

Great Elm Parish Council
Minutes (draft) of meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Elm
Friday January 21st at 7.30pm

1. Present

Edmund Thompson, Chair
Gerry Peachey, Member
Jim Duffus, Deputy Chair
Kevin Whitmarsh, Member

2. Apologies

Colin Jacobs, Member

3. Public participation

Nil

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved

6. Actions from the previous meeting

See next item

7. Rubbish around bridge/Duck Pond

JD reported situation investigated and monitored, with rubbish now being collected by Mendip's agent satisfactorily.

Agreed situation to continue to be monitored, and in the event of any recurrence of problems that GEPC's prior action decision to institute year-long experiment of new signage and bin removal would be reverted to.

8. Planning matters

Noted Mendip decisions:

2020/0061/NMA Application for a non-material amendment to permission
2019/2711/FUL for the insertion of rooflights. Court Farm, The Bungalow
Buckland Lane Great Elm Frome BA11 3NS. Approved

2019/2711/FUL A replacement dwelling and demolition of the existing dwelling.
Court Farm, The Bungalow Buckland Lane Great Elm Frome BA11 3NS.
Approved

2019/2221/FUL Conversion of redundant rural buildings to three no. live/work
units. Plot North Of Court Farm Buckland Lane Great Elm Frome Somerset.
Approved

2019/2035/FUL Demolition of existing building and replace with 1no. 4
bedroom dwellinghouse. The Bungalow Court Farm Buckland Lane Great Elm
Frome BA11 3NS. Approved

9. Highways/footpaths

Nothing

10. Speeding through village

Noted report kindly researched and produced by CJ, but deferred discussion to next meeting to allow CJ to talk us through his findings thus far.

11. Future of GEPC, given continuing absence of clerk and lack of interest from potential applicants.

As no clerk has been forthcoming after over two years of advertising and despite considerable efforts to persuade neighbours in the parish to help out, agreed GEPC cannot continue indefinitely in the current circumstance.

Agreed that finding a clerk would continue to prove difficult, and in all likelihood impossible, given the magnitude and nature of legal obligations and bureaucratic and technical workload.

Agreed now is the time, therefore, to decide on a proactive way forward based on our extensive prior discussions and consultations with Lavington, Telisford & Wolverton, and Mendip regarding options, ie, dissolve GEPC and simultaneously (i) Mendip District Council assume all responsibilities, or (ii) become a Parish Meeting *with* a precept, or (iii) become a Parish Meeting *without* a precept.

Agreed preferred option is to initiate procedures about formally becoming (iii) above as this will (i) largely circumvent, due to the absence of a precept, much of the work, legal, auditing, etc responsibilities entailed and necessitating a clerk and (ii) perhaps provide an organisational form more likely to engender village interest in parish matters in future than a parish council organisational form currently does. Agreed ET to proceed matters with Mendip forthwith.

12. Financial report and matters

ET noted precept ad been submitted.

Agreed to discontinue SALC membership as it appeared to offer no obvious or necessary benefits. ET to inform SALC.

Agreed cheque to be raised for current year outstanding membership fee.

JD presented expenses for grass-cutting of lawn area outside Village Hall and Church. Agreed as in previous years to pay half (£94.03 to Parochial Church Council).

13. Village Hall/Friends of Great Elm

JD and KW reported the Parochial Church Council (PCC) gave a presentation in November, attended by approximately 30 people, on the results gathered from the leaflet survey "The Future of St Mary Magdalene

Church Is At Risk” which had been previously distributed throughout the village. Of 68 leaflets distributed, 21 were returned (30%). The main point from the survey was that responders regard the church as an important building with an important role to play in the community, not only as a church but as a social hub. It was considered that a “Friends of Great Elm” group would be a useful means of involving more villagers (and Jackdaws), one of the aims of which would be fundraising. As a start Jenny Barton has set up a Facebook page "Friends of Great Elm".

14. Correspondence

None.

15. Clerk's matters

None.

16. Items for next agenda / Items for Report

JD raised matter of Village Hall and Church expenses for electrical works.

17. Meeting ended

Formal meeting ended approximately 9.20pm

18. Date of next Meeting – Agreed Friday 1st May, to coincide with AGM.