

# Great Elm Parish Council

(Website: [greatelmparishcouncil.webs.com](http://greatelmparishcouncil.webs.com))

## Minutes of the Great Elm Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Edmund Thompson Chair  
 Ric Swann Vice Chair – left around 9pm due to prior commitments  
 Jim Duffus Council Member  
 Gerry Peachey Council Member  
 Kevin Whitmarsh Council Member

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Public Participation:** None
3. **Declarations of Interest:**

ET noted that under Planning Matters, two decisions related to his property, and that 2018/2044/PAA was an application on a property adjoining his, hence he would not participate in any decision making on this item.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Agreed as correct and signed by the Chair.

### 5. **Actions from the previous meeting**

- 5.1 Improvements to duck pond area: JD and GP have erected and cemented-in both the stone supports of the previously existing bench, with timber seating planks to be affixed shortly. A vote of thanks to both was proposed and supported.
- 5.2 Future of Great Elm Parish Council: As a result of our ongoing efforts to fill the Clerk position, a recently arrived parishioner has expressed an interest in becoming Clerk. She was due to come to the meeting to discuss what is involved, but was unable to do so at the last minute. ET to email her to discuss and put her in contact with Joy Book.

Some views were expressed that a new Clerk might perhaps help reinvigorate interest in the PC amongst parishioners. Also expressed was the view that even if we do engage a replacement Clerk, a switch to a Parish Meeting rather than PC might enable the Parish to avoid the expense of running a PC, that currently takes up around half the annual precept via various obligatory formalities, and might also help engender greater participation and interest amongst parishioners.

In the event we do not secure a Clerk and/or we decide a Parish Meeting is a desirable way forward for Great Elm, it was agreed that Joy Book be asked to find out precisely and in detail what we would need to do, and the requisite time-line, to progress a switch to a Parish Meeting. We can thereby have a detailed 'roadmap' of what to do and be in a position to set in motion the formal process for a possible switch from PC to Parish Meeting, should this seem both necessary and desirable in the next several months.

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 Email: [parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com](mailto:parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com)

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## 6. Renovation/replacement of posts around Village Hall/Church:

As a Parish vote took place on whether or not to retain or remove the posts within the past few years, the question of maintaining them is solely a matter of doing so at a suitably economic juncture, that is, fixing/replacing not on an individual post basis (which is expensive), but when several require attention in one go. Agreed JD and ET to survey current situation and assess if it would be best to attend to this shortly or after the winter when further problematic posts may likely have become more apparent.

## 7. Milk stand near Village Hall:

The stand has kindly been repaired by Norman Starr. A vote of thanks was proposed and supported.

## 8. Beech and oak trees overhanging road around triangle by Village Hall:

The oak tree stands in the triangle adjacent to the Village Hall on land that appears to be village common land. While this tree is not the responsibility of the PC, it may well have been planted under some auspices of the village at some long-past occasion of village or national ceremony. As such, it was agreed that JD and ET would have a look at the oak tree in the triangle and assess if any maintenance action is required.

The beech trees are in the grounds of Glebe House and would seem therefore the responsibility of the owner of Glebe House to assess and maintain.

## 9. Planning matters

### 9.1 New Planning applications:

**2018/2044/PAA** Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of 2no. agricultural buildings to 2no. larger dwelling houses and 3no. smaller dwelling houses (Class C3) and for the associated operational development - Barns At Court Farm Buckland Lane, Great Elm

It was noted that this Prior Approval is not a standard planning application on which the PC is usually asked to comment but, rather, falls under relatively recently established permitted development legislation that enables redundant agricultural buildings to be converted into dwellings, provided various criteria are met. Some concerns regarding these criteria, access and traffic were raised. It was agreed in the end that it was a technical matter for Mendip District Council and Highways to determine adherence to relevant criteria and/or access/traffic implications and that the PC would not comment.

### 9.2 Mendip decisions:

**2018/1807/HSE** Rear single storey garden room extension – Highridge House, Elm Lane: Approved

**2018/1438/PAH** Single storey side and rear extensions - Court Farm Bungalow, Buckland Lane: Prior approval not required

**2018/1635/CLP** Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed development in respect for an outbuilding to Court Farm Bungalow under householder permitted development rights – The Bungalow, Court Farm, Buckland Lane: Refused

**2018/1700/LBC** Internal and external alterations to joinery, replacement of ground floor fire surround, panelling to sitting room, internal openings, new stone flooring, replacement wood windows and formation of ground floor rear entrance opening (part retrospective) – Glebe House, Church Lane: Refused

## 10. Highways/footpaths:

### 10.1 Reduction of speed limit between Hapsford and Mells:

ET noted that he had not yet been able to arrange a suitable time (during a quiet evening with little traffic to allow laser measurements to be taken) to explore the possibility of there being adequate space for parking spaces perhaps to be proposed to Highways as a means to calm traffic through the village.

GP noted that the rubbish bin by the Duck Pond footpath entrance was often overflowing, with litter consequently left on the ground. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested we might look into the possibility of erecting a sign asking walkers/visitors to the Duck Pond to take their litter home, and perhaps remove the rubbish bin. ET said he'd see if there had been any research on the effectiveness of this, and also ask Joy Book if other parishes have had similar problems and what they might have done in response.

**11. Financial report and matters:**

11.1 Accounts

HMRC PAYE (Periods 4-6)	£27.60
<i>Agreed</i>	

11.2 Receipts - None

**12. Correspondence:** None

**13. Clerk's matters:** None

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

**Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.**

***Date of next Meeting – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 starting at 7.30pm***

**Signed by E Thompson**  
**(Chairman)**

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**Date**

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