

Great Elm Parish Council

(Website: greatelmparishcouncil.webs.com)

Minutes of the Great Elm Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 23rd July 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Edmund Thompson Chairman
 Ric Swann Vice Chairman
 Jim Duffus Council Member
 Gerry Peachey Council Member

1. **Apologies:** Kevin Whitmarsh, Council Member
2. **Public Participation: None**
3. **Declarations of Interest: None**
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Actions from the previous meeting**

5.1 Improvements to duck pond area:

JD and GP reported progress on reinstating the original bench: one of the two stone supports having been retrieved from the river, the other to be retrieved in due course. Assuming the stones are not pushed back in the river, they will be cemented in place and oak seating planks fixed. Any entailed costs for materials within reason to be borne by GEPC.

5.2 Future of Great Elm Parish Council:

Status of efforts to find a clerk were discussed. Recent initial tentative interest from a parishioner did not result in an agreement to help. Several months of advertising the position and personal approaches to parishioners and pleading by PC members have been to no avail.

A wide-ranging discussion of how progress matters ensued. As an immediate expedient, JD to put notice on the village website highlighting both (i) the increasingly urgent need for someone to step forward to be clerk by the end of the year, and (ii) the consequences of a failure in this happening, ie, the need for GEPC to seek either to become a Parish Meeting, or merge with an adjacent PC, or become administered directly by Mendip District Council.

In discussion based on information gleaned to date on the respective options for the future, some support was expressed for the best outcome being the employment of a clerk and GEPC continuing as hitherto. No support was expressed for a merger with an adjacent PC, in the event any adjacent PC might be interested in this, on the basis that GE's particular interests would likely be regarded as secondary to those of any adjacent parish. Being directly administered by Mendip DC was regarded as a still worse option. Becoming a Parish Meeting without a precept (like Tellisford rather than Lullington that has a precept) was broadly considered the most attractive and positive alternative to continuing as PC. This option would obviate the problems of not being able to attract a clerk, eliminate most and perhaps all the expenses entailed in paying a clerk, buying insurance and generally administering a PC, expenses that now consume a large proportion of the current precept. Views were also expressed that a Parish Meeting might perhaps engender a more inclusive, participative 'communal' parish.

6. Planning matters

- 6.1 New Planning applications: None
- 6.2 Mendip decisions: None

7. Highways/footpaths:

- 7.1 Reduction of speed limit between Hapsford and Mellis:
ET and RS to investigate possibility of narrowing the road through the village centre via the institution of parking spaces at the wider parts of the road.

8. Financial report and matters:

8.1 Accounts

Clerk's salary (January 2018 – June 2018)	£208.18
<i>Agreed</i>	

8.2 Receipts - £0.02 interest
Noted

9. Correspondence: None

10. Clerk's matters:

- 10.1 General Data Protection Regulations – Privacy Notice:
Noted

11. Items for next agenda / Items for Report: *(no decision is made on these items at this meeting)*
None

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next Meeting – Monday 24th September 2018 starting at 7.30pm

Signed by E Thompson
(Chairman)

Date