

Great Elm Parish Council

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

Present: George Donkin Chairman
Ernie Charlton Council Member
Charlotte McKean Council Member
Peter Molony Council Member
Ric Swann Council Member
Mollie Winter Clerk to the Parish Council
5 members of the village community

1 Apologies None received

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting Agreed as correct

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Haulage Yard Appeal Decision

The Inspectors upheld Mendip District Council's decision to reject the application.

3.2 Claire Asquith has confirmed her availability to talk on Mells' community shop at the Annual General Meeting.

4 Planning

4.1 House Extension Guide

Mendip District Council are looking to update the guide published in 1993 and have requested parish councillors to take part in the review by completing a survey. RS to complete survey on behalf of Great Elm Parish Council.

5 Treasurer's Report

5.1 A cheque was countersigned for half the cost of insuring the Village Hall.

5.2 PM presented the accounts for 2014/2015 showing very satisfactory end of year figure of £4454.66 helped by no expenses incurred for Christmas lights or the Village Day, and a VAT refund of £236.80. The accounts to be approved, and completion and signing of the annual return to be undertaken prior to the next meeting at an agreed time of 7.15 pm.

6 Footpaths

No contact received from Mendip District Council.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Road Closures

Notification of two road closures received: Elm Lane on 10 March for five days, and roads to be closed around the Burrington Combe area on 12 & 13 April for the Mendip Junior Cycle Tour.

7.2 Somerset Mineral Plan

Somerset County Council has resolved to adopt the Somerset Minerals Plan: Development Plan document up to 2030.

7.3 Somerset County Council

The new contact number for SCC is 0300 123 2224.

7.4 Contact in Emergencies

Jim Duffus kindly agreed to be the village contact.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Parish Clerk Vacancy

No interest has been shown in the vacancy. CM agreed to be the interim point of contact for the Parish Council until a clerk is appointed. MW to notify Mendip District Council etc.

8.2 Question and Answer Session on the Role of the Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of five members, three of which are standing down: GD, PM and EC. Hilary Weaver is quite happy to stand for the Parish Council and to do the book-keeping. RS leads on planning and is standing again as is CM.

Parish Council Meetings are held six times a year at 7.30 on a Friday, or whatever time suits the council as a group. Meetings generally last no more than an hour. Occasional attendance is required at planning or special meetings, and site inspections.

The primary job of the Parish Council is to represent the village and to advance the interest of the village in any way it can. Spending powers are fairly unrestricted within reason. However, the precept must be raised to cover expenses. The normal term of office for a councillor is four years.

The Parish Council is affiliated to the Somerset Association of Local Councils, and covered by insurance. The SALC would defend us should the need arise.

8.3 Overhanging Trees and Branches

Attention was drawn to the overhanging trees and branches on the road to the left after crossing Hapsford Bridge coming towards the village. It was also reported that the sides of the road on the narrow part of the road by the old pub were very overgrown making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. MW to contact Somerset County Highways to request an inspection and for them to reinstate the defined white line opposite the old pub.

8.4 Voluntary Speed Cameras

It was suggested to draw attention to the new Parish Council to consider approaching the police to form voluntary speed camera teams.

8.5 RS questioned what steps are to be taken to appoint two new signatories. GD suggested the new Parish Council open a new accounts and then inform GD and EC who will arrange to transfer what is in the present account with the Bank of Santander.

8.6 GD thanked colleagues for their help over the years and to MW for her duties as Parish Clerk. He wished good luck to those taking the ship forward. RS thanked GD for his long stewardship of the Parish Council.

Date of the next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 in the Village Hall on Friday 24 April at 7.30 followed by a talk on the Mells' community village shop starting at 8.00.

The Parish Council agreed to hold a special meeting before the AGM at 7.15 (see point 5.2).

Signed by G Donkin Chairman

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Date

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