budget for 2023/24 was reviewed and approved.

1217 Planning

1217.1 The following planning applications were reviewed:

Appl Number	Application	Details	Result
23/00565/FUL	Heather Cottage Elmstone Hardwicke Tewkesbury Gloucestershire	Revised submission of planning application 22/01089/FUL for the creation of a new vehicle access, with associated hard standing apron and dropped ker	Permit
23/00408/FUL	Phoenix House Elmstone Business Park Tewkesbury Road Elmstone Hardwicke	Application Reference Number: 8 Date of Decision: 13/01/2016 Condition Number(s): 8 Conditions(s) Removal: Please refer to supporting statement for reasons relating to the proposed variation of the planning condition Please refer to supporting statement	It was agreed that the clerk would write to Stuart Jackson, Enforcement TBC, for an urgent update.

1218 Risk Register

1218.1 The issue of noticeboards in disrepair was raised and it was agreed that a single display panel would be erected rather than repair the full noticeboard.

1219 To report any new Highways Issues.

1219.1 **Action:** The clerk will request assistance from County Councillor Paul McLain to progress this long outstanding matter along Cursey Lane.

1220 To discuss renewal of the Rental Agreement for the Allotment Field for 2023-2026.

1220.1. Due to the lack of a quorum, this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

1221 To discuss the state of noticeboards within the Parish.

1221.1 Please see minute note 1218.1 above.

1222 The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

1222.1 The Chairman thanked Sean for his help in undertaking remedial work to the bus shelter at Coombe Hill.

1223 Items for Future Agenda.

1223.1 To discuss renewal of the Rental Agreement for the Allotment Field for 2023-2026.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16/11/23 commencing at 7.30pm.

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Report from Councillor McLain September 2023

Highways.

Fix my street soft launch w/b 18.9.23.

Minor works programme to be published imminently.

Find and fix gangs have fixed 11,451 non safety defects.

Flooding.

Full-time, permanent NFM Project Delivery Officer (PDO) appointed to run the Natural Flood Management Project. It is hoped that they will accelerate the identification and delivery of interventions across the county; adding value to existing projects whilst identifying new potential.

Children in Care.

Following on from my previous report re Trevone House and care placements, GCC are working on building a facility in Stroud to support Children in Care. Due to local opposition this is going slowly, but with the publishing of the report on Trevone House it is hoped that get this moving.

Background

- Our numbers of children in care is 871.
- In the 2022-23 financial year, the GCC fostering service recruited 30 new mainstream fostering households, against a target of 40, representing an additional 45 beds.
- In the next three years we need to recruit 150 new foster carers which will equate to 225 additional beds.
- Recruitment plans need to be as innovative as possible, whilst continuing to utilise tried and tested traditionally effective methods. We have been trying modern ways to recruit new carers including launching a TikTok channel, setting up a podcast, and doing video interviews with current foster carers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnLaSoRWFdM>

Pressure on social care staff.

Most of the Key Measures are moving in the right direction, including number of cases per Social Worker, percentage of Agency Staff and Staff attrition. However, they remain above target in some areas.

Rural School Places

I have asked the scrutiny committee and Cabinet member to carry out a review into pressure on the availability of rural school places and how this can be addressed for future year intakes.

New special school, Sladewood Academy, in Stroud, has opened bang on schedule this week. It uses the building formally occupied by Severn View Primary Academy and has cost £1 million to adapt. It offers 60 much needed places for children aged 4-11 with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD) and helps us tackle the increasing demand in Gloucestershire for special school places.

Cabinet, in July, agreed to spend £16.5 million to set up another new special school, again for children with MALD. It will open in 2026 and accommodate 200 primary and secondary pupils in Abbeydale in Gloucester

Property.

NHS ICB (Integrated Care Board) moved into Shire Hall 29.8.

Fire Service are moving into Quayside w/b 18.9 from Waterwells (police are keen to take the previously occupied space).

New Dementia Strategy.

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Produced in collaboration with the local NHS, the strategy outlines our approach for the medium term. Gloucestershire is considered above average for our performance on Dementia, in particular diagnosing people early, but there is still much to be done specifically in prevention and improving quality of life of those diagnosed. This strategy pulls together all the latest thinking on the topic and should ensure we have a clear set of goals.

You can read the Strategy here: [Dementia Strategy.pdf](#)

Tree Planting.

Following on from my previous report: Tree planting now delivered over 220,000 trees against our target of 1 million by 2030. But the new planting season is about to start and every year is a new challenge.

We always need more land and partners, so please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunity and spread the word that we are keen to help local initiatives such as local parish councils, schools, private estates and businesses.