

Great Elm Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Great Elm Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Friday 30 May 2014 at 8.00 pm

Present: George Donkin Chairman
Ernie Charlton Council Member
Peter Molony Council Member
Richard Swann Council Member
Mollie Winter Clerk to the Parish Council
A number of electors

Apologies: Charlotte McKean Council Member

Attendance: Guest Speaker Dr Rawlins on the history of Great Elm
Residents of Great Elm

1 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

Agreed as correct by those present at both meetings.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Bench in memory of Maureen Wishart

An update of the building works being carried out at Jackdaws is needed before any action taken.

2.2 Speed Limits

Somerset Highways' review on the policy of speed limits still ongoing.

3 Chairman's Report

GD reported another quiet year in Great Elm. Planning application is expected soon for the redevelopment of Chubb's Yard. A briefing has been given by the architects submitting plans but there is no news yet from Mendip District Council. Due to the sensitivity, the Parish Council will hold a special meeting when the plans are submitted with 21 days to comment.

GD wished to formally thank the people who keep things moving along: the Village Hall, church and grass-cutting teams. Also to the Parish Council for their interest in village matters.

4 Matters of Concern and Questions

4.1 Boathouse at Jackdaws

RS reported on the sorry state of the boathouse at Jackdaws. To pursue Hansons to see what timescale has been given to clearing the pond.

4.2 Flytipping

Mendip District Council to be contacted directly to report cases of flytipping.

4.3 Elm Lane

Somerset County Highways to be thanked for resurfacing Elm Lane.

4.4 Great Elm Locomotive

Following the donation by Mary Langhorne of a picture of the Great Elm locomotive Anthea Kemp asked if anyone knew anything about its history. GD to undertake preparing an information caption for the picture.

5 Talk on the History of Great Elm by Dr Rawlins

Dr Rawlins gave a very informative talk about the history and origin of the name of the village. The first record of the village, Telvve, was in the Domesday Book with a population of between 40 and 60 people, 250 sheep and 50 goats. It became known as The Elm and was

given to the Gifford Edmund family from Gloucestershire. The village then descended to the Earls of Pembroke. In 1590, Hodges bought it for the sum of £700 together with Buckland Dinham for £1000. His daughter married into the Strayches family from Chew Magna. The Strayches charged a rent of 12 pence per year for nearly three centuries. According to the Parish Register quite a few villagers married people from Marston Bigot with Monday being the most popular day for weddings. A school was built in Elm in 1827 which was maintained by volunteers and in 1897 was passed over to the state. Then in late 18th Century all changes started in Elm with the Somerset and Dorset canal. Fussells were a dynasty of iron founders who made sharp tools for agriculture with mills in Elm, Mells, Chantry and Nunney. The Horner family didn't want to see the area industrialised so obtained a lease for the area of lower Wadbury from the Strayches. Fussells went bankrupt in 1897 so the population of Elm diminished from 408 to just 121. Tithes were collected by the rector of Elm right up to the 1920's.

The evening ended with refreshments for all.

Signed by G Donkin
Chairman

Date