

Great Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Great Elm Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 27 July 2015 at 7:30pm

Present: Edmund Thompson Chairman
Charlotte McKean Council Member
Ric Swann Council Member
Joy Book Clerk to the Parish Council
2 members of the village community

1 Apologies: Kevin Whitmarsh

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting: Agreed as correct

3 Matters Arising or Outstanding from the last meeting: None

4 Declarations of Interest: None

5 Public Participation

5.1 *Hall Ownership:* The hall is leased from the diocese by the PCC for £30 a year.

5.2 *Village Day donation:* After looking at previous records Ric Swann proposed and Charlotte McKean seconded that £100 should be donated.

5.3 *Hall insurance:* In the past the Parish Council has contributed towards the hall insurance. This year's insurance premium is £513.71. The PC agreed to pay half.

5.4 *Overgrown hedge:* Edmund Thompson will speak with the owner.

5.5 *Reinstatement of white line:* The white line running from outside The Beeches/Cooks Lane along the main street to Cottage Farm requires repainting. Clerk to contact Highways.

5.6 *Large lorries:* There has been a recent increase in lorries through certain areas of the village. Clerk to ask highways for weight restriction sign on Elm Lane/Vallis.

6 Agendas

The agenda will be slightly restructured in future to help meetings flow more smoothly.

7 Planning

Applicant & Location	Application No & Type	Proposal	PC Decision
Mr A Cox Cottage Farm, Elm Lane	2015/1482/FUL	Construction of a barn to accommodate cow permanently.	No objections. Subject to effluent, light and noise pollution being at levels indicated by applicant.

APPEAL			Inspector's Decision
Mr R Wardell The Barn, Elm Lane	2015/0813/PAA	Convert an agricultural building into a one bedroom dwelling	Appeal is allowed and permission granted

Ric Swann felt that the PC should give more publicity to planning applications that may have impact on surrounding residents. Applications will be put on the website in future.

Clerk: Miss Joy Book
Tel: 07704 584953
Email: jbo@blueyonder.co.uk

5 The Cooperage
Frome
Somerset BA11 1JX

8 Financial Report

Edmund Thompson will ask the previous treasurer for the accounts documents. Clerk to ask Mendip DC how many electors are within the parish so the level of donations under Section 137 can be determined. Clerk to circulate model financial regulations to all councilors.

External auditor’s report: ‘High level of reserves – We note that the council holds a high level of general reserves over three times the annual precept for 201/15. The council should consider the level of general reserves required and consider taking steps to reduce the level of reserves in future years if necessary.’

The precept is very low and reducing reserves to the level indicated would leave very little money available for resolving unexpected issues within the parish – no action to be taken.

Payments

PC Annual Insurance	£345.17
Village Day donation	£100.00
Village Hall insurance (half)	£256.85

Ric Swann proposed and Charlotte McKean seconded the above payments.

9 Correspondence

Adopt a path: Somerset CC is encouraging local residents to adopt a path which they walk frequently. Secateurs and gloves are supplied for minor works to be carried out. Details will be posted on the website with a request for volunteers to highlight issues.

10 Clerk’s matters

- 10.1 *Social Media Policy:* Charlotte Mckean proposed and Ric Swann seconded that the policy be adopted.
- 10.2 *Recording of Council Meetings Policy:* Charlotte Mckean proposed and Ric Swann seconded that the policy be adopted.
- 10.3 *Clerk’s Contract:* The Chair and Clerk have signed the Clerk’s contract. Agreed salary scale NJC salary point 20 (£9.90/hr), paid 6 monthly.
- 10.4 *Parish Council website:* Due to the new transparency code which requires more documentation to be made available on a website it was agreed that it was now time to have a stand alone website for the PC. Councillors to look at other PC websites and Chair to speak as a courtesy to Jim Duffus, who currently runs a general GE website, to let him know the intention and its rationale.

8 Any Other Business - None

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Date of the next Meeting

Monday 28 September 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Signed by E Thompson (Chair)

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Date

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