

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

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
Kevin Whitmarsh Council Member
Joy Book Clerk to the Parish Council
4 members of the village community
Mr O Wise - North Somerset Railway Company Ltd

1 Apologies: None

2 Public Participation

Mr Olly Wise of *North Somerset Railway Company Ltd*. Attended to talk about the firm's plan to run what he termed a 'community' train on the disused single track railway between Radstock and Frome, with possible onward link through Network Rail to Westbury. Other Parish Councils and Network Rail have been approached. Mr Wise said the following:

- The firm do not intend to make any profit. Any profits would be put into the maintenance and improvement of the services. The firm is privately funded at the moment. Funding may be sought from Heart of Wessex and Frome Town Council has offered some financial support. Heritage funding can be claimed for the heritage parts of the project.
- The firm already own old diesel traction and DMU trains which are cheap and efficient to run and maintain. Steam trains and heritage buses may be possible in the future to boost tourism.
- The firm hopes to buy land next year and negotiate licences.
- Works will start at Mells Road.
- The first section of railway will terminate at Flowers Farm Bridge until 2019. Hapsford Junction will be reached in 2021 before reaching its target destination of Frome in 2025.
- Frome station would be behind the Cheese and Grain. Ric Swann advised the company to contact the C & G because they have permission for a recording studio at the back of the building and this may conflict with the railway.
- The firm has liaised with Sustrans so the cycleway is not compromised. Some of the works will divert the current route. Cycleway would be completely fenced off from the track to comply with regulations.
- Environmental Mitigation Plan will be submitted which will assess impact on wildlife along the route. The firm felt it is important to preserve trees.
- English Heritage is looking into restoring Radstock Station.
- Trains would not be able to run to Midsomer Norton as two housing developments have been built on the site of the old track.
- AGM Saturday 24 October at Radstock Methodist Hall

Mr Wise concluded that he would like a copy of the minutes forwarded to the firm to record his visit to the Parish Council.

3 Declarations of Interest – Ric Swann declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.1 – Fussells Ironworks.

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5 The Coopage
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4 Minutes of Previous Meeting: Agreed as correct

5 Matters Arising or Outstanding from the last meeting:

5.1 *Overgrown hedge:* Hedge has been slightly trimmed. Owner believes that the overgrowth slows down traffic. However it is dangerous for pedestrians who have to walk around it. Concerns were raised that cutting back the hedge may lead to cars going faster and even attempting to bypass each other on a stretch of road that is only suitable for one vehicle. After discussion, it was decided that Highways would be approached to request that the lines are reinstated and approach the owner regarding trimming the hedge back further.

6 Highways/footpaths

6.1 *Reinstatement of white lines* – Some white lines have been reinstated opposite Cottage Farm at the junction with the lane to Buckland Dinham, but not the line adjacent to Old Court Farmhouse. Clerk to follow up.

6.2 *Large lorries – Elm Lane/Vallis:* Highways are aware of this issue and are looking into ways of reducing heavy vehicles through the village. Clerk to follow up.

6.3 *Footpaths:* Some are thought to have become overgrown. No volunteers have come forward to adopt a path.

7 Financial report and matters

7.1 *Payment of Clerk's quarterly PAYE (3 x £8.60)* £25.80

Previously approved:

Parish Council annual insurance £345.17

Donation to Village Day £100.00

Contribution towards Village Hall insurance £256.86

7.2 *Review of Financial Regulations:* Previously circulated. All approved the NALC Financial Regulations for adoption.

8 Planning

8.1 *Fussells Ironworks:* The building is classified as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Hapsford Hydro own the site and are seeking to apply for permission to install a hydro and drainage scheme with dwelling. A 60-80kw turbine will also be installed but this will not be visible and should not cause any noise disturbance. The site is currently fenced off due to the masonry being unstable. On completion of the works there would be controlled access to the site. Several trees will need to be felled in order to prevent them falling on to the masonry and damaging it further. Bats, archaeology and wildlife will be preserved.

Location	Application No & Type	Proposal	PC Decision
The Old School House, Manor Farm	2015/1817/LBC	Conversion of redundant outbuilding to ancillary self-contained annexe accommodation together with associated alterations	The Great Elm Parish Council has no objection to this plan to convert a redundant building to an ancillary self-contained annex to Manor Farm, and leave details of approval to the planning/conservation offers as relevant.

Location	Application No & Type	Proposal	Mendip Decision
Cottage Farm, Elm Lane	2015/1482/FUL	Construction of a barn to accommodate cows permanently	Approved
Land at 375653 148588 Elm Lane	2015/1685/CLP	Carry out work allowed under Class Q3 (a) (b) permitted development to bring building up to living standard.	Refuse

9 Correspondence

9.1 *Email from resident:* Concerns raised regarding Great Elm becoming a dormitory/retirement village due to the lack of affordable housing. Resident also requested that planning for Great

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Elm is future conscientious. Parish Council has sympathy with these views but Great Elm is not in an area which is considered sustainable. Clerk to check HELAA for any land that has been identified by Mendip DC as part of its Local Plan Part II consultation. Chair to draft response.

10 Clerk's matters

- 10.1 *Parish Council website:* Clerk to look into using webs.com. Funding is available.
- 10.2 *Publication of Parish Council minutes:* As part of the Transparency Code, all minutes and accounts need to be published monthly. Minutes will be published as unconfirmed once the Chair has read the draft.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 *Co-option of councilor:* Charlotte McKean proposed and Kevin Whitmarsh seconded that Gerry Peachey be co-opted on to Great Elm Parish Council. All in favour. Clerk to send relevant papers.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Date of the next Meeting

Monday 23 November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Signed by E Thompson (Chair)

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Date

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DRAFT