

Final Minutes of the Great Elm Parish Council - Great Elm Village Hall - 8th April, 2022

1 Attendees on electoral roll: Edmund Thompson (chair due of position on Great Elm Parish Council)

Jim and Judy Duffus
Sally Rosa
Anand Seegobin
Colin Jacobs

Kevin Whitmarsh
Gerry Peachey
Charlie Cox
Sarah and Steve Bradshaw

Adrian Stanway
John King
Hillary Croft
Ric Swann.

2 Chair's explanation of nature, purpose and agenda of meeting:

noted that Great Elm Parish Council unanimously decided at its last meeting on 11th March 2022, to call a Parish Meeting with the express purpose of dissolving the parish council. That decision resulted from an ongoing **absence of a parish clerk**, an officer all parish councils are statutorily required to have and who shoulders a range of financial and other legal obligations. The parish council has in vain attempted to recruit a parish clerk. Interested parties were scant and all found the entailed formal training, financial and legal obligations, and time commitment excessively onerous compared to the limited remuneration Great Elm Parish Council can offer.

As a solution to the problem, Great Elm, under variously the Local Government Acts 1894 and 1972, statutorily has a parish meeting that can convene and, because it has fewer than 150 local government electors, vote to ask the district council to dissolve the parish council. By doing this and thereafter maintaining a parish meeting (Great Elm Parish Meeting) without a precept, the members of Great Elm Parish Council are hopeful that the financial and legal obligations shouldered by a clerk will be much reduced or completely obviated.

Also noted that, as Chair of Great Elm Parish Council, he was automatically chair of the Parish Meeting.

3 Declarations of interest: None.

4 Minutes of previous meeting: None known.

5 Matters arising: None.

6 Election of Clerk: No volunteers or proposals for clerk received. Chair agreed to take and prepare minutes.

7 Chair proposed and those in attendance unanimously agreed the motion wording suggested by Steve Lake, Mendip's Electoral Services Manager:

That in accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1972 and any other relevant legislation, as the Parish has less than 150 local government electors, application be made to the Mendip District Council for the dissolution of the Great Elm Parish Council.

8 Election of Chair:

Chair noted that he would be happy to be chair for an interim period of transition from Parish Council to Parish Meeting, but that he would be equally happy if anyone else wished thereafter to be chair. **Anand Seegobin** acquiesced to be nominated, was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed as chair to assume role after current chair ceased to be chair on his cessation of being chair of Great Elm Parish Council at the May 2022 local government elections.

9 Any other business:

Establishment of a Parish Meeting subcommittee to consider **planning applications** was discussed. **Ric Swann** was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed as Chair of Great Elm Parish Meeting Planning Subcommittee, committee members being Great Elm Parish Meeting and/or such parishioners with either an interest or expertise in matters planning.

10 Date of next meeting: Not set.

11 Meeting ended: Approximately 8.50pm.