

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Great Elm Parish Council

(Website: greatelmparishcouncil.webs.com)

Minutes of the Great Elm Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 21 March 2016 at 7:30pm

Present: Edmund Thompson Chairman
 Ric Swann Council Member
 Charlotte McKean Council Member
 Kevin Whitmarsh Council Member
 Gerry Peachey Council Member
 Joy Book Clerk to the Parish Council
 No members of the village community

1. Apologies: None

2 Public Participation - Somerset Wildlife Trust (SWT): Lila Morris and Ellie Higginson gave a brief presentation on the ecological networks of good habitat areas around Great Elm and how the Trust is hoping to connect the gaps between them by improving hedges, woodland and areas of unimproved grassland to encourage wildlife migration. Great Elm has been identified as a restoration area and Mendip DC has been informed of the areas identified which should be considered if developments are proposed.

SWT are planning to hold workshops on scything, grass management and for representatives of Parish Councils. Also planned is woodland habitat walk in Asham Wood and bat and habitat surveys. Ellie Higginson will pass on the details of the various workshops to the Clerk.

PC were interested in the work but have no control over any local land. Most of the areas indicated on the map belong to Hansons and SWT were directed to contact them. This area needs sympathetic clearing as there are a lot of weak saplings. Gerry Peachey reported that there has been an increase in otters and birds of prey and a possible decrease in crayfish noted. Ric Swann mentioned that Julian Hight, a local tree expert who maps ancient trees in the Selwood area, may be able to offer assistance.

SWT closed by saying they would be happy to pass on habitat management advice, offer volunteers to help with projects and signpost enquiries to relevant funding streams.

3 Declarations of Interest: None

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting: Agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman

5 Matters Arising or Outstanding from the last meeting:

5.1 *Overgrown hedge:* The remaining half of the hedge has not been cut back. The owner is now waiting until the nesting season has finished.

6 Highways/footpaths

6.1 *Reinstatement of white lines:* No further information.

6.2 *Large lorries – Elm Lane/Vallis:* No further information.

7 Financial report and matters

7.1 *Accounts*

Clerk's PAYE January-March 2016 £45.40

7.2 *External audit for smaller authorities:* The PC will not opt out of the SAAA scheme. SAAA will therefore source an external auditor.

7.3 *Provisional end of year accounts:* £4,645.54.

Santander have confirmed the new banking arrangements. All future statements should be forwarded to the Clerk. Clerk reported that she does not have the full set of bank statements for this year. Edmund Thompson will contact the bank. Charlotte McKean will ask the previous internal auditor if they would be willing to undertake this year's internal audit.

Clerk: Miss Joy Book
 Tel: 07704 584953
 Email: parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com

5 The Cooperage
 Frome
 Somerset BA11 1JX

8 Planning

Location	Application No & Type	Proposal	Mendip DC decision
The Old School House, Manor Farm	2015/2703/CLE	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate in relation to the use of The Old School House, Manor Farm as an ancillary residential building.	Approved

9 Correspondence

9.1 *Request for list of Parish Council's main objectives:* Ric Swann had submitted a list of objectives which he felt reflected the Parish Council's work. After discussion, Ric Swan proposed and Charlotte McKean seconded that the list be approved with the word 'government' being substituted with 'governance'. Clerk to put link on website.

- Provide an effective and accountable local governance for the Parish.
- Identify, in partnership with the parishioners & other bodies, the needs of the Parish and seek ways in meeting them.
- Manage the council's assets and finances effectively to achieve best value.
- Seek ways to reduce litter in the Parish.
- Assist Somerset and Mendip in protecting rights of way and footpaths through the parish
- Provide safer traffic movements in the Parish by continuing to press for attention to highways matters.
- Encourage provision of facilities for the village.
- To support the village hall, organisations and activities, providing grant funding where appropriate.

Planning and Development

- To formulate a strategy for the long term development of the Parish.
- Provide views on all relevant consultations, including views on planning applications.
- To raise awareness of the need for a sustainable environment for the Parish.
- Establish close links with the Mendip DC in order to assist in control of inappropriate development in our rural village.

10 Clerk's matters

10.1 *Litter bin:* Clerk has contacted Mendip DC who recommended a bin which costs £380 ex VAT. It is believed that the current site of the bin is owned by Hansons. A few years ago a donation was made for a bench in memory of Maureen Wishart. Ric Swann proposed a site near the wall to the entrance of Jackdaws with a bin nearby. All councillors will visit the proposed site to discuss the options. Concerns were raised regarding the general condition of the pond area. The ground has fallen away in places and generally needs tidying up. A proposal was put forward to raise the issue with residents in the magazine and at the Annual Parish Meeting with a view to obtaining their thoughts and suggestions to improve the area. Clerk to write an article for the magazine and ask Jim Duffus to put out an email.

10.2 *Annual Parish Meeting:* Monday 23 May at 7.30pm after monthly meeting. Ric Swann has agreement in principle from a speaker for the APM. Ric Swann to confirm date with speaker. Nibbles and wine to be purchased by Charlotte Mckean and Edmund Thompson.

11 **Any Other Business:** Charlotte Mckean wished to stand down but would stay on the council until another councilor had been co-opted. Clerk to advertise vacancy in the magazine and via email.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of the next Meeting

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Monday 23 May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (after monthly meeting)

Signed by E Thompson
(Chairman)

.....

Date

.....