

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Elmstone Hardwicke Village Hall
16th November 2023

Present

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

In Attendance

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

1224 Apologies for absence.

1224.1 No apologies were received.

1225 Declarations of Interest

1225.1 Councillor Preece declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 "To discuss renewal of the Rental Agreement for the Allotment Field for 2023-2026" and took no further part in that discussion.

1226 Requests for Dispensation

1226.1 None requested.

1227 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2023

1227.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1228 Clerks Report

1228.1 The clerk's report was reviewed and accepted.

1229 County Councillor's Report

1229.1 Councillor P McLain sent his apologies due to illness.

1230 Borough Councillors Report

1230.1 Councillor H McLain sent her apologies.

1231 Finance

1231.1 Preece The Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation was distributed and approved by Council. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Garside. UNANIMOUS.

1231.2 **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
19/10/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
01/10/2023	K Preece	OB076	60.00	0.00	Maintenance
19/11/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary)	DD	250.99	0.00	Clerks Salary
30/10/2023	EH & Uckington Village Hall	OB077	20.00	0.00	Hall Hire
28/10/2023	EH & Uckington Village Hall	OB078	10.00	0.00	Hall Hire
16/11/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Expenses)	OB079	116.84	0.00	Clerks Expenses
30/11/2023	D Roscoe (Clerks Salary) Backpay	DD	138.67	0.00	Clerks Expenses Backpay

1231.3 The Clerk's Expenses were approved. Proposed Councillor Garside, seconded Councillor Stephens. Unanimous

1231.4 The budget for 2023/24 was reviewed and approved.

Elmstone Hardwicke Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: David Roscoe

2 Mews Cottage, St Peter's Lane, Dumbleton, Worcs WR11 7TL

Telephone: 07950118355 E-Mail: clerk@elmstone-hardwicke-parish-council.org.uk

Web Site: www.elmstonehardwicke-parish-council.org.uk

- 1231.5 The budget for 2024/25 was reviewed and approved.
- 1231.6 The Precept for 2024/25 was agreed at £3730. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Powell. Unanimous.
- 1231.7 **It was resolved that** Iain Selkirk be appointed as our internal auditor for the 2023/24 audit at a cost of £120. Proposed Councillor Preece, seconded Councillor Powell. Unanimous.

1232 Planning

1232.1 The following planning applications were reviewed:

Appl Number	Application	Details	Result
23/00819/FUL	Highfield Farm House Tewkesbury Road Deerhurst Gloucester	Change of use for temporary storage of new vehicles. (retrospective)	Comments from the Parish Council "Transporters should not be stacked on the A38 going into the development"

1233 To receive an update regarding Elmstone Business Park.

- 1233.1 **Action:** The clerk will write to Stuart Jackson following considerable disappointment and frustration at the Parish Council Meeting due to lack of progress regarding this enforcement which now covers issues regarding the beer keg storage, the car park in addition to the long outstanding enforcement of the footpath condition.
- 1233.2 Members of the Parish Council expressed a wish to hold a meeting with Stuart Jackson either on site or at the TBC offices as a matter of urgency.

1234 Risk Register

- 1234.1 The replacement of the current noticeboards was still ongoing.

1235 To report any new Highways Issues.

- 1235.1 **Action:** The clerk will report issues with the Rights of Way within the parish to Highways and forward photographs to illustrate the point.
- 1235.2 **Action:** The clerk will report issues with the Rights of Way from the Old Spot to Knightsbridge.

1236 To discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 1236.1. The Parish Council were pleased to have received a Neighbourhood Allocation of £1,166.12 to be used to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding— 1. the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or 2. anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.
- 1236.2 It was suggested that the funds be used to install a Vehicle Activated Sign and match funding is sought from the Speed Commission.

1237 To discuss renewal of the Rental Agreement for the Allotment Field for 2023-2026.

- 1237.1 Councillor Preece in this agenda item, left the room and took no further part in the discussions.
- 1237.2 **It was resolved that** a three-year contract be offered for rental of the Allotment Field at a cost of £1000 per annum. Proposed Councillor Powell, seconded Councillor Stephens. Unanimous.

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1238 To discuss communications within the Parish.

1238.1 Councillors Garside and Powell raise the issue of lack of communication by the Parish Council with parishioners and recommended that we should consider implementing a Parish Council Facebook Page. This would be on an information only basis with no comments allowed.

1238.2 The clerk raised the point that the Parish Council Website contained all the information that would otherwise be put on the Facebook page and the Parish Council would maintain control of the information displayed as it was the official communication medium.

1239.3 The clerk recommended that a link be put on the village Facebook Page to the website including a link to the Email Alert System inviting parishioners to join and be informed by email alerts of any current Parish Council related issues and activities.

1240 The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time

1240.1 The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time which took place earlier in the meeting

1241 To receive an update regarding the pumping station

1241.1 It was reported that the drainage system in Elmstone Hardwicke was getting worse now that Coombe Hill had been connected and the drains in Elmstone village were backing up.

1241.2 Councillor Garside gave her report and asked that the Parish Council send this to Severn Trent and copy in the County and Borough councillors explaining that the situation was getting worse.

1241.3 It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would forward an updated version of Councillor Garside's report once received.

1242 Items for Future Agenda.

1242.1 Councillor Powell to give a report of her meeting with Stoke Orchard regarding the M5 Junction.

1242.2 The clerk to update regarding the website viewing figures.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21/3/24 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 here 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.