

# Great Elm Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Great Elm Parish Council

held in the Village Hall on Monday 23 May 2016 at 7.30pm

<b>Present:</b>	Edmund Thompson	Chairman
	Richard Swann	Council Member
	Charlotte McKean	Retiring Council Member
	Kevin Whitmarsh	Council Member
	Gerry Peachey	Council Member
	Jim Duffus	Council Member
	Joy Book	Clerk to the Parish Council

**Attendance:** Guest Speaker Robin Thorne - 'Mells to Hapsford, a brief history'  
9 Members of the Village Community

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting**  
Agreed as correct by those present at meeting.

3. **Matters Arising** - None

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that there had been a big change to the council in the last year with new councillors – Edmund Thompson and Kevin Whitmarsh being elected in May and Gerry Peachey who had been co-opted in November 2015. Charlotte McKean is standing down and Jim Duffus had just been co-opted onto the council at the meeting prior to the APM. Ric Swann would also like to step down if the demographic of the council can be redressed. The Council had also welcomed a new Clerk, Joy Book.

The main issues during the year were trying to get white lines re-instated and signage to prevent large lorries getting stuck in the village.

The precept had risen for the first time in many years from £1,400 to £1,680.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Year end total £4,862.16. Accounts have been approved by the internal auditor.

6. **Comments/Resolutions from the floor**

**Precept increase:** Resident was unhappy about the 20% increase (£280). Parishioners wished to see the money spent. Ric Swann explained that Somerset CC are pulling back services and the Parish Council may have to cover them in future. Discussions had taken place regarding purchasing a memorial bench and bin. The Parish Council is aware of the rising funds but need to keep a reserve for unforeseen circumstances. The Chairman reported that the bulk of expenditure this year had been spent on extra hours for the Clerk who had brought the council up to the required level regarding legislation and who had set up a website to conform with the new Transparency Code.

Residents commented that the village is beginning to look scruffy in areas and a discussion followed about whether the duck pond area or more central areas should be concentrated on. Concerns were also raised about whether the Parish Council should be spending money on land owned by others ie. the duck pond/in front of Jackdaws and whether the Parish Council was in a position to ask the land owners to make improvements.

**7. Talk on 'Mells to Hapsford, a brief history' by Robin Thorne**

Robin Thorne gave an extremely interesting and fascinating talk on the valley between Mells and Hapsford including the source of the stream, geology of the area and history of various buildings along the route.

A huge thank you was extended to Robin for the fascinating talk.

Meeting ended at 8.25pm.

**Signed by Edmund Thompson  
Chairman**

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**Date**

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